



The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...

Matthew 13:31

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pearland, TX

Worship at 10:30 AM

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

July 30, 2023

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING SONG

Everlasting God

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord *(Repeat)*

Pre-Chorus

Our God, You reign forever

Our Hope, our strong Deliverer

Chorus

You are the everlasting God

The everlasting God

You do not faint

You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak

You comfort those in need

You lift us up on wings like eagles

Repeat ALL

Repeat Pre-Chorus and Chorus

Brenton Brown | Ken Riley
© 2005 Thankyou Music

WELCOME – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

GATHERING SONG Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord
Thou my soul's shelter and Thou my high tower
Raise Thou me heavenward, O power of my power

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise
Thou my inheritance now and always
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

O Lord be my vision, O Lord be my light
Shine down Your light of heaven
Breaking through my darkest night (*Repeat*)

High King of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

Traditional Irish hymn & melody, arr. John Wasson
© 2006 PraiseCharts

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

P: Merciful God,

All: we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

P: Righteous God,

All: we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Better Is One Day

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Chorus

Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere
Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere
Than thousands elsewhere

One thing I ask and I would seek to see Your beauty
To find You in the place your glory dwells
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Repeat Chorus (without last line)

Bridge

My heart and flesh cry out
For You the living God
Your Spirit's water to my soul
I've tasted and I've seen
Come once again to me
I will draw near to You
I will draw near to You

Repeat Chorus

Matt Redman
© 1995 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

PRAYER – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

A: ⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:129-136 ***Please read responsively.***

A: ¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

**All: ¹³⁰When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

A: ¹³¹I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.

**All: ¹³²Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

A: ¹³³Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

**All: ¹³⁴Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

A: ¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

**All: ¹³⁶My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

A: ²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. ²⁹For those whom God foreknew God also predestined to be conformed to the image of the Son of God, in order that the Son might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom God predestined God also called; and those whom God called God also justified; and those whom God justified God also glorified. ³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²The very Son of God was not withheld, but was given up for all of us; will God not along with the Son also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through the one who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere
Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere
Than thousands elsewhere

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The dominion of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in a field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³Jesus told them another parable: "The dominion of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." ⁴⁴"The dominion of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵"Again, the dominion of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷"Again, the dominion of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the dominion of heaven is like a householder who brings out of the household treasure what is new and what is old."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

SONG OF THE DAY Your Grace Finds Me

It's there in the newborn cry, there in the light of ev'ry sunrise
There in the shadows of this life, your great grace
It's there on the mountain top, there in the ev'ryday and the mundane
There in the sorrow and the dancing, your great grace, O such grace

Chorus

From the creation to the cross, there from the cross into eternity
Your grace finds me, yes Your grace finds me

It's there on a wedding day, there in the weeping by the graveside
There in the very breath we breathe, your great grace
The same for the rich and poor
The same for the saint and for the sinner
Enough for this whole wide world, your great grace, O such grace

Repeat Chorus

There in the darkest night of the soul
There in the sweetest songs of victory, your grace finds me
Yes Your grace finds me
Your great grace, O such grace, your great grace, O such grace

The same for the rich and poor
The same for the saint and for the sinner
Enough for this whole wide world
Your great grace, O such grace, oh oh oh oh, oh oh oh oh

So I'm breathing in Your grace, and breathing out Your praise
I'm breathing in Your grace, forever I'll be breathing in Your grace
And breathing out Your praise, i'm breathing in Your grace
Forever I'll be breathing in Your grace, and breathing out Your praise
I'm breathing in Your grace, forever, forever

Yes, Your grace finds me, yes, Your grace finds me

APOSTLES' CREED

P: Joining together let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form confirmands and those seeking into disciples. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and joy and safety for children attending Vacation Bible School this week. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray,
in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself,
Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

The ministry of New Life Lutheran Church is made possible through the tithes, gifts, and offerings of the people. We encourage you to give as an act of worship today. You can offer a gift by texting to 281.864.3278, adding a dollar amount to the message box, and send. A link will appear for a one time set up. Once it is set up, it takes seconds to give again. You can also give through our website by scanning the QR code on the pew.

OFFERTORY – Houseband

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P: All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE MEAL

Everyone is welcome to receive Jesus in bread and wine. This is Jesus' table and he welcomes all. Pre-filled communion packets are available in the Narthex if you would prefer to receive communion that way. Everyone else is invited to come down the center aisle maintaining two continuous lines. You will receive a piece of bread with the words, "The body of Christ given for you," and you can respond with, "Amen." Remain on the side of the section of pews you are sitting in. You will receive an individual cup of either wine (red) or grape juice (clear) with the words, "The blood of Christ shed for you," and you can respond with, "Amen." There is a basket available for your empty cup. You will then return to your pew from the side aisle.

COMMUNION SONG

I Can Only Imagine

I can only imagine, what it will be like, when I walk by Your side
I can only imagine, what my eyes will see, when Your face is before me
I can only imagine

Chorus

Surrounded by Your glory, what will my heart feel?
Will I dance for You Jesus, or in awe of You be still?
Will I stand in Your presence, or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah, will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine, I can only imagine

I can only imagine, when that day comes
And I find myself standing in the Sun
I can only imagine, when all I will do, is forever, forever worship You
I can only imagine, I can only imagine (*Repeat Chorus*)

I can only imagine when all I will do
Is forever, forever worship You, I can only imagine

Bart Millard© 2001, 2002 Simpleville Music (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC])

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless
you, strengthen you, and keep you in God's grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we
have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your
generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest
treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

All: Amen

SENDING SONG

Love the Lord

Love the Lord your God
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind
And with all your strength (*Repeat*)

With all your heart, with all your soul
With all your mind, with all your strength

Love the Lord your God
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind
And with all your strength

I will serve the Lord
With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind
And with all my strength (*Repeat*)

With all my heart, with all my soul
With all my mind, with all my strength

I will serve the Lord
With all my heart, with all my soul
With all my mind, and with all my strength

I will love You (I will love You), I will praise You (I will praise You)
I will serve You (I will serve You), I will trust You (I will trust You)

With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind
With all my strength (*Repeat*)

I will love you Lord
With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind
And with all my strength (*Repeat 2x*)

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

All: Thanks be to God.

Copyright permission: CCLI #3220202 and One License A-740956. From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today is the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: July 30

Traditional Worship: 8:00 AM

Bible Study with Pastor Clayton: 9:15 AM

Contemporary Worship: 10:30 AM

Vacation Bible School: July 30 – August 3, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Register at
Newlifelutheran.com

Senior Lunch: All Seniors 55+ are welcome to join us for lunch August 2 in the fellowship hall 12:00PM – 1:00PM.

WELCA Lunch Out: All Women of the church are welcome to join us for lunch at Cracker Barrel Old Country Store (11019 Shadow Creek Pkwy) August 9, 11:30AM – 12:30PM.

Rally Day is Sunday, August 13: Both services that day will include a backpack blessing for all that are headed back to school. At 9:15 AM that day we will gather in the fellowship hall to meet Sunday School teachers. Sunday School classes will begin the following week on August 20.

High School Pool Party: Students in 9th-12th grade will gather for a pool party on Sunday, August 13 from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Tatuaca's house.

Mary and Martha Bible Study: All women of the church are welcomed to join us for a Bible study in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, August 16 at 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM.

National Youth Gathering Info Meeting: The NYG is scheduled for July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans (<https://www.elca.church/gathering>). We will be taking a group from New Life! All students entering 8th-12th grade this fall are eligible to participate. An event this big takes lots of planning and fundraising. An information meeting for parents and students will take place on Sunday, August 27 at 11:30 AM in the fellowship hall (lunch included). We will learn more about the Gathering, you can ask questions, and we will discuss all the trip options.

God's Work, Our Hands Projects: On Sunday, September 10 we will observe "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. We are looking for service projects in the community. If you have a need or would like to nominate someone who has a need, send an email to office@newlifelutheran.com.

Today's Worship Leaders (10:30 AM)

Assisting Minister

Lisa H. Weber

Communion Assistants

Merideth Oliver and Cheryl Robinson

Usher

Cathy Scott

Technology

Korie Williams

*Altar flowers are given by Lynn and Doug Barron
in celebration of their 43rd Wedding Anniversary.*