



NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pearland, TX

Worship at 10:30 AM

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

October 1, 2023

GATHERING

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

GATHERING SONG

How Can I Keep From Singing

There is an endless song
Echoes in my soul
I hear the music ring
And though the storms may come
I am holding on
To the rock I cling

Chorus:

How can I keep from singing Your praise
How can I ever say enough
How amazing is Your love
How can I keep from shouting Your name
I know I am loved by the King
And it makes my heart want to sing

I will lift my eyes
In the darkest night
For I know my Savior lives
And I will walk with You
Knowing You'll see me through
And sing the songs You give
Repeat Chorus

I can sing in the troubled times, sing when I win
I can sing when I lose my step and fall down again
I can sing 'cause You pick me up, sing 'cause You're there
I can sing 'cause You hear me Lord when I call to You in prayer
I can sing with my last breath, sing for I know
That I'll sing with the angels and the saints around the throne
Repeat Chorus

I am loved by the King
And it makes my heart
I am loved by the King
And it makes my heart want to sing
I can sing

WELCOME – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

GATHERING SONG Forever

Give thanks to the Lord
Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise

With a mighty hand
And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise

Chorus

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever, forever, forever

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God
We will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise

Repeat Chorus 2x

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

All: Amen.

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

All: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

All: Amen.

OPENING SONG Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

Pre-Chorus

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Repeat Pre-Chorus & Chorus

Bridge

You give and take away, you give and take away
My heart will choose to say, Lord blessed be Your name

Repeat Bridge & Chorus

PRAYER – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A: ¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. ²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the LORD is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-9

Please read responsively.

A: ¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**All: ²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

A: ³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

All: ⁴Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

A: ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

All: ⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

A: ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

All: ⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

A: ⁹You lead the lowly in justice

All: and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

A: ¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, although being in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but relinquished it all, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for God's good pleasure.

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be Your glorious name

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:23-32

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ²³When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the dominion of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

SONG OF THE DAY Word Of God, Speak

I'm finding myself at a loss for words
And the funny thing is, it's okay
The last thing I need is to be heard
But to hear what You would say

Chorus

Word of God, speak
Would You pour down like rain
Washing my eyes to see Your majesty
To be still and know
That You're in this place
Please let me stay and rest
In Your holiness
Word of God, speak

I'm finding myself in the midst of You
Beyond the music, beyond the noise
All that I need is to be with You
And in the quiet hear Your voice

Repeat Chorus 2x

I'm finding myself at a loss for words
And the funny thing is, it's okay

Bart Millard | Pete Kipley
© 2002 Songs From The Indigo Room; Simpleville Music; Curb Wordspring Music

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: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

A: We put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

A: Lead us in your truth as we pray for creation. Empower us to look to the interests of others as we make choices that impact the environment. Summon us to be advocates for healthy waterways, habitats, and air. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

A: Lead us in justice as we pray for those in government, the military, and other positions of authority. Give them humble and willing hearts, looking to the needs of others. We pray also for our enemies. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

A: Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way. Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

A: Teach us your paths as we pray for this congregation. Be at work in us and unite us in your love as we labor together for the sake of the gospel. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We give thanks for all the saints who died secure in the knowledge of salvation. Keep us fearless in our faith and certain of your resurrection. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

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 power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into
the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

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

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



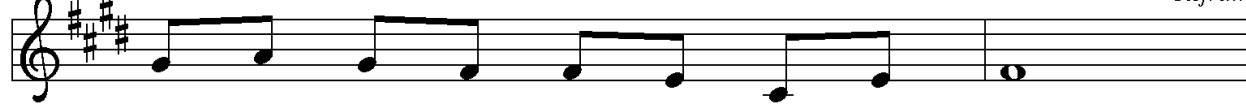
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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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. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen.

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

SENDING SONG

Days of Elijah

These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the Word of the Lord
And these are the days of Your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored
And these are the days of great trials
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice in the desert crying
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Chorus

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call
So lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes

And these are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days of Your servant David
Rebuilding a temple of praise
And these are the days of the harvest
The fields are as white in Your world
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard
Declaring the Word of the Lord

Repeat Chorus

There is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah
There is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah
Repeat 2x

Repeat Chorus

Out of Zion's hill salvation comes
Out of Zion's hill salvation comes

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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

All: Thanks be to God.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Today is the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: October 1

Traditional Worship: 8:00 AM

Sunday School: 9:15 AM

Contemporary Worship: 10:30 AM

Sunday School for Everyone: We have room for everyone, and you are welcome.

Class options at 9:15 AM include:

- Elementary Class (Kindergarten through 6th grade) – downstairs Fellowship Hall classrooms
- Confirmation Class (7th through 8th grade and parents) – conference room in office building
- High School Class (9th through 12th grade) – library in office building
- Adult Class – Fellowship Hall

New Member Class: TODAY at 11:30 AM. Please join us if you're ready to make New Life your church home.

Bible Discovery Class: Sunday, October 22 at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall (includes lunch). A time for 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students and their parents to discover more about the Bible and receive a gift Bible from the church. Please contact Pastor Clayton (pastor@newlifelutheran.com) or phone at the office (281-485-1818) to sign up.

Blood Drive: Sunday, October 22 from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM here at New Life.

Family Halloween Party: Saturday, October 28 from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Activities, games, crafts, and food for kids and families. Candy donations are needed – please drop off Halloween candy in the narthex or church office!

Today's Worship Leaders (10:30 AM)

Assisting Minister

Bryan Bradford

Communion Assistants

Barbara Flowers, Merideth Oliver

Usher

Cathy Scott

Technology

*Altar flowers are given by Viola Patschke
in honor of Eugene's birthday.*