



**a king gave a
wedding banquet**
Matthew 22:2

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pearland, TX

Worship at 10:30 AM

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

October 15, 2023

GATHERING

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

GATHERING SONG

I Could Sing Of Your Love Forever

Over the mountains and the sea
Your river runs with love for me
And I will open up my heart
And let the Healer set me free
I'm happy to be in the truth
And I will daily lift my hands
For I will always sing
Of when Your love came down

Chorus

I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever

Repeat all

Oh I feel like dancing
It's foolishness I know
But when the world has seen the light
They will dance with joy like we're dancing now

Repeat Chorus

Martin Smith
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WELCOME – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

GATHERING SONG

Mighty To Save

Ev'ryone needs compassion
Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Savior
The hope of nations

Chorus

Savior, He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever, Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

So take me as You find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Ev'rything I believe in
Now I surrender

Repeat Chorus

Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King
Jesus
Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King

Repeat Chorus

Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King

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 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

The King of love my shepherd is
Whose goodness faileth never
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine forever

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul he leadeth
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed
But yet in love he sought me
And on his shoulder gently laid
And home, rejoicing, brought me

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With thee, dear Lord, beside me
Thy rod and staff my comfort still
Thy cross before to guide me

Thou spreadst a table in my sight
Thine unction grace bestoweth
And, oh, what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth

And so, through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house forever

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877 | Music: Irish tune
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PRAYER – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

A: ¹O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And the LORD will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸the LORD will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of the chosen people God will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God, for whom we have waited, so that God might save us. This is the LORD from whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in the salvation of the LORD.

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

Please read responsively.

A: ¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

All: ²The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

A: ³You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

All: ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

A: ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**All: ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of
my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

A: ¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The King of love my shepherd is
Whose goodness faileth never
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine forever

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22:1-14

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²"The dominion of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴"For many are called, but few are chosen."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

SONG OF THE DAY

Hold Us Together

It don't have a job
It don't pay your bills
Won't buy you a home in Beverly Hills
Won't fix your life
In five easy steps
Ain't the law of the land or the government
But it's all you need

And love will hold us together
Make us a shelter to weather the storm
And I'll be my brother's keeper
So the whole world will know that we're not alone

It's waiting for you
Knocking at your door
In the moment of truth
When your heart hits the floor
And you're on your knees

And love will hold us together
Make us a shelter to weather the storm
And I'll be my sister's keeper
So the whole world will know that we're not alone

This is the first day of the rest of your life
This is the first day of the rest of your life
'Cause even in the dark you can still see the light
It's gonna be all right, it's gonna be all right
Repeat

And love will hold us together
Make us a shelter to weather the storm
And I'll be my brother's keeper
So the whole world will know that we're not alone

Matt Maher | Steve Wilson
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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: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land, that all followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to live together in peace, staying firm in the Lord. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: For green pastures and still waters and all the beauty of the natural world, that creation flourishes and humankind lives in right relationship with all you have made. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: For the nations of the world, including Israel and Palestine, that all who hold positions of authority govern in accordance with God's vision of justice, providing shelter and refuge to all in need, striving toward the goal of peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: For all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed and comforted and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who walks beside them. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: For this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord, the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: In thanksgiving for the beloved saints who now rest in your mercy, that their faithful witness guides your church until the day we join them at your heavenly feast. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through 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

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 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, listen to your children praying
Lord, send your spirit in this place
Lord, listen to your children praying
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace

Ken Medema
Text and music © 1973 Hope Publishing Company

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

Not To Us

The cross before me, the world behind
No turning back, raise the banner high
It's not for me, it's all for You
Let the heavens shake and split the sky
Let the people clap their hands and cry
It's not for us, it's all for You

Chorus

Not to us, but to Your name be the glory
Not to us, but to Your name be the glory

Our hearts unfold before Your throne
The only place for those who know
It's not for us, it's all for You
Send Your holy fire on this offering
Let our worship burn for the world to see
It's not for us, it's all for You

Repeat Chorus

The earth is shaking, the mountains shouting
It's all for You
The waves are crashing, the sun is raging
It's all for You
The universe, spinning and singing
It's all for You
Your children dancing, dancing, dancing
It's all for You, it's all for You
It's all for You, it's all for You
My all for You, my all for You

Repeat Chorus

Chris Tomlin | Jesse Reeves
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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 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: October 15

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

Mary and Martha Bible Study: All women of the church are welcome to join us for a Bible study in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, October 18 at 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM.

Recycling Aluminum Cans: The High School Sunday School class is collecting aluminum cans for a recycling fundraiser project. Cans can be dropped off in the bin located in the office building entryway.

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 about the Bible and receive a gift Bible from the church. To sign up contact Pastor Clayton (pastor@newlifelutheran.com).

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!

Reformation Sunday Jazz and Lunch: Join us on Sunday, October 29 for special Jazz music in both the 8:00 and 10:30 AM worship services. Following the service we will have brats and hot dogs on the grill for a fellowship lunch and fundraiser for our youth attending camps next summer.

Meals on Wheels: We are looking for new volunteers to bring food to those in our local community. Our next week of delivery is November 13-17 and if we have enough volunteers you only have to help one of the days. Delivery is done as a team to make the process easier. To be added to the team or for questions contact Barbara Flowers, barbaraflowers_55@yahoo.com.

Today's Worship Leaders (10:30 AM)

Assisting Minister

Lisa Hitchcock-Weber

Communion Assistants

Barbara Flowers, Linda Hudgens

Ushers

Cathy Scott

Technology

Eliza Wishart

Altar flowers are given by Julie Watkins in honor of their 49th wedding anniversary and all October anniversaries.