



NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pearland, TX

Worship at 10:30 AM

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

November 19, 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 *Those Who Trust*

Those who trust in the Lord
Are a strong mountain
They will not, not be moved (*repeat*)

Chorus

Though the world moves like mad
You, O Lord, are faithful
Jesus you, you will not
Not be changed

Those who trust in the Lord
Are as Mount Zion
They will not, not be moved (*repeat*)

Repeat Chorus

Christ the King sets my feet
On a firm foundation
They will not, not be moved (*repeat*)

Repeat Chorus

Don Chaffer
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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

All: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

All: we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

All: Amen.

OPENING SONG

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

Refrain

Just a closer walk with thee
Grant it Jesus is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord let it be

I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus keep me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee

Repeat Refrain

Through this world of toil and snares
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee dear Lord, none but Thee

Repeat Refrain

When my feeble life is o'er
Time for me will be no more
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore

Repeat Refrain

Words & Music: North American traditional
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PRAYER – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

A: ⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and has consecrated those who are called. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will the LORD do harm." ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of the LORD's passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end the LORD will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 90:1-8, 12 *Please read responsively.*

A: ¹Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

All: ²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.

A: ³You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."

All: ⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;

A: ⁵you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:

All: ⁶in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.

A: ⁷For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.

All: ⁸Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

A: ¹²So teach us to number our days

All: that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A: ¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Just a closer walk with thee
Grant it Jesus is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord let it be

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:14-30

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [Jesus said:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON – Deacon Beth Hartfiel

SERMON – Deacon Beth Hartfiel

THANKOFFERING

During the song of the day, women are invited to come forward and present their thankofferings in the basket. All thankoffering money received will go to the ministry of Women of the ELCA.

SONG OF THE DAY *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
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AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these new members, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these new members and siblings in Christ, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

All: Amen.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

All: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

All: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**All: 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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All: 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.**

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

New members: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support these new members and pray for them in their life in Christ?

All: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in Gracie and Brenda the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

All: Amen.

A: Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ.

All: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith, we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

P: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

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 – Eliza Wishart

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

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: There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

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

Shine On Us

Lord, let Your light
Light of Your face shine on us
Lord, let Your light
Light of Your face shine on us
That we may be saved
That we may have life
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your light shine on us

Lord, let Your grace
Grace from Your hand fall on us
Lord, let Your grace
Grace from Your hand fall on us
That we may be saved
That we may have life
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your grace fall on us

Lord, let Your love
Love with no end come over us
Lord, let Your love
Love with no end come over us
That we may be saved
That we may have life
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your love come over us
Let Your light shine on us

Deborah D. Smith | Michael W. Smith
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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. Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a
banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the
least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous
hearts as we meet you on the way.

All: Amen.

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

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

Robin Mark © 1996 Song Solutions Daybreak

DISMISSAL

A: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Today is the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost: November 19

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

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.

Greening/Decorating for Advent: Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 AM. Please lend a hand!

Seafarer Christmas Box Donations: We are collecting items for Christmas boxes for the Seafarer's Center at the Port of Houston. A full list of needed items is in the narthex as well as the newsletter. The seniors will be packing these boxes on December 6.

Houston Lutheran Chorale Christmas Concert: New Life is hosting a Christmas concert on Saturday, December 2 at 7:30 PM. Admission is free, there will be a free-will offering. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with songs and familiar carols.

Turkeys for the Food Pantry: While you're shopping for Thanksgiving, if anyone receives a free/low-cost turkey and will not be using it, please donate it to the Christian Helping Hands Food Pantry. It will be shared to bless a needy family. The pantry has a walk-in freezer for storage until the food is disbursed. CHH is located at 3402 Swenson in Pearland. Be sure to tell the person that accepts the turkey that it is from New Life Lutheran.

Listening Survey: Take the Vision Team listening survey using the link in the weekly email.

Today's Worship Leaders (10:30 AM)

Assisting Minister

Cheryl Robinson

Communion Assistants

Tamsey Mims, Deanna Owens

Ushers

Cathy Scott

Technology

Stephen Castillo

*Altar flowers are given in honor of
Women of the ELCA*