

DO TO OTHERS
AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM
DO TO YOU.

LUKE 6:31



NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pearland, TX

Worship at 9:30 AM

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Communion

February 23, 2025

*Our mission is to raise disciples planted in God's love,
growing in faithfulness, and nourishing the world.*

GATHERING

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

GATHERING SONG

A Thousand Amens

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Chorus

Unfailing love comes with the morning
It's Your faithfulness we sing at night
It's Your kindness Lord that leads to our healing
All glory to our Maker and a thousand amens

Repeat all

Repeat Chorus

All glory to our Maker and a thousand amens
All glory to our Maker and a thousand amens

Tim Timmons
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WELCOME – Pastor Kim Little-Brooks

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

All: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

All: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."
In ✠ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

All: Amen.

OPENING SONG

Let It Rise

Verse 1

Let the glory of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the glory of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the praises of the King
Rise among us
Let it rise

Verse 2

Let the songs of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the songs of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the joy of the King
Rise among us let it rise

Chorus

O let it rise
O let it rise

Repeat Verse 1

Repeat Chorus

Repeat Verse 2

Repeat Chorus 2x

Holland Davis

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A: ³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; God has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" ¹⁵And Joseph kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40 *Please read responsively.*

A: ¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

All: ² For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.

A: ³ Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

All: ⁴ Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart's desire.

A: ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord, and see what God will do.

All: ⁶ The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.

A: ⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

All: ⁸ Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.

A: ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.

All: ¹⁰ In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.

A: ¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

All: ³⁹ But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.

A: ⁴⁰ You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them;

All: you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

A: ³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body according to God's own choosing, and to each kind of seed its own body. ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first human was from the dust of the earth; the second human is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the one made of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven. ⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the dominion of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let the glory of the Lord

Rise among us

Let the glory of the Lord

Rise among us

Let the praises of the King

Rise among us

Let it rise

GOSPEL READING: Luke 6:27-38

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [Jesus said:] ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, who is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON – Pastor Kim Little-Brooks

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

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: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we be a voice for the care and restoration of all your creation. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of caregiving and social services, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

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 grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

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: The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

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 *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, then 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, 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, 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

Your grace finds me, yes, Your grace finds me

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. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

All: Amen.

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

BLESSING

P: The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

All: Amen.

SENDING SONG ***My Redeemer Lives***

I know He rescued my soul
His blood has covered my sin
I believe, I believe

My shame He's taken away
My pain is healed in His name
I believe, I believe

I'll raise a banner
'Cause my Lord has conquered the grave

Chorus

My Redeemer lives
My Redeemer lives
My Redeemer lives
My Redeemer lives

Repeat all

You lift my burdens
I'll rise with You
I'm dancing on this mountaintop
To see Your kingdom come

Repeat Chorus 2x

Reuben Morgan
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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

All: Thanks be to God.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Today is the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany: February 23

Worship: 9:30 AM

Sunday School: 10:30 AM

Sunday School for Everyone: Sunday School is at 10:30 AM. We have room for everyone, and you are welcome. Class options include:

- Godly Play 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 Sunday School – Video Class (Fellowship Hall with Nolan and Donna Patschke and Merideth Oliver)

Installation of Pastor Kim: Please join us in worship on March 2nd at 9:30 for the official installation of Pastor Kim Little-Brooks as the interim pastor of New Life. We celebrate Pastor Kim and rejoice in her gifts of ministry!

Mardi Gras Bake Sale: Our amazing youth will be offering baked goods for sale before and after worship on Sunday, March 2nd. Proceeds will help them attend Lutheran camps this summer. Come show your support and grab some delicious homemade treats!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: You're invited to supper and fellowship on Tuesday, March 4th from 5:30 to 7:30. Come join in a pancake feast before Lent begins!

Ash Wednesday Worship: On Wednesday March 5th at 7:00 PM we will have a worship service with the imposition of ashes. Please join us for the beginning of the Lenten season.

Today's Worship Leaders (9:30 AM)

Assisting Minister

Nancy Bryars

Communion Assistants

Barbara Flowers, Robin Gottlieb

Usher

Vince Gottlieb

Technology

John Gestl

*Altar flowers are given by Tamsey Mims
with happy birthday wishes to her nephews,
Eric and Brian Johnson.*