



NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pearland, TX

First Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion

Traditional Service
November 30, 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.

WELCOME – Pastor Bonnie Parker

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

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

All: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

OPENING HYMN *The King Shall Come (ELW 260)*

¹ The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.

² Not as of old a little child,
to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.

³ Oh, brighter than the rising morn
when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death,
despite the rage of foes.

⁴ Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes,
and we shall see his face.

⁵ The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
come quickly, King of kings

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: HOPE

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of the coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.

A: Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed by God forever.

All: Amen.

PRAYERS

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

All: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, 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: *First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5*

L: ¹ The word that Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: *Psalm 122* ***Please read responsively.***

L: ¹ I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

All: ² Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

L: ³ Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

All: ⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

L: ⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

All: ⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

L: ⁷ Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

All: ⁸ For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.

L: ⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

SECOND READING: *Romans 13:11-14*

L: ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 24:36-44*

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: Jesus said to the disciples, ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON – Pastor Bonnie Parker

HYMN OF THE DAY *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (ELW 241)*

¹ O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you a right?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,
your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.

² I lay in fetters, groaning;
you came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning;
you came to honor me.
A glorious crown you give me,
a treasure safe on high
that will not fail or leave me
as earthly riches fly.

³ Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling,
our lost and fallen race.

⁴ Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,
who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed
and tremble at your doom.
All hail the Lord's appearing!
O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams so cheering
and guide us safely home.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**He came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God,
trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole
creation.

A brief silence.

A: God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

A: God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

A: God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

A: God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing (especially . . . and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day). Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

A: God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

A: God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints (*especially*) to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

P: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

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 MUSIC – Travis Lairson

OFFERTORY RESPONSE – *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* (M. Haugen)

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, 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: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW P. 144)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among
us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

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. Then return to your pew down the side aisle.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come (ELW 693)*

¹ Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

² All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

³ For the Lord our God shall come
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.

⁴ Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home!

COMMUNION HYMN

The Advent of Our God (LBW 22)

¹ The advent of our God
shall be our theme for prayer;
come, let us meet him on the road
and place for him prepare.

² The everlasting Son
incarnate stoops to be,
himself the servant's form puts on
to set his people free.

³ Come, Zion's daughter, rise
to meet your lowly king,
nor let your faithless heart despise
the peace he comes to bring.

⁴ As judge, on clouds of light,
he soon will come again,
and all his scattered saints unite
with him on high to reign.

⁵ Before the dawning day
let sin be put to flight;
no longer let the law hold sway,
but walk in freedom's light.

⁶ All glory to the Son,
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever one
through all eternity.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

All: Amen.

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (ELW 244)*

¹ Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

² The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.

³ The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.

⁴ Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

UPCOMING EVENTS

LEAD Assessment – Due! Please complete online or return paper survey!

Advent Services: No advent services will be scheduled this season due to Pastor's circumstances.

WELCA Bible Study: Tuesday, Dec. 2nd meeting day changed for this month only. (No Welca Lunch in December).

Senior Luncheon: Wednesday Dec. 3rd. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share. We will be filling, packing and wrapping the Seafarers Christmas boxes.

Giving Tree: NLLC is sponsoring a family with children this Christmas. The tree in the Narthex has suggested items to donate (gifts must be unwrapped with name and age of child attached) All gifts are due at the church by Dec 15.

Children's Christmas Party: Saturday Dec. 13th, 11:00pm-2:00pm. Games, door prizes, and Pizza. Open for the community. Invite all children! Special Guest expected!

Christmas Pageant: Sunday, Dec 14th, 9:30am Sunday Service. The whole Congregation helps.

Women's Thanks Offering: Envelopes will be out until Dec. 14th for donations that will support women's ministry in the church.

Neighborhood Caroling: Friday, Dec 19th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to come for the fun!

Christmas Services: Wednesday, Dec.24th, 4:00pm and 7:00pm. No services on Christmas Day.

Commitment Cards: If you have forgotten to return your commitment card, please bring them this Sunday and give them to *Nancy Bryars* or place in the offering plate.

Christian Helping Hands: Please consider donating food to our cart at the Fellowship Hall, it is truly needed for the Holidays.

Crocheters and Knitters Needed: Please consider knit or crochet Prayer Shawls for our ministry.

Fundraiser: Please bring Aluminum Cans for the Youth, raising funds for their ongoing projects.

Altar Flowers: Price for flowers is \$50.00 per arrangement. Take them home after the service! Sign up ahead of time to honor your event. Please bring back the Flower Basket when you are done.

Fellowship Hall Rental: Receptions and Other Events: Call or Email the office for more Information: 281-485-1818, office@newlifelutheran.com

Council Connections: Feel free to write the Council with ideas, suggestions, or concerns to president@newlifelutheran.com

Today's Worship Leaders (9:30 AM)

Assisting Minister

Elna Ritter

Communion Assistants

Linda Hudgens, Nancy Bryars

Ushers

Charlie Gaevert

Tech Booth

Altar Flowers are dedicated to the glory of God. (Altar Flowers signup sheet is located in the Narthex. Please reserve your favorite date!)