



NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pearland, TX

Second Sunday of Advent

Traditional Service

Holy Communion

December 7, 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 Grant Housewright

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.

GATHERING HYMN *Hark, the Glad Sound! (ELW 239)*

¹ Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

² He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

³ He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

⁴ Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

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: LOVE

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

All: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 11:1-10*

L: ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: 72:1-7, 18-19 ***Please read responsively.***

L: ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

All: ²that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

L: ³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

All: ⁴Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

L: ⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

All: ⁶Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

L: ⁷In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

All: ¹⁸Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!

L: ¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory.

All: Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING Romans 15:4-13

L: ⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of

the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,
"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope."

¹³May 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.

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: Matthew 3:1-12

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: ¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' "

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of

repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON – Pastor Grant Housewright

HYMN OF THE DAY *Comfort, Comfort Now My People (ELW 256)*

¹ "Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever.

² For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;
hills, bow down in humble favor.

³ Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

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,*
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: With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

A: With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

A: With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

A: With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease (especially). Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

A: With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

A: With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith (especially Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, whom we commemorate today). Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. 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 – Choir – *Lift Every Heart Prepare a Throne*

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 our 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: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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 take 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." As you return to your seat by the side aisle there is a basket available for our empty cup.

Communion

P: The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

All: Amen.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God* (ELW Pg. 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 SONG *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* (ELW 254)

¹ Come thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art.
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

² Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king.
Born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

COMMUNION HYMN *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (ELW 249)*

¹ On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

² Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

³ We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

⁴ Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

⁵ All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

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 Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

All: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING SONG *Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)*

¹ Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

² God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! **Refrain**

³ Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: **Refrain**

⁴ His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding:

Refrain Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

All: Thanks be to God!

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UPCOMING EVENTS - Week of December 7, 2025

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

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 Sunday, Dec 14 for delivery on the 15th.

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.

Christmas Luncheon: Sunday, Dec 14th, Women's meeting starts after Sunday service followed by a Potluck Luncheon and gift exchange for those who wish to participate.

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.

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 help us 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	Helen Beckman
Communion Assistants	Cheryl Robinson
Ushers	Nolan Patschke
Tech Booth	Ryan Stickland
Greeter	Donna Patschke

Altar Flowers are given by Stephanie Creighton for Jackson's 4th birthday.
(Altar Flowers sign up sheet is located in the Narthex. Please reserve your favorite date!)