

Heavenly Authority

Matthew 21:23-32

RESPONSIBLE LIVING - JOYFUL GIVING

Redefining Stewardship as "Whole Life" Stewardship

Pentecost 17

September 27, 2020

New Life Lutheran Church

10:30AM

Pearland, Texas



New Life Lutheran Church is a partner congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

- ROOTED *in the Word*
- REFRESHED *in the Spirit*
- REACHING *into the Neighborhood & the World!*

TODAY @ NEW LIFE: Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Open The Eyes of my Heart



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you
I want to see you | 2 To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing Holy, Holy, Holy |
| 3 Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you
I want to see you | 4 To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing Holy, Holy, Holy |
| 5 Holy, Holy, Holy
Holy, Holy, Holy
Holy, Holy, Holy
I want to see you | 6 Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you
I want to see you |

Text: Michael W. Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
C: **who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. Amen!**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION



P: Faithful God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ABSOLUTION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Christ Jesus. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.



GREETING

P: Grace and peace to all of you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; and may the inseparableness of the Holy Spirit be with everyone here!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. God of love, giver of life,

C: you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Sang Kim

*Each Sunday a special message is shared with all the children ages infants through 6th grade.
All God's children are welcome!*



FAITH 5 - READ



First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me:

²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”?

³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel.

⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.

²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.

²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die.

²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.

³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Here ends the reading.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13 (*Bold - verse for FAITH5*)

- ¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,
²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.
- ³**Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.**
- ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.
- ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.
- ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.



R: Word of God. Word of Life!

C: **Thanks be to God!**



Gospel

READING

P: The Good News of Jesus, Son of God according to St. Matthew:

C: Praise to You, Lord Christ!

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

P: Word of God. Word of Life!

C: Thanks be to God.

“We Believe”

In this time of desperation, when all we know is doubt and fear,
there is only one foundation. We believe, we believe.

In this broken generation, when all is dark, You help us see.
There is only one salvation. We believe, we believe.

REFRAIN

We believe in God the Father; we believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit; and He's given us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion; we believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection; and He's comin' back again, we believe.

So, let our faith be more than anthems
greater than the songs we sing.
And in our weakness and temptations
we believe, we believe!

REFRAIN

We believe in God the Father; we believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit; and He's given us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion; we believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection; and He's comin' back again, we believe.

BRIDGE

Let the lost be found and the dead be raised; in the here and now, let love
invade!
Let the church live loud! Our God, we'll say, “We believe! We believe!”
And the gates of hell will not prevail, for the pow'r of God has torn the veil.
Now we know Your love will never fail. We believe! We believe!

REFRAIN

We believe in God the Father; we believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit; and He's given us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion; we believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection; and He's comin' back!
He's comin' back again! He's comin' back again!
We believe, We believe!

FAITH5 - PRAY

P: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

P: In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions (*especially*), change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Our lives are yours, O God.

Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit.

Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community (*especially*); make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.



P: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE OFFERING IS GIVEN

Giving is good for the giver; promoting our trust in God and providing blessings to the world.

TEXT GIVING is now available at New Life

You can now tithe via text. Text to **281.864.3278**, add a \$\$ amount to the message box and send. A link will appear for a 1 time set up.

Once it is set up, it takes seconds to give again.

You can also give thru the New Life website NewLifeLutheran.com. There is a give page and donate options on most of the tab's main pages.

Checks can also be dropped off at the Church or mailed in.

On in-person Parking lot Service Sundays, there will be a basket for donations out.

Thank you for supporting New Life's ministry.

THE OFFERTORY

New Life Houseband

[Giving Update](#) September giving at New Life: \$16,598 of \$28,248 needed for the month. (58.8%)

Thank you!

THE OFFERING PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

C: You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere, to give you thanks and praise O Holy Father, our eternal and ever-present God. You sent us your Son, Jesus. In his love Christ has filled us with joy as we remember his birth and celebrate his return.

C: Amen! Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

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."

C: Our Father, who is in heaven. Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come; your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The
LORD'S
Prayer

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Take, eat and drink the bread and the cup to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

C: AMEN!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION



P: Let us pray. We give you thanks gracious God,

C: that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

FAITH5 - BLESS

P: Now may God, Father, ☩ Son and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C: Amen!

A SENDING SONG

"Soul on Fire"

By Third Day



**God, I'm running for Your heart
I'm running for Your heart 'till I am a soul on fire
Lord, I'm longing for Your ways
I'm waiting for the day when I am a soul on fire
Till I am a soul on fire**

2X

Lord, restore the joy I had;
When I have wandered, bring me back
In this darkness, lead me through Until all I see is You

**God, I'm running for Your heart
I'm running for Your heart 'till I am a soul on fire
Lord, I'm longing for Your ways
I'm waiting for the day when I am a soul on fire
Till I am a soul on fire**

Lord, let me burn for You again; Let me return to You again
Lord, let me burn for You again! Let me return to You
again!

God, I'm running for Your heart
I'm running for Your heart 'till I am a soul on fire

**Lord, I'm longing for Your ways
I'm waiting for the day when I am a soul on fire
God, I'm running for Your heart
I'm running for Your heart 'till I am a soul on fire
Till I am a soul on fire
Till I am a soul on fire**

Words and Music by
MAC POWELL, TAI ANDERSON,
MARK LEE, DAVID CARR,
BRENTON BROWN and MATT MAHER

WE GO TO SERVE THE LORD

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.





All are Welcome

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEARLAND, TEXAS

LIVE STREAMING SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY:

8:00am: Traditional Worship

(Tailgate Worship & Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays)

10:30am: Contemporary Worship

The Language of God's Stewards:

TRUTH **GRATITUDE** **LOVE** **FORGIVENESS**
BLESSING **COMPASSION** **SACRIFICE**
WHOLE-LIFE MINISTRY

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Texas - Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

September 27th - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. - Livestream Worship with Virtual Communion

Gospel

Bible Study



zoom

Sunday Zoom Gospel Study

Join Pastor Bill in an online *Zoom* virtual Adult Christian Education

Bible Study each **Sunday at 9:30 am**. Each 30-minute session will feature a study and discussion of the Gospel Reading for that day.

If you would like to join the class, please send your **name**, **phone number** and **email address** to pastor@newlifelutheran.com and Pastor Bill will send you a link to the Zoom meeting and instructions. Come join in the conversation online!