



RESPONSIBLE LIVING - JOYFUL GIVING
Redefining Stewardship as "Whole Life" Stewardship

Advent 3
December 13, 2020

New Life Lutheran Church
Pearland, Texas

10:30AM



*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: "Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

Open Up The Heavens

Leader 1 We've waited for this day
 We're gathered in your name, calling out to you
 Your glory like a fire awakening desire
 Will burn our hearts with truth.
 You're the reason we're here.
 You're the reason we're singing! **Refrain**

Refrain (All Sing)

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *f*. The lyrics are: "O - pen up the heav - ens; we want to see You." The second staff continues: "O - pen up the flood - gates: a might - y riv - er ___". The third staff concludes: "flow - ing from Your heart, fill - ing ev - 'ry part of our ___ praise. ___".

Leader 2 Your presence in this place.
 Your glory on our face, we're looking to the sky.
 Descending like a cloud, You're standing with us now;
 Lord, unveil our eyes.
 You're the reason we're here.
 You're the reason we're singing! **Refrain X2**

Houseband Show us, show us your glory.
 Show us, show us your power.
 Show us, show us your glory, Lord. X2

Refrain x3

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,

**C: whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.
Amen!**

P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.



WORDS OF ABSOLUTION AND FORGIVENESS

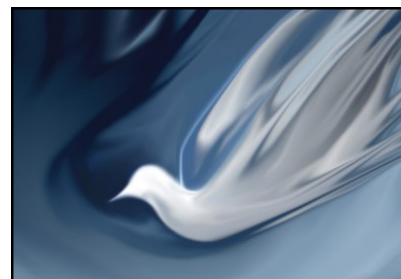
P: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free – free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ☩ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

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!

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Children's Message

Sang Kim

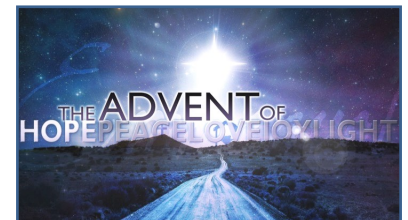
*Each Sunday a special message is shared with all the children ages infants through 6th grade.
All God's children are welcome!*



FAITH 5 - READ

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

- 1 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
- 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God; to
comfort all who mourn;
- 3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion –
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
- 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
- 8 For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- 9 Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.



- 10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- 11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Here ends the reading.



Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (*Bold - verse for FAITH5*)

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

- 16 Rejoice always,
17 pray without ceasing,
18 **give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**
- 19 Do not quench the Spirit.
20 Do not despise the words of prophets,
21 but test everything; hold fast to what is good;
22 abstain from every form of evil.
- 23 May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

R: Word of God. Word of Life!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

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

C: Praise to You, Lord Christ!



Gospel

READING

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P: Word of God. Word of Life!

C: Thanks be to God.



APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

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

He will come again 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.**

FAITH5 - PRAY

P: God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

P: God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.



P: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus 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, placed in the offering plate or mailed in.

Thank you for supporting New Life's ministry.

THE OFFERTORY

New Life Houseband

Giving Update December giving at New Life: \$9,391 of \$28,248 needed for the month. (33.2 %)

Thank You!

THE OFFERING PRAYER

P: Generous God,

C: you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. 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.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

C: AMEN!



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. Gracious and abundant God,

C: you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FAITH5 - BLESS

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever.

C: Amen!



A SENDING SONG

The King of Glory

Refrain

**The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.**

- 1 Who is the King of glory; how shall we call him?
He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages. *Refrain*
- 2 In all of Galilee, in city or village,
he goes among his people, curing their illness. *Refrain*
- 3 Sing then of David's Son, our Savior and brother;
in all of Galilee was never another. *Refrain*
- 4 He gave his life for us, the pledge of salvation;
he took upon himself the sins of the nation. *Refrain*
- 5 He conquered sin and death; he truly has risen;
and he will share with us his heavenly vision. *Refrain*

Text: Willard F. Jabusch

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WE GO TO SERVE THE LORD

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.





All are Welcome

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEARLAND, TEXAS

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



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

Advent 3 December 13th - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. In-Person & Livestream
Worship

Advent 4 December 20th - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. In-Person & Livestream
Worship



(Because of limited capacity, RSVPs are needed. **"Don't forget to RSVP using the Google form in the Friday New Life News email by noon on Thursday of each week!"**)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services December 24th

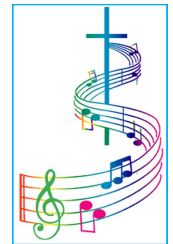
3:00p.m., 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. In-Person & Livestream Worship

(Because of limited capacity, RSVPs are needed. **"Don't forget to RSVP using the Google form in the Friday New Life News email by noon on Wednesday, December 23rd!"**)

Christmas Day - Christ is Born! December 25th



Christmas 1 December 27th - One service @ 10:30 a.m. In-Person & Livestream Worship & the **"Voices of New Life"** will be doing a **Song Fest @ 3pm** outside on the field next to the Sanctuary. It will not be a service, but it will include all of the hymns we didn't get to sing Christmas Eve. (Because of limited capacity, RSVPs are needed for both events. **"Don't forget to RSVP using the Google form in the Friday New Life News email by noon on Thursday of each week!"**)



Poinsettia orders: If you are interested in ordering a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve, the order forms are in the narthex of the church. They are \$10 each. The plants can be taken home on Christmas Eve after the 7pm service.



This Christmas instead of doing an Angel Tree or ELCA Good Gifts, we want to give to those in our New Life congregation who are struggling and could use some help. We will be collecting gift cards for those families. If you can, please bring or mail a gift card to the church office as soon as possible. If you are a family in need, please contact the church office to let us know specific needs. Thank you to the congregation and the wonderful volunteers of New Life!