



## RESPONSIBLE LIVING - JOYFUL GIVING

*Redefining Stewardship as "Whole Life" Stewardship*

### Advent 4

December 20, 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:

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

## Gathering Songs

New Life House Band

## WELCOME &amp; NEWS

## Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

*Refrain*

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

4 Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by your advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

## 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

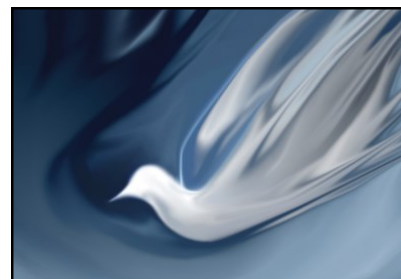
P: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free — free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ☩ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Children's Message

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

**Sang Kim**



## FAITH 5 - READ



### First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

- <sup>1</sup> Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him,
- <sup>2</sup> the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent."
- <sup>3</sup> Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."
- <sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan:
- <sup>5</sup> Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?
- <sup>6</sup> I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.
- <sup>7</sup> Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"
- <sup>8</sup> Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;

- <sup>9</sup> and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.
- <sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,
- <sup>11</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.
- <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*Here ends the reading.*



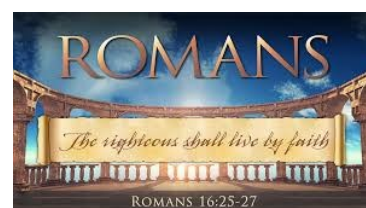
## **Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27 (Bold - verse for FAITH5)**

*Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.*

- <sup>25</sup> Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, **according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages**
- <sup>26</sup> **but is now disclosed**, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith —
- <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

R: Word of God. Word of Life!

C: **Thanks be to God!**





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

C: Praise to You, Lord Christ!



# Gospel

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## READING

### GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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: Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**



P: Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage us all to provide for our neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Merciful God, you have graciously heard the cries of all affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful for all your blessings, especially for the Coronavirus vaccine, and all the doctors, scientists, manufacturers and distributors who have worked to make it possible. Bless people everywhere with strength and healing by your restorative power. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

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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](http://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: \$15,385 of \$28,248 needed for the month. (54 %)

*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



Messiah

### Messiah

1. Someone's shouting from the desert,  
someone's shouting from the sea.  
Someone's shouting from the mountain,  
someone's shouting from the valley.

**Refrain: Messiah, Messiah, come and be our King.  
Messiah, Messiah, come and be our King.**

2. Someone's shouting from the city,  
I am young, I am cold.  
Someone's shouting from the country,  
I am lonely, I am old. **Refrain**
3. Someone's shouting I am broken.  
Someone's shouting make me whole.  
Someone's shouting come and change me,  
someone's shouting save my soul. **Refrain**

Text: Larry Olson

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

**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!