



LORD OF LIFE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*CELEBRATING AND SHARING
A NEW BEGINNING
IN GOD'S GRACE ALONE!*

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OUTDOOR WORSHIP – SEPTEMBER 13, 2020



LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
“MAKING GOD FIRST THROUGH HOPE, GROWTH & TOGETHERNESS”

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.-16200 Dodd Lane, Lakeville, MN 55044-(952)-953-4484
Pastor Jamie Thompson Email: info@lordoflifemn.org Website: www.lordoflifemn.org

“CELEBRATING A NEW BEGINNING IN THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST!”



The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Outdoor Worship

September 13, 2020

Opening Song Gathering in Joy & Grace “I Will Celebrate”

I will celebrate, sing unto the Lord; sing to the Lord, a new song.
I will celebrate, sing unto the Lord; sing to the Lord, a new song.

With my heart rejoicing within, with my mind focused on Him;
With my hands raised to the heavens, all I am, worshiping Him.

I will celebrate, sing unto the Lord; sing to the Lord, a new song.
I will celebrate, sing unto the Lord; sing to the Lord, a new song.

Litany Trusting God’s Faithfulness In A New Beginning, based on Psalm 107

Pastor: Friends, today we celebrate, and we trust a new beginning in God’s grace is far more than we ever imagined, so we worship in the name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Pastor: People of God: At times we wander in the desert, and just when we think it cannot be so, we lose our way once again. Let us take a moment of silence to confess our sins, and those times we have failed to trust the Lord’s abundant mercy and forgiveness. (*silence for reflection*) Friends in Christ, just when you think it cannot be so for you, trust the new beginning in the grace of these words: Jesus saves; Jesus forgives you all your sins. Celebrate, believe anew, amazing grace breaks forth, forgiveness is here, your chains are gone, you are set free!

Prayer of the Day

All: Loving God, we thank you and praise you, for your amazing and abundant grace. Bless us with a new beginning today, to let go of judging others, and to open ourselves to your love and salvation. By your Spirit, increase our faith, to believe anew, to hope anew, to live anew, to trust we are forgiven and we can forgive others, calling on your power and presence. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Hearing The Word of God

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

(all read bold print)

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “**Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.** For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ **And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.** But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. **Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?**’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” (New Revised Standard Version)

“Jesus Loves Me” & “Blessing of The Children, Backpacks & Bikes”

(blessing content provided following printed announcements)

Sermon

“A New Beginning ... Oh, You Think So?”

Pastor Jamie Thompson

Song Anew In Grace

“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

Tomlin

vs. 1 **Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.**

vs. 2 **‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear, The hour I first believed!**

ref: **My chains are gone, I’ve been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy rains unending love,
Amazing grace. (repeat refrain)**

Unending love, amazing grace.

Sharing Our Needs and Joys with God in Prayer

Pastor: ...as we pray to you, Jesus,

All: Give us a new beginning in your power and hope and grace.

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you see we need, grant to us we pray, for into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

We Receive the Gifts of Life from God in Holy Communion

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Strengthened to Live Today, and All Our Days, In The Grace of Christ

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, as you trust each new beginning in the grace of Jesus Christ. In the name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us go in the peace of Christ, celebrating the love of God, blessed to be God's people and God's Church, together serving The Lord of life.

All: Thanks be to God!

Going Anew in Light & Grace "This Little Light of Mine"

**vs. 1 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**vs. 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. *(repeat first verse)***

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Songs During Holy Communion “Old Church Choir”

Williams

vs. 1 **There’s revival and it’s spreading like a wildfire in my heart.
A Sunday morning “hallelujah,” and it’s lasting all week long
Can you hear it? Can you feel it? It’s the rhythm of a gospel song.
Oh once you choose it, you can’t lose it**

pre-chorus: **‘Cause there ain’t nothing,
There ain’t nothing gonna steal my joy!**

chorus: **I’ve got an old church choir singing in my soul.
I’ve got a sweet salvation and it’s beautiful.
I’ve got a heart overflowing ‘cause I’ve been restored.
There ain’t nothing gonna steal my joy!
No, there ain’t nothing gonna steal my joy!**

vs. 2 **When the valleys that I wander
Turn to mountains that I can’t climb,
Oh, You are with me; never leave me (*pre-chorus & chorus*)**

bridge: **Clap your hands and stomp your feet
‘Til you find that gospel beat,
‘Cause He’s all you’ll ever need, all you’ll ever need.
Clap your hands and stomp your feet
‘Til you find that gospel beat,
‘Cause He’s all you’ll ever need, all you’ll ever need.
I’ve got an old church choir singing in my soul.
I’ve got a sweet salvation and it’s beautiful. (*chorus*)
Oh, there ain’t nothing gonna steal my joy!**

“Who You Say I Am”

Fielding

vs. 1 **Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me, Oh His love for me**

ref: **Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed
I’m a child of God – Yes I am!
In my Father’s house there’s a place for me
I’m a child of God – Yes I am!**

bridge: **I am chosen. Not forsaken. I am who You say I am
You are for me. Not against me. I am who You say I am
I am chosen. Not forsaken. I am who You say I am
You are for me. Not against me. I am who You say I am
Oh I am who You say I am
Yes I am who You say I am (*ref*)**

***Join us next Sunday, Sunday, September 20, for outdoor worship!
The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost, "A New Beginning, Is More Than Expected!"
Worship to include a Children's Message and a Sermon from Pastor Jamie!
Worship to be 30 minutes, and to conclude with Holy Communion!***

***Join us as we plan to continue to share worship outdoors,
through Sunday, September 27, Sundays, 9:30 a.m., weather permitting!***

***We are finalizing plans to be ready to worship indoors beginning Sunday, October 4!
We are seeking volunteers to assist with greeting, ushering, serving communion,
live streaming, AV ministry, set up, clean up, worship leaders, and more!***

***Friends, today as always, all who proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, are welcome to
God's table of grace as we share Holy Communion. Communion will be brought to you
following the closing song, as we share pre-packaged single servings of communion, including
a wafer and grape juice. Carefully pull back the first tab to expose the host, the body of Christ,
given for you; then pull back the second tab to expose the blood of Christ, shed for you!
Please ask for assistance or clarification as you are served!***

***For those sharing their generosity today, we thank you for your faithful giving!
Offering is collected in small apple baskets by parking lot volunteers as you exit the parking lot.
For those who wish to volunteer to serve on future Sundays, please see the Signup Genius links
in the LINK, and on our Facebook page. Thank you for giving in this blessed way!***

***For those who are not able to join us for worship, you are invited to receive drive-through
communion, available Sundays, 10:15-10:30 a.m. at the front curb near the church entrance.
Watch your email and our Facebook page for updates regarding our outdoor services.***

***We hope having the service provided for you in this way, will touch you, comfort you,
reassure you, and grace you in some way! If you believe others you know would be blessed in
any way to receive this bulletin and the sermon notes that follow, please forward this to them.***

***In this time of social distancing, please trust that we are committed to doing everything possible
to slow the spread of the coronavirus, and yet, please also trust that we are equally committed
to keeping us socially and spiritually connected!
On behalf of the Kingdom of God, thank you for the ways you make God and neighbor first!***

***A most holy and blessed Sunday to each of you and your loved ones!
From everyone on every level of leadership and service, please know during these days,
days filled with new opportunities, possibilities, information to process and evaluate, and yet,
still so many questions, we continue to pray for you and to give thanks to God for each of you!
Please contact Pastor Jamie if he can serve you in any way: jamie.thompson@lordoflifemn.org***

***We pray The Holy Spirit breathes anew on us to be God's people and to be God's Church,
as together we make known and we trust anew
God's gifts of hope, peace, justice, clarity, calm, and comfort forever break forth in new ways
for you and your loved ones, today, and as we share every gentle breeze of God's grace!***

Blessing of Children, Parents, Educators, Schools, Backpacks, Bikes

Leader: All who are students this year, from preschool to college, along with their parents, or those with them today, and anyone involved in education at any level; administrators, teachers, nurses, bus drivers, aides, food service employees, custodians, coaches, staff, please raise your hand. Whether or not you brought a backpack or bike with you today, we want to bless you as this school year begins.

Leader: Today you are receiving a gift. (*Pass out the carabiners*) They are a carabiner that you can attach to your backpacks. All of them have a compass on them. Maybe some of you are just beginning to discover the sun rises in the east and sets in the west. Perhaps some of you know how to get to school, or a neighborhood park, or how to get home from a friend's house, and yet you are not yet sure of directions. Those of you who are learning to drive, or will be driving soon, are perhaps for the first time acknowledging more and more, if your destination is to the north, south, east or west, of where you are coming from, and where you are going to.

As our faith quest is renewed for us every day, and even though, for now, we do not have Sunday School as we know it, as our spiritual courses continue, we are each invited to believe and trust anew The Holy Spirit, God's grace, our Savior Jesus Christ, are blessing our journey, giving us direction, keeping us on track, pointing our way. "I am the way, the truth, and the life!" If we ever feel lost along the way on our faith quest, God will guide us and grace us again, for Jesus loves us this we know, for the Bible tells us so.

This year we encourage you to keep this carabiner on your backpack. May the compass help you grow in confidence as you learn your directions. May the compass and carabiner remind you, you are forever linked to God's love for you in Jesus Christ, who is always with you, and that God will forever faithfully keep you faithful and on course, forever trusting the Lord of your life.

Leader: Remember from Psalm 121 'The Lord bless you and keep you, your going out and your coming in from this time on and forever more. In the name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Spirit. Amen.' (*Each child is blessed, making a sign of the cross on their foreheads, saying*): "Jesus is with you wherever you go."

Leader: Congregation, you are asked to raise an arm, to visually join in laying your hands on one and all, as we share the following blessing and prayer: (*Those with children today invited to lay hands on them.*)

Leader: Let us pray: God of all knowledge and wisdom, bless these children, these students, parents, teachers, administrators, nurses, bus drivers, aides, food service employees, custodians, coaches, staff, backpacks and bikes as a new school year has begun.

All: We pray your blessing on these children and upon all students, young and old as their new year begins. Guard and protect students in their schools, on buses, in cars, on bikes, as they walk, everywhere, and as they go to and from school each day.

Leader: Help each student discover and develop the gifts you have given them. As they grow in knowledge, help them also grow in kindness and compassion. Bless all who serve the education of others, guide them in their vocation and calling, as they teach and nurture, support and validate each child, seeing them, too, as Your child.

All: By your Spirit, bless our schools, all students, all who go there, work and serve there, the classrooms, hallways, playgrounds, fields, and events to be places of safety, respect, learning and possibility. We ask your blessing on parents and all who love and care for these children. Strengthen our ministry and each of us as disciples; be our spiritual compass, give us direction, keep us on track, point the way. Bless each of us, too, as students of the faith, to teach God first, to make God and neighbor first, to surround all students with encouragement, support, and love, trusting even the most ordinary action is an extraordinary blessing to your Kingdom, as we believe and make known we are forever linked to you and your grace. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

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“A NEW BEGINNING ... OH, YOU THINK SO!” - SEPTEMBER 13, 2020
CELEBRATION SUNDAY – OUTDOOR WORSHIP
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
GENESIS 50:15-21; ROMANS 14:1-12; MATTHEW 18:21-35
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

Some things just do not make any sense; even when it is so easy to say, ‘Oh, you think so!’ At times, we act so contrary, so ironically, to what history or our heart tells us. Just when we are trying to make positive changes in our life, we make a mistake. Just when we expected the one person we needed most to be on our side, we hear, ‘Oh, you think so,’ and they abandon us and we feel all the more ashamed. Thanks be to God there are those times when we are sure no one cares, that no one will be there for us, and then suddenly we are blessed to hear, ‘Oh, you think so,’ and we are surrounded or lifted up. In our faith journey, there is much that still does not make sense. Like, when we try to make God first, only to have him come in last. Like, when we are sure we have sinned too much or too deeply to ever be taken in by our Savior, only to have him say, ‘The debt is paid.’ Like, when after receiving God's unconditional love and forgiveness, we turn around and mistreat or judge others, showing no compassion or mercy. Contrary to the extreme, ironic as it may appear, just when you think God would rightly say, ‘Oh, you think so?’ God in Jesus forgives you once again. Even when it makes no sense, celebrate and trust a new beginning is given to you in God’s abundant mercy and grace!

1. Contrary to wishful and prayerful devotion, even a new beginning in grace does not mean we are not human. It doesn’t take much to cast judgment on someone else.
Matthew 18:28; Romans 14:4,10-12
 - A. ‘Oh, you think so;’ we would rather find fault in others than assume our own responsibility.
 - B. ‘Oh, you think so;’ we would rather cast blame than admit our own role.

2. Thanks to a new beginning in grace, it does not take much to tell someone you are truly sorry. Genesis 50:17; Matthew 18:26; 28-35
 - A. Saying you are sorry simply requires you to be honest and complete in your confession.
 - B. What takes more effort, a little more grace, is to repent; to hear the Holy Spirit say, ‘Oh, you think so,’ and turn you around.

3. Thanks to a new beginning in grace, it does not take much once you are ready, to share the gift of forgiveness, to receive the gift of forgiveness. Genesis 50:19; Matthew 18:21-22,27
 - A. It can take time and healing to be ready to say, "I forgive you."

- B. 'Oh, you think so?!' Saying, "I forgive you," does not mean it was 'ok.' It means you and I will be 'ok,' we are 'ok,' now let's go forward in a new way.
- C. Thanks be to God, we are blessed with a new beginning in God's abundant mercy and grace! 'Oh, you think so,' indeed, we are forgiven to forgive one another in Jesus' name!

A few simple math problems:

$\$10 \times 8 \text{ hours} = \$80/\text{day} \times 5 \text{ days} = 40 \text{ hours/week}, \$400/\text{week}$

$\$80/\text{day}/(1 \text{ denari}) \times 100 \text{ days (100 denari)} = \$8000;$

$\$400 \times 50 = \$20,000/\text{year}; \$20,000 \times 15 \text{ years (1 talent)} = \$300,000/\text{talent}$

$\$300,000 \times 10,000 \text{ talents} = \$3,000,000,000$

4. Thanks to a new beginning in grace, it does not take much of God's mercy to know the forgiving power of Jesus. Jesus could make it hard for us; could say to us, "Oh, you think so;" could have solidified an ending for us; and yet, we are graced with a new beginning! We know it took so much to provide us with forgiveness and new life! Let us not make too little of that. In Jesus, God's grace, compassion and mercy are for real. Let us be honest about who we are, accept what forgiveness is, and trust all that God is!
Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:27