

*New Life Ev. Lutheran Church  
Lake Zurich, IL*

*...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.*

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**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 2, 2018**

*A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the basement of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the basement after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.*

*Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon.*

*In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.*



Before Service Prayer: Gracious heavenly Father, as our country pauses to contemplate the freedom to work and the employment opportunities that are available to us, may we never lose sight of the fact that it is only because of Your grace and favor that we are able to work. Thank You, Lord, for the blessings of employment and work that we have had in the past and at the present. May all that we do at work give glory to You and Your precious name. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whom we love and serve. Amen.

Today's Service: "Service of the Word" NPH reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #1132777.

Today's Theme: The emphasis in the coming Sundays might be this: *Jesus wants to so deepen our understanding of His grace that He becomes all in all to us.* The particular emphasis in the readings for this Sunday is the truth that all God pleasing obedience must begin in the heart.

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: CW 395 "Seek Where You May to Find a Way"

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

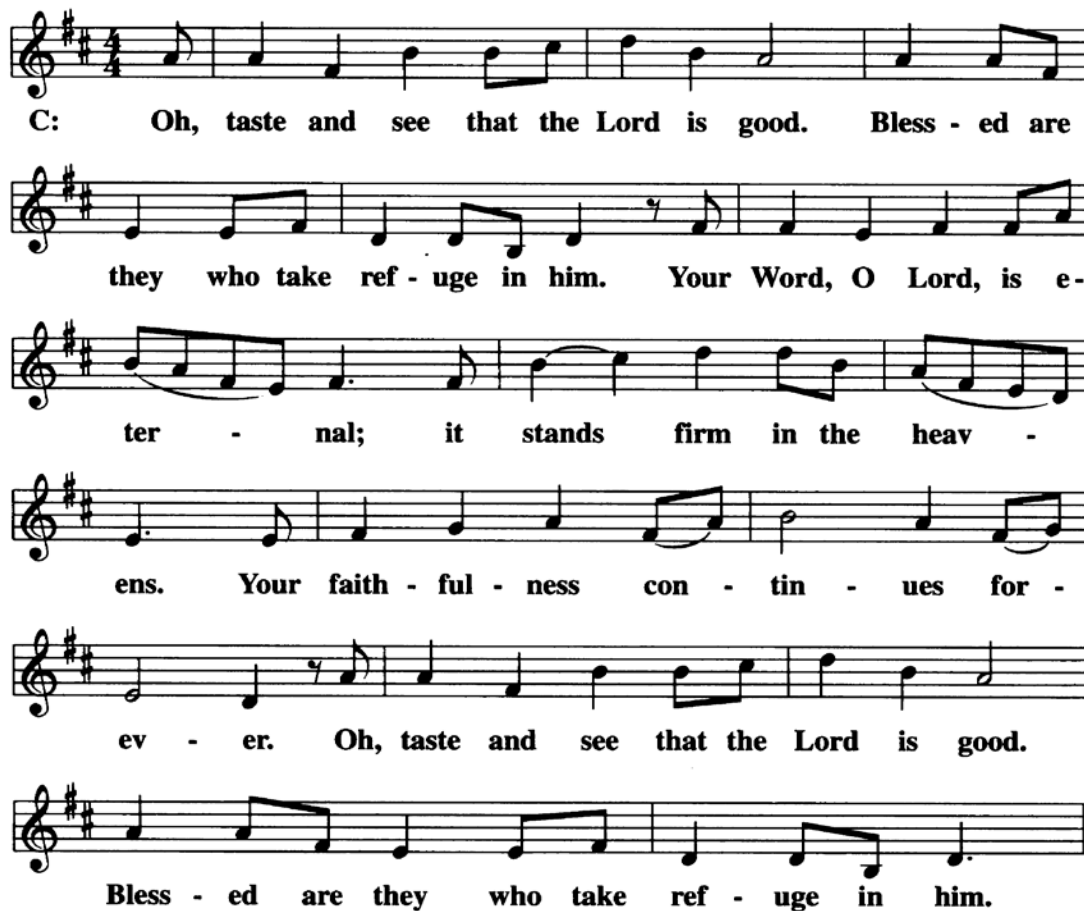
Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father, asking for forgiveness in Jesus' name.  
Almighty God and Father,

**People: we confess to You that we are sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You and one another. We cling to the things of this world for meaning. We search for security in things that are here today and gone tomorrow. We crave things that are physical and ignore the eternal, as well as the needs of those around us. O God, for Jesus' sake, forgive us for our failures and faithlessness. Renew and restore us by the power of Your Spirit, leading us to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness.**

Pastor: People of God, we come into this world with nothing, and we leave it in the same way. Everything we have in this life is a gift from God, especially God's forgiveness and acceptance which brings us here today. At the command of Christ and through the power of His cross, I forgive you of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are  
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -  
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -  
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -  
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

### The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with Your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

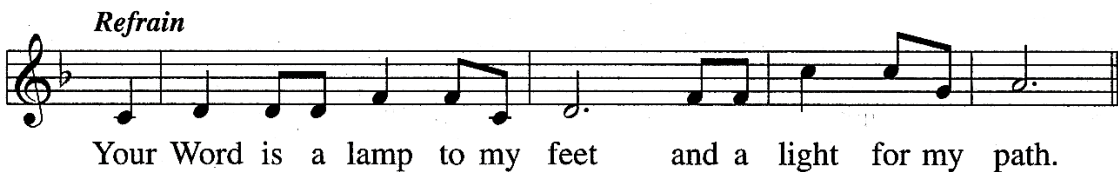
*The First Lesson: DEUTERONOMY 4:1, 2, 6-9* (God is serious about all of His Word, both the law and the gospel. As the verses left out of the reading (3-5) make clear, those who only take God's gifts seriously soon lose those gifts as a consequence of despising His commands. His commands are good because He who gave them is good. And because He is good, His abundant blessing through a peaceful and orderly life rests on those who follow His Word. That blessing brings forth a still greater blessing and honor: those who do not know His Word may be moved to hear it by the evidence of God's blessings on the godly lives of Christians.)

<sup>1</sup> Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup> Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

<sup>6</sup> Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." <sup>7</sup> What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to Him? <sup>8</sup> And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup> Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. (NIV 2011)

*Psalm of the Day: Psalm 119c*



Oh, how I love Your law!\*

I meditate on it all day long.

I have more insight than all my teachers,\*

for I meditate on Your statutes,

I have more understanding than the elders,

for I obey your precepts.

### **Refrain**

I have kept my feet from every evil path\*  
So that I might obey Your Word.

I have not departed from Your laws,\*  
for You Yourself have taught me.

How sweet are Your words to my taste,\*  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**as it was in the beginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### **Refrain**

*The Second Lesson: JAMES 1:17-27* (Calls for a sanctified life always find their basis and their motivation in the precious gospel message of God's gifts to us. His gifts are all good and perfect (even and especially the crosses) because God is changeless; He only knows how to give good and perfect gifts that suit our needs and fit our circumstances in life. But to recognize those gifts and to appreciate them and then make use of them in life we need the Word. The Word clears the clutter from life and the temptation to hypocrisy from the heart by showing us the first and best gifts, the gifts of salvation and adoption. With such gifts how could we doubt that anything He does in our lives would be anything but good and perfect?)

<sup>17</sup> Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. <sup>18</sup> He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all He created.

<sup>19</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup> because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

<sup>26</sup> Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (NIV 2011)

*Verse of the Day:* Alleluia. Your words became a joy to me, and the delight of my heart. Alleluia. (Jeremiah 15:15 cf. RSV)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Stand*

*The Gospel Lesson: MARK 7:1-8, 14, 15, 21-23* (Adding to God's Word is just as bad as subtracting from it. In both cases man sets aside what God has said in favor of what he wants in order to justify himself apart from God's Word and Christ's work. Precisely because the Word of both the law and the gospel is addressed to the heart, it allows for no additions, no subtractions. For to the extent that the heart is cleansed by the gospel, to that extent what flows from it will be clean and in accord with the law. An unclean heart can produce only unclean works, no matter how clean those works may appear on the outside. Those who take the law

*seriously need first and always the cleansing power of the gospel, lest their outward works be only outward and ultimately a mask for hypocrisy. (Pietism and self righteousness are often the last refuge of a guilty conscience!) On the other hand, those who refuse to take God's law seriously prove thereby that their hearts are still unclean and separated from God. The sin that begins in the heart will not agree to stay there; it will look for ways to get out and express itself. The Pharisees should have recognized that happening in their own hearts: their hearts harbored hatred for Jesus which yearned for expression in acts that ended in murder during Holy Week.)*

<sup>1</sup> The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus <sup>2</sup> and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. <sup>3</sup> (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. <sup>4</sup> When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

<sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't Your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?"

<sup>6</sup> He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

"These people honor Me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from Me.

<sup>7</sup> They worship Me in vain;  
their teachings are merely human rules.'

<sup>8</sup> You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."

<sup>14</sup> Again Jesus called the crowd to Him and said, "Listen to Me, everyone, and understand this. <sup>15</sup> Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them."

<sup>21</sup> For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evils come from inside and defile a person." (NIV 2011)

P: The Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Hymn of the Day: CWS 753 "Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us"

## The Sermon

### The Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### The Offering

### The Offertory

### The Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer



1 Hal - low - ed be Your name. Fa - ther, hear our prayer.  
2 Keep us from ev - 'ry ill, from the e - vil one.



Let Your good will be done here and ev - 'ry - where.  
Grant us grace bought for us by Your ho - ly Son.



Fa - ther who art in heav'n, let Your king - dom come.  
You a - lone have the pow'r and the glo - ry, Lord.



Ev - 'ry day, give us bread; thank You for the sum.  
You a - lone reign as King, ev - er - more a - dored.



And for - give us our sins as we, too, for - give.  
Hear us call on Your name here on earth be - low.



Lead us from all that tempts all the days we live.  
Now we sing Your a - men; yes, it shall be so!

P: Almighty God, we thank You for teaching us the things You want us to believe and do. Help us by Your Holy Spirit to keep Your word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**C. Amen.**

The Closing Hymn: CW 392 "Not unto Us"

The Announcements

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

*Cleaning this Week: Landenberger*

**Today— Worship Service at 9:30 AM**

Church Council at 10:45 AM

**Monday—Labor Day**

**Tuesday—First Day of 3-Year Old Preschool**

**Wednesday—First Day of 4-Year Old Preschool**

Sunday School Teacher's Meeting at 7:00 PM

**Next Sunday— Sunday School Round-Up / Friendship Sunday**

**Communion Service at 9:30 AM**

**First Day of Sunday School & Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM**

**Roundup Picnic at Noon**

Confirmation Class from 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Volunteers are needed to bring something to eat and drink for fellowship on Sunday mornings. **A new fellowship sheet has been posted for the fall months.** Please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the lower level.

At the current time, Tree of Life has 29 students enrolled for class which begins the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of September.

**Tree of Life is now licensed by DCFS!** The license initially is provisional, lasting for six months. Then, when fully licensed, the license lasts for three years.

The northern parking lot was scheduled to be ground down and replaced a week ago. Due to mechanical problems experienced by the paver, the re-paving didn't take place, but will take place September 4-6.

The flowers on the altar are placed there by Roger and Joyce Nicklaus in honor of their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary.

Sunday School Round-Up posters of various sizes are located on the table in the Café. Please help promote Sunday School Round-Up by taking a few and hanging them at your place of work or at establishments you frequent such as coffee shops, restaurants or grocery stores. Use the postcard in your bulletin to do the same.

New Life's "Friendship Sunday" will take place on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, in conjunction with the beginning of a new year of Christian Education. Very simply, it's a special opportunity for all of us, as individuals, to express our Christian *friendship*.

One of the purposes of Friendship Sunday is to remind us all how important it is that each of us does the work of an evangelist. It's no secret that the greatest percent of people joining a church do so as the eventual result of a friend's invitation.

By personally inviting and bringing family, friends, neighbors and work associates to worship with us, they can become acquainted with our congregation and especially with our "Best Friend" – the Lord Jesus Christ.

Every member of New Life—children, teens and adults—can help by doing the following:

- 1) Identify someone you know who is presently without a church home, who is searching for a church home, who is "recovering" from a previous church or who might not even have faith in Christ. This won't always be an easy thing to do. It will take time and thought. Please stay with it and work at it.
- 2) Intercede: Pray regularly and faithfully for your friend and for God's direction and guidance.
- 3) Imitate: Do something Jesus would do, some deliberate act of kindness done in imitation of Him, just because you know Him. In order to have a friend, YOU have to *be* a friend.
- 4) Invite that person to come with you to Friendship Sunday (or, really, any service or activity). The following passages are helpful for motivation and direction: John 1:35-51; John 17:20-26; and Matthew 28:18-20.

September 9th isn't that far away. A lot of work still needs to be done by all of us, as a congregation and as individual Christians. We have friends, neighbors, relatives, schoolmates, former workers, and other associates, all of whom need to know Jesus as their BEST Friend. Friendship Sunday a great opportunity for us to work together to share our faith in Christ.

—John Lester, Outreach Committee

