A man in a dark, patterned robe stands in a desert landscape under a starry night sky. He has his arms raised in a gesture of praise or blessing. The background features a blue sky with a dense field of stars and a few palm trees on the left. The ground is sandy and dotted with small yellow flowers.

“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you...

... all peoples on earth will be blessed

through you.”

Genesis 12:2,3

New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

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

*Vacancy Pastor Steve Radunzel / Pastor Thomas Schultz
(847) 438-5018*

www.newlife-wels.org

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Second Sunday in Lent March 1, 2026

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 lower level 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 fellowship hall 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. The service is also simulcast on the church's Facebook page.

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.

<p><u><i>Before Service Prayer:</i></u> Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</p>
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Today's Service: *New Morning Praise, NPH; used with permission under the OneLicense.net copyright agreement #A-800156. The service is a revision of the historic Order of Matins. Matins (comes from the Latin matutinus meaning "of the morning") was the monastic service marking the beginning of the new day. In Morning Praise we sing back to God the message He has given us in His word.*

THEME FOR THE SERVICE

EXACTLY WHAT I NEED: FAITH

I recognize that I need to be saved. When Jesus said, "No one can enter the kingdom of God," that included me. I do not deserve God's blessing. But long ago, God declared that I would be blessed by a descendant of Abraham who turned out to be Jesus. The blessing is salvation. I receive that salvation by faith in Jesus as my Savior. The good news is that faith is also God's gift, imparted to me through the gospel.

OPENING HYMN CW 627 "To God Be the Glory" (CW93 399)

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 121:1–2, 8*

Pastor: From where does my help come?

People: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: The Lord will preserve your going out and your coming in,

People: from this time forth and forevermore.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

DIALOGUE FOR MORNING PRAISE

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips.

People: And my mouth shall declare Your praise.

Pastor: Hasten to save me, O God.

People: O Lord, come quickly to help me.

Pastor: In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;

People: in the morning I lay my requests before You and wait in expectation.

Pastor: I will exalt You, my God the King;

People: I will praise Your name forever and ever.

Pastor: Every day I will praise You.

People: and extol Your name forever and ever.

Pastor: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

People: Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

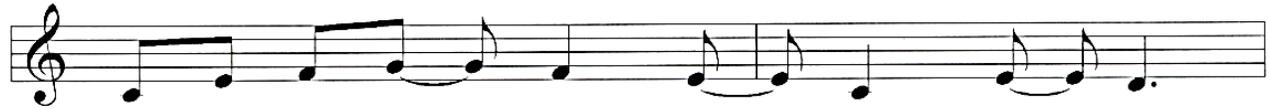
Pastor: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

People: May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

(We sing words from Psalm 95 in a song called the "Venite." **Please sing all refrains and all verses**)



Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!



Shout to the rock of our sal - va - tion!



Come, let us greet him with a song of praise, for



great is our God, the King of all kings!



Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Let us bow down and worship the Lord;
Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!
For this is our God whose people we are:
Women: Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!
Men: Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Refrain

Great is the Lord and worthy of praise:
Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!
Sing to the Lord and bless His name:
Women: Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!
Men: Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Refrain

All that has life and breath shall rejoice:
Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!
The great and the small, all creatures of God:
Women: Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!
Men: Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Refrain

Heaven and earth, rejoice in His name:

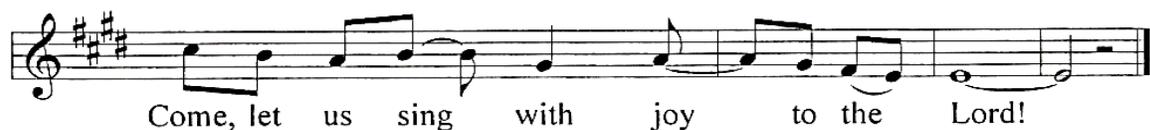
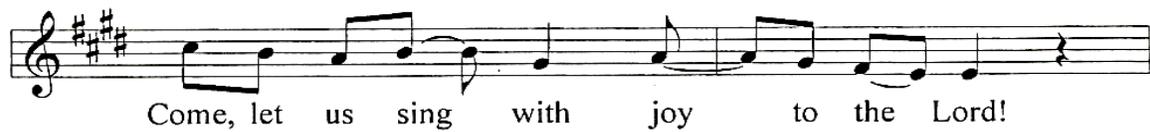
Come let us sing with joy to the Lord!

He governs the world with justice and truth:

Women: Come let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Men: Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Final Refrain



OLD TESTAMENT LESSON **Genesis 12:1-8** – The Lord gave Abram the gift of faith to believe the promise that one of his descendants would be a gift for the whole world.

12 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

²“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

⁸ From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

(NIV 2011)

Pastor: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**



Psalm 121

Refrain

Keep me, keep me as the ap - ple of your eye.

Hide me, hide me in the shad-ow of your wings.

Psalm tone

I lift up my eyes to the hills.*
Where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD,*
the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip,*
he who watches over you will not slumber;

indeed, he who watches over Israel*
will neither slumber nor sleep.

Refrain

The LORD watches over you,*
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

The LORD will keep you from all harm,*
he will watch over your life;

the LORD will watch over your coming and going*
both now and forevermore.

**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

EPISTLE LESSON – Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17 - Abraham is an example of how salvation is received as a gift through faith.

4 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? **2** If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. **3** What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

4 Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. **5** However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

13 It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. **14** For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, **15** because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. **16** Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. **17** As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not. (NIV 2011)

Pastor: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Pastor: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL LESSON John 3:1-17 – By sharing the good news of God’s love for the world, Jesus gave the gift of faith.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. **2** He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. **7** You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ **8** The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

9 “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (NIV 2011)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY CW 570 “God Loved the World So That He Gave” (CW93 391)

THE SERMON Genesis 12:1-8 “Who Really Are the Children of Abraham?”



(After the sermon, we sing the "Te Deum," an ancient and majestic canticle of the Christian church, a confession of faith, a mighty hymn of praise to God. Luther loved the Te Deum and referred to it as a fine creed.)

TE DEUM CANTICLE



1 We praise You and ac - knowl - edge You, O God, to be the Lord,
2 The band of the a - pos - tles in glo - ry sing Your praise;
3 You, Christ, are King of glo - ry, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
4 You sit in splen - did glo - ry, en - throned at God's right hand,



The Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, by all the earth a - dored.
The fel - low - ship of proph - ets their death - less voic - es raise.
Yet You, with bound - less love, sought to res - cue ev - 'ry - one:
Up - hold - ing earth and heav - en by forc - es You com - mand.



To You all an - gel pow - ers cry a - loud, the heav - ens sing,
The mar - tyrs of Your king - dom, a great and no - ble throng,
You laid a - side Your glo - ry, were born of vir - gin's womb,
We know that You will come as our Judge that fi - nal day,



The cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim their prais - es to You bring:
Sing with the ho - ly Church through - out all the world this song:
Were cru - ci - fied for us and were placed in - to a tomb;
So help Your ser - vants You have re - deemed by blood, we pray;



"O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
"O all - ma - jes - tic Fa - ther, Your true and on - ly Son,
Then by Your res - ur - rec - tion You won for us re - prieve—
May we with saints be num - bered where prais - es nev - er end,



Your maj - es - ty and glo - ry fill the heav - ens and the earth!"
And Ho - ly Spir - it, Com - fort - er— for - ev - er Three in One!"
You o - pened heav - en's king - dom to all who would be - lieve.
In glo - ry ev - er - last - ing. A - men, O Lord, a - men!

OFFERINGS

The ushers will gather the offering which will then be placed on the Lord's Altar. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website.



THE KYRIE

Pastor: In the morning, O Lord, I call to You; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O God, You have graciously given us a new birth in the waters of Holy Baptism. Sustain our faith in You and turn us from the old things of the flesh, that we would fix our eyes on the Son of Man through faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, Your Son, Jesus, came to teach us the way of truth. Sustain all pastors in this sacred calling. Give them patience to teach the faith to all who question the way of salvation, and raise up teachers of righteousness in every generation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You made Your servant Abraham the father of us all through faith, and You have given all fathers the calling of Abraham to hand down the Gospel of Christ. Fill their hearts with the words of Christ, and remember them according to Your great mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, You have established rulers and earthly authorities to protect us. Bless our president; our governor; the Congress of the United States; the legislature of this state; and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Help us to preserve our liberty and use its gift wisely in the pursuit of justice and for the welfare of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, You sent forth Your own Son to heal and give everlasting life. By Your Word and Spirit, lift up Your people from their sorrows. Heal them according to Your gracious will, and deliver them from the pain of death to eternal life. Sustain them in their afflictions, comfort them in the hour of death and raise up the dead according to Your gracious promise. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, You gave Abraham the promise of many descendants. Give us faith, that we may delight in this promise, delivered through the ages and kept in Christ, our Savior. Equip us with Your Spirit to be bold and unwavering witnesses, carrying Your name and Your Gospel to every place and people. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever

People: Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless and keep you.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The Lord's face ever shine upon you.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The Lord grant you peace for all your days.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN CW 929 "May the Peace of God" (CWS 745)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: James

Today— Second Sunday in Lent Divine Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Adult Bible Class and Sunday School at 10:45 AM

Zoom Confirmation Class at 5:00 PM

Wednesday—Preschool Staff Meeting at 3:15 PM

Branch Connection Staff Meeting at 4:30 PM

Third Mid-Week Lenten Service at 6:30 PM

Church Council Meeting at 7:30 PM

Saturday—Spring Forward – Turn clocks ahead one hour before going to bed!

Next Sunday—Third Sunday in Lent Communion Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Adult Bible Class and Sunday School at 10:45 AM

Zoom Confirmation Meeting at 5:00 PM

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

A new sign-up sheet has been posted to provide something to eat and drink after the Sunday service. The sheet covers the months of January through March.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Radunzel is leading a Bible study on the book of Psalms. The Adult Bible Class meets upstairs in the Café area starting at 10:45 AM.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School is utilizing a rotation of teachers to teach Sunday School this year. A new sign-up sheet for the months of February and March has been posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up for this opportunity, even if you can only commit to the occasional Sunday. All teaching materials and lesson plans are provided. We have a small class this year, so the time commitment is minimal.

SPRING FORWARD

Please remember to turn your clocks one hour ahead this coming Saturday evening, March 7th (or early morning March 8th) for the start of daylight savings time. Enjoy the extra daylight as we look forward to the season of spring.

CALL MEETING

New Life held her third call meeting for a new pastor on Sunday, January 18th. After a discussion and vote, a call was sent to Pastor Patrick Feldhus. He is currently serving the Lutheran Home Association as both a Chaplain and Jesus Cares Consultant at Hope Residence in Belle Plaine, Minnesota. He is also a halftime pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Le Sueur, Minnesota. There is both a letter and brief biography of him posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please pray for Pastor Feldhus and his family as they deliberate this divine call.

VACANCY

During the vacancy Pastor Steve Radunzel will be here on Sundays and Pastor Tom Schultz will cover any ministry needs that arise during the week.

LENTEN SERVICES

The four remaining midweek Lenten services will be on *Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.* There will be no Lenten meals on these days. Please note the following service schedule and devotion texts and themes for Lent and Easter Sunday.

In our devotions this Lenten season we are going to consider a number of readings from the 1st Letter of the Apostle Peter. We of course remember in Lent that Peter, first named Simon, denied knowing Jesus three times during Jesus' trial. He repented of his sin, and Jesus restored him as one of his disciples. Peter went on to mature and grow strong as a faithful apostle of Jesus Christ. We see his faithfulness and maturity in his 1st Letter that the Holy Spirit inspired him to write. The theme for our Lenten devotions is **“Simon to Peter: Denier to Defender - Lessons from the 1st Letter of Peter.”**

Wednesday Lenten Services of Devotion and Prayer **All Evening Service Times 6:30 p.m.**

Simon to Peter: Denier to Defender
Lessons from the 1st Letter of Peter

No Lenten Meals for the following services. All services start at 6:30 PM:

Wednesday, March 4 - 1 Peter 3:13-17 - *Always Be Prepared to Give an Answer*

Wednesday, March 11 - 1 Peter 3:18-22 - *He Went and Preached to the Spirits in Prison*

Wednesday, March 18 - 1 Peter 4:12-19 - *If It Is Hard for the Righteous to Be Saved*

Wednesday, March 25 - 1 Peter 5:6-11 - *Cast All Your Anxiety on Him*

Thursday, April 2 - (Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion) - 1 Peter 1:13-21 - *Not with Perishable Things Such as Silver and Gold*

Friday, April 3 – (Good Friday) - 1 Peter 2:22-25 - *He Himself Bore Our Sins in His Body on the Tree*

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Sunday, April 5 at 9:30 AM - (Easter Sunday) - 1 Peter 1:3-9 - *A Living Hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead*



