**Worship Plan for Sunday, October 27, 2024** **\* Reformation Sunday**

**Introduction to the day**

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God’s grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

**GOSPEL MESSAGE: You Are Truly Free**

“But we have never been slaves to anyone,” the crowd tells Jesus after he proclaims his message of freedom. One wonders why it was so difficult for them to comprehend the offer he was talking about, given the Roman occupiers who controlled much of their lives. Then again, many of us also find it hard to relate to the need for freedom from captivity, so certain are we that we are fully free. If we were honest, we’d recognize the many things that hold our focus and stop us from experiencing life to its fullest: news headlines, health concerns, our jobs, economic and social structures that bind us all.

Jesus’ proclamation to this crowd reminds us that there will always be things vying for control of our lives, but the gospel invites us to center ourselves instead in Jesus, the truth who sets us free. In Christ, we are complete—not because of anything we do or own, but because of who God is and what God has done for us. In the waters of baptism, we are proclaimed children of God, and nothing will ever change this. In Christ, we are freed from all that holds us captive, so we can lean into God’s abundance for us.

As we celebrate Reformation, we remember Martin Luther, a Catholic monk who was tormented by his own unworthiness before God. He was convinced he was not good enough. Then Luther discovered through the book of Romans that grace cannot be bought or earned; it is a pure gift to us, and this changed everything.

Since there is nothing we need to do to earn God’s love and acceptance, our lives are open to endless possibilities. How can we embrace the freedom God gives us? What can we do with this gift to bring peace and justice a little closer for our neighbors? What do you want to do—now that you don’t have to do anything?

**Processional**

**AM: Welcome**

Good morning! It's wonderful to see all of you this morning! Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church, where grace and love abound and the Holy Spirit uplifts and inspires us. A special welcome to those joining us on line, to those of you who are here for the first time, and to our guest pastor, Rich Ajer. Exciting things are happening here during our search for a permanent pastor, and everyone is encouraged to participate fully, whether you are a first-time visitor, or have been around for a while.

**AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The altar flowers were provided by Mike and Joanne McGavran celebrating Gregg’s birthday!

Don’t forget that next Sunday, Nov. 3rd is Pledge Sunday! Make sure you bring your completed pledge cards with you to church!

For the month of October, we are collecting canned tomato products, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer.

Today is the last day FaithWear will be available for purchase! Long and short sleeve t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies will all be available! Please check them out in the Narthex and get your order in! This is the last chance to purchase FaithWear in 2024! Let's plaster Menifee with our logo and advertise Faith Lutheran Church everywhere we go!!

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office. You can also go to the narthex and sign up to have the Forecaster and weekly announcements sent to you via email or via phone call. Thank you!

**MOMENTS OF ABUNDANCE:** Steve Kent

**P: Silence**

Let us take a moment of silence to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

**P: Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**P: Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made,

**let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**AM: Please turn to hymn 504**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song:*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (ELW 504, v. 1, 2, 4)**

**P: Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**P: Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Children's Chat**

**P: Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**Lector: First Reading:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

31The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AM: Psalmody:** Psalm 46

### 1God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

### 2****Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;****

### 3though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

### 4****There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.****

### 5God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

### 6****The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.****

### 7The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

### 8****Come now, regard the works of the Lord, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;****

### 9behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

### 10****“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”****

### 11The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

### Amen.

**Lector: Second Reading:** Romans 3:19-28

19Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. 21But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, 22the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. 27Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 151)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia.**

***Please stand for the gospel***

**P: Gospel:** John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

31Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 33They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?” 34Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**AM: Please turn to hymn 517**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day: *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* (ELW 517, v. 1, 2)**

**AM: Apostle's Creed**

We continue as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

**Pastor and Assisting Minister: Prayers of Intercession**

Challenged by God’s Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

Lord of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in shared worship and mission. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, as the dying leaves display their beauty, we are reminded that nature’s cycle of life includes and requires both life and death. Instill in your people a mission of preservation and appreciation for trees, animals, and waterways threatened by climate collapse. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, in the spirit of reformation we pray for all who cry out for relief from systemic oppression. May the hearts of those who occupy seats of power be reformed so that peace becomes the center of our life together. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, be with all who are sick, suffering, or grieving in our own community and beyond, especially Kiki; Arnette Calkins; Vicki Crow; Reba Dyer; Ruth Ditsch; Yvonne Fields; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Patricia Lee; Pat Loughboro; Patsy Loughboro; Donna McCain; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Marilyn Rieti; Dee Seel; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Diana Ward; the homebound; the emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery or tests. At this time, we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Surround them with the promise of your love, comfort, and grace that never ends. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Divine Guide, continue to challenge this community to be ever reforming in our ministries and outreach efforts. Inspire creative ideas among us so that the communal, grace-filled word of God remains at the heart of our ministry. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, in Christ’s resurrection you ensure that though life be wrenched away, death cannot win the day. May the truth of your saving grace through faith sustain our hope for life in you. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

**P: Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**P: Offering**

The Offering Highlight for this week is the Snip ‘N Stitch ministry sponsored by the Women of the ELCA Unit here at Faith. This dedicated group of women meet twice a month (first and third Thursdays at 9am) to design, stitch and tie together a wide variety of quilts. These quilts are then given away to various people and organizations to be used where there are needs. In the past, large quilts were given to Lutheran World Relief and the local Domestic Violence Against Women Shelter. We also gave quilts to our youth when they were confirmed.  All are welcome to join the Quilters any time. We have a variety of jobs that do not require sewing skills.  Come give of your time and talents and also enjoy the fellowship that goes along with busy hands.

**AM: Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**AM: Please turn to hymn 856**

***Please feel free to either listen to our musical offering or sing along***

**Musical Offering:*How Great Thou Art* (ELW 856, v 1, 3, 4-Requested)**

**P: Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue (ELW p. 152)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P: Preface (ELW p. 153)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy (all sing) (ELW p. 153)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might: Heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**P: Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**P: INSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNION**

As you are comfortable, you are invited to come forward to receive communion. All of God’s children are welcome to Christ’s table.

Gather at the altar rail to receive the communion elements or if you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. You may commune yourself once you’ve received the communion elements. Please commune the bread first, turn over the vessel and then carefully open the grape juice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. Please deposit empty cups in the provided baskets on your way back to your seat.

If you would like communion brought to you at your seat, indicate by raising your hand for the Assisting Minister to see and they will bring communion to you.

**P: Invitation to Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**During Distribution:*Now the Silence* (ELW 460)**

 ***Just As I Am, without One Plea* (ELW 592)**

 ***Eat This Bread: Jesus Christ, Bread of Life* (ELW 472)**

**P: Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**AM: Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**P: Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**sending hymn: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty***

Please stand as you are willing and able and follow along using the slides.

**AM: Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AM: Invitation**

The Church Council Members invite guests and visitors to come and meet us in the narthex as you exit so that we can meet and welcome you. All are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall for cookies, coffee and conversation.

**THIS WEEK AT FAITH**

Monday, the 28th: Council meets at 1:00

Friday, Nov. 1st: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Sunday, the 3rd: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Rex Wignall. Pledge Sunday and All Saints Sunday!

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