**Worship Plan for Sunday, August 28, 2022** **\* 12th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Introduction to the day**

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

**GOSPEL MESSAGE: The Round-Table Ethic**

Jesus teaches his followers that social norms and expectations no longer apply in the dinner parties he offers. Tradition in Jesus’ time said that the honorable sat in places of esteem at a dinner. The lowly were crowded down at the other end. This form of sharing a meal reinforced the social patterns of giving honor to the wealthy and powerful and shaming those who were poor and outcast. Jesus will have none of this.

The legends of King Arthur say he gathered the knights of the kingdom at a round table. A round table has no head seat of honor and therefore no lowly seat of shame. Arthur did this to help preserve peace in the kingdom. He brought together knights from many regions speaking different languages. Some of them were former enemies now reconciled. Some came to Great Britain from as far away as Africa and the Middle East. The round table created a space of equality. This equality supported peace and reconciliation.

Jesus critiques the social norms of his day and ours. He instructs his followers to host dinner parties that honor those dishonored in the community and that humble those who are privileged. The spirit of his teaching is similar to Arthur’s round table: when we gather people together, we do so with a deep sense of equality among persons. In the church, this equality is rooted in God’s grace that welcomes all to the table.

One of the most profound ways the church witnesses to and enacts the gospel is to gather around dinner tables, sacred tables, public and private tables, giving everyone a place of honor. Sometimes this means simply including those who have been excluded. Sometimes it means giving voice to those usually silenced. Always it means generously feeding and nourishing bodies and minds in the name of Christ. It is a gift to be a community that enjoys fellowship at the round table of Christ.

**Gathering**

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

**Greeting**

Welcome to worship today, we are glad to have you with our Faith Lutheran Church community. I'm Pr. John Barton and I will be leading our service today. This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

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.**

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Announcements**

Monday, 29th: Council meets at 1:00 in person and Zoom

Tuesday, the 30th: Hymn Planners meet at 9:00 on Zoom

Wednesday, the 31st: Remembering & Honoring meets at 10:00 in person

Friday, the 2nd: Al-Anon meets at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Other: We are in the process of updating the church directory! If you would like your photo updated since the last edition, Pr. John will take your photo after the worship service today and every Sunday in Sept. Please sign up in the Narthex.

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office. Thank you!

**Gathering Song:*God Is Here!* (ELW 526)**

**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Word**

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

**First Reading:** Proverbs 25:6-7

6Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence or stand in the place of the great; 7for it is better to be told, “Come up here,” than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PsalmODY:** Psalm 112

1Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord and have great delight in God’s commandments!

2**Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

3Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

4**Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

5It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

6**For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

7They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

8**Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

9They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

10**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

1Let mutual love continue. 2Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. 3Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. 4Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. 5Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” 6So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?” 7Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. 8Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. 15Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. 16Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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.**

**Gospel:** Luke 14:1, 7-14

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. 7When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. 8“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; 9and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. 10But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. 11For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” 12He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. 13But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**And now please turn to page 641**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day:*All Are Welcome* (ELW 641)**

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

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

**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**

Trusting in God’s extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

For the church and its leaders, we pray. Uphold all deacons, pastors, and bishops who serve and teach your people. Awaken in your church a spirit of invitation that reaches ever outward. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of creation and its inhabitants, we pray. Stir in us reverent awe for the beauty of the natural world, for oceans and lakes, rivers and streams, forests and deserts. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For the nations and peoples of the world, we pray. Sustain the efforts of those who pursue justice and equity for all. Defend and accompany all immigrants and refugees and all who are persecuted for their ethnic origin or religious beliefs. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, we pray. Be present with those who live in isolation or fear, especially those who are incarcerated or detained. Comfort all who are sick or grieving, especially Susan Aldrich; Gloria Anderson; JoLynne Buehring; Arnette Calkins; Luca Candela; Julie Chevraux; Robin Connelly; Daniel Conner; Vicki Crow; Stephanie DeSimone; Sally Duncan; Carole Erickson; Joni Gray; Jill Harper; Kally Homchick; the family of Marlin and Shirley Jay; Brian Kniss; Nellie Knoth; Loni Knowles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Pat Myers; Sheila Neal; Esther Neumen; Andrew Quinn; Emily Rasmussen; JoAnne Schriock; Bill and Dee Seel; Jan Simon; Amy Sinclair; Dennis and Carol Sutherland; Earlean Wagner; Diana Ward; Peggy Westby; Bernie Weston; Mary Yturralde; the homebound; the Emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery/tests. We especially pray for those affected by COVID-19 and those who have lost loved ones. At this time we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For this congregation and its ministries, we pray. Prepare children, teachers, and youth ministry directors for a new year of learning. Embolden our witness to invite others to the table. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For all the saints who confessed God’s name, we give thanks. May we cling to the promise of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering**

At this time, we remember that the giving of our offering is an authentic part of worship. Whether you give of your time, talents, or treasures, a combination of them, or are discerning how you can give to God's beloved community, thank you so much for all the ways you give and help to make the ministries of this church possible!

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

**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.**

**Musical Offering:*What Feast of Love* (ELW 487)**

**Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**Great Thanksgiving**

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.**

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 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.**

**INSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNION**

Now, I invite you to gather bread and drink for communion and share with anyone in your household.

As a note, it helps to take the wafer off first then the juice separately afterward.

Gathering at Christ's table, we trust in God's all-reaching power and grace to provide each one of us the complete and total sacrament in these extraordinary times.

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.**

**Invitation to Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**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.**

**And now please turn to page 167**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song:*Now the Feast and Celebration* (ELW 167)**

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Invitation**

The Church Council Members and I would like to invite guests and visitors to come and meet us in the narthex as you exit so that we can meet and welcome you. 

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