**Worship Plan for Sunday, August 7, 2022** **\* 9th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Introduction to the day:** Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

**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, the 8th: Remembering & Honoring meets at 10:00 in person; Executive Board meets at 1:00 in person and Zoom

Tuesday, the 9th: Mutual Ministry meets at 10:00 in person; Endowment meets at 2:00 on Zoom; Education Team meets at 4:30 on Zoom

Wednesday, the 10th: Cheer/Eucharistic Ministry meets at 10:00 in person; Child Abuse training at 12:00 in person

Thursday, the 11th: All Circle Bible Study meets at 10:00 in person and Zoom; WELCA Board meets at 12:00 in person

Friday, the 12th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30 in the library

**Gathering Song:*Lead Me, Guide Me* (ELW 768)**

**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. Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

**First Reading:** Genesis 15:1-6

1After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” 2But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” 4But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” 5He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” 6And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalmody:** Psalm 33:12-22

12Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! Happy the people chosen to be God’s heritage!

13**The Lord looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.**

14God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.

15**God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.**

16A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

17**The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.**

18Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O Lord, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

19**to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

20Our innermost being waits for you, O Lord, our helper and our shield.

21**Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.**

22Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you.

**Amen.**

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

1Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. 3By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. 8By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. 9By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. 12Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” 13All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, 14for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. 16But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**Gospel:** Luke 12:32-40

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 32“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 35“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; 36be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. 37Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. 38If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. 39“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. 40You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:** I'm going to read the Gospel again, but from the “Message” version.

“Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Don’t be afraid of missing out. You’re my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself. “Be generous. Give to the poor. Get yourselves a bank that can’t go bankrupt, a bank in heaven far from bank robbers, safe from embezzlers, a bank you can bank on. It’s obvious, isn’t it?

The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being. “Keep your shirts on; keep the lights on! Be like house servants waiting for their master to come back from his honeymoon, awake and ready to open the door when he arrives and knocks. Lucky the servants whom the master finds on watch! He’ll put on an apron, sit them at the table, and serve them a meal, sharing his wedding feast with them. It doesn’t matter what time of the night he arrives; they’re awake—and so blessed!

“You know that if the house owner had known what night the burglar was coming, he wouldn’t have stayed out late and left the place unlocked. So don’t you be slovenly and careless. Just when you don’t expect him, the Son of Man will show up.” Luke 12:31b

This is one of those great gospels with much in it but sometimes needs to be heard again in another way. What did you hear differently?

From Dave Nagler, Pacifica Synod Bishop:

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus the Christ; the Savior of the universe!

It is with excitement, humility, and joy that I write this first message to you as the Bishop of the Pacifica Synod!

Ministry is a team sport. The Church is a relay race run across the millennia. Our mission is to share the unfathomably good news of God’s unconditional love for all people. Siblings in Christ have carried this gospel in times of trial and of ease. Many have given their lives so that we can learn the teachings of Jesus and enjoy the life-giving freedom of knowing that we are loved just as we are. Our forebears have handed the baton of this treasure to us, and it is our calling to carry it well and hand it off to future generations.

Bishop Andy Taylor carried this leadership baton well for us and hands off a synod that is strong and spiritually connected. I am grateful to him for his faithful service! Now the crozier of servant leadership has been passed to me on behalf of all of us. I accept this ministry not because I trust in my power to do so but knowing that it is God who will equip and empower me. I also trust that my leadership is tied to yours. We all bear the mark of God given to us in our baptisms to preach, teach, disciple, and serve.

On this first day, I wanted to share a few themes that will hopefully express how I see our life together.

1. Radical Inclusivity. John 3 tells us that God so loved the KOSMOS, the world, that God gave the only Son. Too often we have narrowed this definition of who God loves in ways that have harmed people made in the image of God. This is the time in which the Church of Jesus Christ has been called to see and dismantle any barrier to full inclusion by all of God’s children. I am excited that we will be led in this work by the Synod's Anti-Racism Team.

2. Setting Matters. We are a border synod. The border crossing at San Ysidro and Otay Mesa are the busiest border crossings in our country. People seeking a better life pour through these gates every day. Many others avoid the formal ports of entry risking their lives in the hot desert to find a new home among us. We must reclaim our birthright as an immigrant church descended from our spiritual forebears who we taught to say, “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor.” (Dt. 26:5) These are our neighbors who we have been privileged to serve.

We are a coastal synod. The gorgeous Pacific Ocean is part of our territory and our name. It is currently too warm and too polluted. Climate issues are not just material matters but spiritual ones. We are called to walk alongside our coastlines in a way that honors the gift that they are.

We are an incredibly diverse community. There are many languages spoken in our synod. We have the richest and the poorest cities within our borders. Our congregations include siblings that vote conservatively and those who support liberal politics. Our call is to find ways to honor and celebrate the gift of diversity. That means finding ways to practice hospitality, learning to truly listen, and never claiming supremacy for one group of people or one way of thinking.

3. Decentralizing. The untested promise of the Reformation remains the “priesthood of all believers.” The church is filled with baptized people who have all the gifts we need to meet this moment in history, but that means working together and sharing power. My vision is for dispersed synod leadership that empowers local leaders; rostered and non-rostered, to accomplish the work of the church. The main questions should be, do you have passion, and do you have gifts? How do we combine those to accomplish the wider mission of the church?

4. Innovation is essential. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. We can see all the trendlines of the denomination and of many of our congregations. The pandemic has accelerated the trends leaving us wondering about the true state of our ministries. Working harder is not the answer. I know that you all work very hard. Collaboration and innovation are the way forward. How can we share our efforts? What do we need to stop doing? Can we try what seems crazy now but might be the path to a new future? Can we get over our fear of failure and learn to laugh when our great ideas don’t pan out?

5. The parish is more important than the congregation. Mission requires that we keep our focus on being a servant community to our neighbors and not just tending to the needs of our members. So, we ask different questions. What is happening in each of our neighborhoods? Where is the pain? What is the hope? Can we re-engage with our neighbors in such a way that we embody the good news that we proclaim?

6. Self-care is not selfish. The work of ministry is never done. There are ample opportunities to overwork and burn out. Taking time off, exercising, eating well, getting good sleep, having fun with friends, and prioritizing our spiritual practices are essential for our life together. In the book of Exodus, the commandment to rest on the Sabbath was given before the rest of the 10 commandments. (Ex. 16) My day off will be Friday. I want to encourage all of us to find balance and health.

7. Love is at the center. In 1 John 4 we learn that God is love and that those who love others know and love God. When Jesus gave his only commandment, he asked his followers to love one another as he loved them. Our congregations must become practice centers for love. We must model love in our speech and actions towards one another. This is even more true when we disagree or are dealing with the weighty issues of justice. Let me be clear that I am not calling for niceness or sentimentality, but for love. May the God who is Love inspire and teach us how to do this well!

That seems like enough for this first letter from me! I apologize for the length of this missive. I want to invite you all to help make this into a conversation. Please respond with your thoughts to davenagler@pacificasynod.org. May the Spirit blow through our lives and empower us to be who we are, God’s children! ﻿

Peace, Bishop Dave Nagler, Pacifica Synod, ELCA

Today is the end of the first week for our new bishop, after worship, we are also celebrating my first year here, a celebration that has had to wait until after the first 3 years were completed due to the pandemic.

As the bishop points out, Together with and in Christ we are the Pacifica Synod, we are the church- together. Points to the future as made by the past. We're not getting back to the old normal, God is drawing us, willing us, calling us by name into the new normal, full of continuing change and continuous hope.

That is our treasure, another day, another tomorrow spent in the presence of God and in service to God's children. As our new bishop reminds us, ministry is a team sport.

As Jesus said in today's gospel, "an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 35“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit;" In other words, our faith is active. We cannot sit back and let faith sit idle, God is sweeping us onto our feet. We are being given the kingdom little flock, not some time in the future- but now. And just as the king of kings and lord of lords came into the world to serve, we are given the kingdom now, not to rule but to steward it, to serve and care for the others in God’s realm.

So, (yes let that song play in your head and soon from our lips) have no fear little flock. Fear not the robber of the night, fear not the pandemic which stretches on, fear not the wolves and fear mongers little flock, you will not miss out or be missing from God’s side because God our shepherd goes with us, accompanying us all of our days, from the first to the last and beyond. For this we give thanks, for this we say- amen. Amen.

**Hymn of the Day:*Have No Fear, Little Flock* (ELW 764)**

**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.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence. Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you. Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation and all who care for those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. 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.**

**Prayer List:** 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; Marlon Jay; Brian Kniss; 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.

**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 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:*Blessed Assurance* (ELW 638)**

**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:** 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.**

**Sending Song:*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (ELW 836)**

**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. 

*From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.*