**Worship Plan for Sunday, February 13, 2022**

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

**Introduction to the day**

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed ares” and the “woe tos” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

**GOSPEL MESSAGE: Shoulder to Shoulder**

While Matthew recalls Jesus’ teachings commonly called “the Beatitudes” as shared from a mountaintop, Luke situates today’s similar gospel lesson on a level plain. The plains are a place of great exposure—in the sense not only of how far one can see toward the horizon, but also of the harsh exposure to the elements without trees or hills to block the wind or shield one from the sun. On the plain, it can feel like everything has been laid bare; nothing can remain hidden for long. And true to the setting, much is exposed in this story. The rich and the poor, the joyful and the suffering, the hungry and the full are placed side by side. There is no hiding the inequality and injustice of the world.

Jesus’ stark words reach across the page and the years to call us, the church, to examine our hearts, our relationships, and even our society. A level plain invites us to look our neighbors in the eyes, to hear their stories, to see their humanity. It forces us out of our bubbles, our social media echo chambers, and our circles of people who look like us and see the world in the same ways we do. A level plain flattens our hierarchies and forces many of us to face our privilege and our complacency in the systems of injustice that pervade our world.

But the good news is that this level plain is also a place of transformation and healing. It is where we come to meet Jesus, shoulder to shoulder with people we might least expect or with those we would be least likely to choose. It is where Jesus’ gaze meets us, inviting us to participate in God’s new creation unfolding among us. And this new creation takes seriously the cries of the poor and the oppressed until inequalities have been erased, God’s mercy and justice reign, and all gather together as equals at God’s banquet table.

**Gathering**

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

**Greeting**

Welcome to worship today, guests and members, we are glad to have you here with our Faith Lutheran Church community. This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

**Camp Temple Talk**

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Announcements**

Out of an abundance of caution, we will continue to require masks while meeting at Faith Lutheran Church.

Because Pastor is away, this service will be in the "Service of the Word" format and so will not include communion.

**Monday, the 14th**: Valentine's Day; Executive Board meets at 1:00 in person and Zoom

**Tuesday, the 15th**: 4 Plus 1 Group meets at 10:00 in person

**Thursday, the 17th**: Hymn Planning meets at 9:30 on Zoom only

**Friday, the 18th**:  Al-Anon meets at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Please be sure to sign up to donate flowers for our worship services. The sign-up sheet is right outside of the office door.

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

**Temple Talk**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**And now please turn to hymn number 717**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song:*Let Justice Flow like Streams* (ELW 717)**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Word**

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

**First Reading:** A reading from Jeremiah 17:5-10

5Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. 6They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. 7Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. 8They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. 9The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? 10I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

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

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Let us read Psalm 1 responsively:**

1Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2**Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

3They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

4**It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

5Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

**Second Reading:** A reading from 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

12Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? 13If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; 14and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. 15We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. 17If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. 19If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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

**Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 216)**

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

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel:**

The holy gospel according to Joshua 1:9. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

9I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

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

**Sermon**

**And now please turn to hymn number 574**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day:*Here I Am, Lord* (ELW 574)**

**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.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

Blessed are those whose trust is in you. Strengthen the faith of those who profess your name and bring reassurance to those who doubt or fear. Through your church speak continued blessing into the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Those who trust in you are like trees planted by streams of water. Bless fruit trees with an abundant harvest. Protect rainforests from destruction. Restore land that has eroded after deforestation. Resurrect woodlands after forest fires. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Search the hearts of those who govern, that they lead with humility. Inspire leaders to collaborate on policies that protect people and the planet. Sustain truth-tellers and social movements that challenge society to become more honest and just. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Send your blessings of mercy upon those who long for consolation. Tend to those struggling with poverty, unemployment, or uncertainty. Provide for all who are hungry. Console those who face persecution. Grant peace to all who suffer (especially). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Renew this congregation in our shared mission. As we plan and dream for the future you are preparing, inspire us by the examples of Martin Luther and all the reformers. Bless new projects and new ministry partnerships. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Christ is raised from the dead, and so we cling to the hope of the resurrection. We praise you for the lives of the saints who lived and died in the hope of eternal life with you (especially). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**Prayer List**

Susan Aldrich; Gloria Anderson; the Barton family; Ken Borchmann; Arnette Calkins; Luca Candela; Julie Chevraux; Robin Connelly; Daniel Conner; Christopher Cook; Vicki Crow; Sally Duncan; Carole Erickson and family; Joni Gray; Peter Holk; Kally Homchick; Marlon Jay; Francis Key; Loni Knowles; Sandra Miller; Carol Morris; Pat Myers; Sheila Neal; Ron and Esther Neumen; Andrew Quinn; the family and friends of Edy Rose; JoAnne Schriock; Dee Seel; Jan Simon; Amy Sinclair; Dennis Sutherland; the family of Betty Volkert; Earlean Wagner; Diana Ward; 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. If you would like your name added to our prayer list, please contact the church office.

**Peace**

The peace of Christ 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. 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: *Give Me Jesus***

**Thanksgiving for the Word**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

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.**

**And now please turn to hymn number 685**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song:*Take My Life, That I May Be* (ELW 685)**

**Blessing**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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