**Worship Plan for Sunday, January 30, 2022**

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

**Introduction to the day**

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God’s glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

**GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**Hometown Surprise**

In today’s gospel, Jesus has returned to his hometown, a community eager to welcome him back into their midst. Perhaps they assumed Jesus would meet their familiar welcome with special favor. But instead, Jesus shakes things up by pointing to God’s presence in the lives of outsiders. This is not exactly the message the hometown folks were expecting to hear!

Jesus recalls the widow at Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian, two outsiders in whom God chose to demonstrate divine healing power. This text is an invitation for people in every time and place to consider how whenever we think we have God figured out, God instead shows up in the lives of those we least expect. Every time we place God at the center of our own world, God’s Spirit nudges us to expand our horizons to notice the Holy at work in other communities too.

In homeless shelters and prisons, in immigration detention centers and tense board rooms, in ritzy hotels and dingy bars, in hospital rooms and messy kitchens—in every ordinary, imperfect, and painful place, God is here bringing about new life and freedom. In traditions we don’t understand, in cultures unfamiliar to us, in people we would rather write off as “other,” God dwells, creating and loving and restoring.

Even within our own churches, God defies any logic about what is holy and what is not. God shows up in the ordinary objects of bread and wine and water, in the bodies of flawed and fragile people gathered for worship, in the sticky hands and juice-stained mouths of children waving their Sunday school crafts. In these imperfect and beautiful things Jesus declares the presence of the kingdom of God.

May our hearts be open to notice Christ in the places we least expect him to be.

**WELCOME**

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!

**Announcements**

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

\*\*Reminder about congregational meeting after the service

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

**Monday, January 31st**: Council meets at 1:00 on Zoom

**Tuesday, February 1st**: First day of Black History month

**Wednesday, February 2nd**: Bible Study Leaders meet at 9:30 on Zoom

**Friday, February 4th**: Al-Anon meets at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

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

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

**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.**

**And now please turn to hymn number 668**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song:** *O, Zion Haste*(ELW #668 vs 1, 2 in Hymnal; vs 3 on song sheet)

**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 we have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Word**

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

**First Reading:** A reading from Jeremiah 1:4-10

4Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, 5“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” 6Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” 7But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. 8Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.” 9Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. 10See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

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

**PSALMODY:** Psalm 71:1-6

1In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

2**In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me.**

3Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold.

4**Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

5For you are my hope, O Lord God, my confidence since I was young.

6**I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother’s womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you.**

**Second Reading:** A reading from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

1If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 4Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. 9For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; 10but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. 11When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. 12For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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:** Luke 4: 21-30

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

21Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” 22All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” 23He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’ ” 24And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. 25But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; 26yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” 28When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

**Sermon**

**And now please turn to hymn number 715**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day**: *Christ Be Our Light* (ELW #715 vs. 1, 2, 3)

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

**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.

Guide your church in the ways of faith, hope, and love. Cultivate ministries and communities of compassion that bear witness to your enduring presence among us. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Teach us to live in humility on the earth. Curb arrogance that leads to destruction of natural resources and disregard for future generations. Inspire the work of scientists who urge us to live in harmony with your creation. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You are the refuge of all who seek hope and freedom. Accompany immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers who cross borders to find safety and opportunity. Embolden leaders to draft compassionate policies on behalf of migrants and those who assist them. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things. Comfort with your love all who are lonely, fearful, or brokenhearted. Sustain the hope of all those who suffer in body or spirit (especially). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your grace falls upon young and old alike. Bless the gifts of children in this congregation and in this community. Give us humble hearts to follow their leadership. Inspire us with their laughter, their insight, and their curiosity. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We praise you for those who have gone before us and now see you face to face (especially). Abide with us in this mortal life until we rest in the arms of your never ending love. 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; Joanne McGavran; Meckler/Peteroski family; 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; Sharon Seims; 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!

**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 (ELW p. 221)**

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 543**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song:***Go, My Children, With My Blessing* (ELW #543 vs 1-3 in Hymnal; vs 4 on song sheet)

**Blessing**

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

**Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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