**Worship Plan for Sunday, November 13, 2022** **\* 23rd Sunday after Pentecost**

**Introduction to the day**

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today’s texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: “Do not be weary in doing what is right.”

**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**

Today after the worship service, the youth of all ages are invited to the Fellowship Hall for pizza and a movie!

Monday, the 14th: Remembering & Honoring meets at 10:00 am; Executive Board meets at 1:00 in person and Zoom

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

Wednesday, the 16th: WELCA Board meets at 10:00 in person and Zoom

Friday, the 18th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30 in the Library

Saturday, the 19th: Julie Wrankle's memorial service begins at 2:00 pm at Faith

For the month of November, we are collecting cranberry sauce (whole berries are preferred) for the Community Cupboard.

**TEMPLE TALK**

**Gathering Song:*This Little Light of Mine* (ELW 677)**

**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.**

**CHILDREN’S CHAT**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

**First Reading:** Malachi 4:1-2a

1See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. 2aBut for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

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

**PsalmODY:** PSALM98

1Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

2**O Lord, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

3You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

4**Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

5Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

6**With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the Lord.**

7Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

8**Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.**

9The Lord will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**Amen.**

**Second Reading:** 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

6Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. 7For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, 8and we did not eat anyone’s bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. 9This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. 10For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. 11For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. 12Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. 13Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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 21:5-19

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

5When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, 6“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” 7They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” 8And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them. 9“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” 10Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; 11there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. 12“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. 13This will give you an opportunity to testify. 14So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; 15for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. 16You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. 17You will be hated by all because of my name. 18But not a hair of your head will perish. 19By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

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

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

There is a book on stewardship called “Ask, Thank, Tell.” It’s a very good little book I encountered during my education at seminary and I think some of you may be familiar with it. Its tagline is improving stewardship ministry in your congregation and it gives you a simple formula in the title to ask, thank and tell. Pretty simple. Pretty easy to follow. And we're doing it a little backwards this time, for this stewardship Sunday and instead of starting with asking, we started with telling. Telling about one place where and who this ministry's resources have gone to, to people like Steven.

That middle word, “thanks,” is going to be done in a little bit differently as well. In the book it suggests when thanking everyone at the same time, that "at the end of the annual stewardship program you will want to thank the entire congregation and worship as you announce the results of the program." Well, we're doing that a little differently in this worship, and I am thanking you all, but it is not at the end, but at the beginning. I give thanks to God for all the ways you have given to this church already in your time here, whether this is your first day and giving your presence, or you've been here for the tenure of many of my predecessors. Whether you know it or not you have given significantly to this congregation. I give you thanks and I lift up thanks to God.

A bit unorthodox, but I'm also going to give you thanks in advance as we continue and begin a new season of stewardship. I give thanks for those who spent the time updating the ministry boards, and for giving their talents and time into those ministries. But I give thanks for what you will do as well, giving of your time, talents and treasure in this new stewardship season. And as we heard last week from the council’s response for the congregational survey, I give you thanks for the ways that you are going to help build and grow this ministry as if it were new. We can be grateful that we have a head start with the legacy and established facilities and resources we already have, but because of circumstances which we could not have imagined previously, in large part thanks to the circumstance called “the pandemic,” we have a situation where we are rebuilding like a new congregation.

Ask, thank, tell reminds us that though we frequently refer to the people around us in the pews and in the church as members of the church, first and foremost our first names are “disciples,” “learners” and “followers of Christ.” Though we won't literally go walking around in the desert like Jesus, or around lakes and seas, or again like Jesus on those seas, we have the opportunity to be disciples and make disciples of Jesus, sharing his good news in our own way, our own unique, sometimes simple, always needed way.

That brings us to ask in the formula of ask, think tell. I'm asking you to give, give the gift of the Gospel, and that means something different to each person and their means to give. But I also want you to hear this way that has happened in Christian history all too often, which is not the way to ask or give of the Gospel.

A means to an end.

It is very dangerous to put words in the mouth of Jesus, in other words, to use the gospel of Christ as the means to an end. What this means is that if you ever hear a stranger on the street corner or politician use the Gospel to justify something that doesn't feel right as opposed to doing something in service of the Gospel, in service of a neighbor, in service of God, then things are backwards and you should be at the minimum suspicious, if not looking for the exit.

For example, if a hypothetical pastor, not me, told you that you have to give money to the church or anything else because the Gospel will punish you if you don't, that's using the Gospel for the person's own ends.

Stewardship, altruistic giving of time, talents and treasures, is not done for any other reason than as a response to the gifts we are given through God and from God.

Many churchgoers, not you all of course, but many people out there who go to church often dread stewardship Sundays. I know you all look forward to them because of the quality and charismatic way they're performed here, but I do know that plenty of folks don't like these Sundays. I think it's because they just anticipate stewardship Sundays or seasons to just be about money talk. And money, of course is one of those old adages of things you don't talk about, along with religion and politics. Well, we talk about many things with stewardship, including money, and given that it's in a church it's combining money and religion, so it's naturally, potentially uncomfortable for folks to hear about. Sometimes we don't like talking about money because of the disparity and what each person in the pews has financially or materialistically, and potentially has societal shame associated with it, even having moral judgments attached to it in some ways by society.

But we at the church have the great fortune and gift to be able to approach money in a different way, because we are disciples of Christ, and as Meta Herrick Carlson writes,

"Jesus did not shy away from things that cause us shame, the tools of bondage and conditions that fracture our moral imagination. Jesus spoke of money and debt without a hint of shy apology, because he came to release the captive, to proclaim good news to the poor. Jesus told stories of holy generosity that seemed extravagant, even wasteful, because they did not worry about defining fair, instead rejoicing in the surprise of enough.

Jesus paid taxes to Caesar without argument or loophole, turned tables with hot hands and righteous anger, declaring: There will be no barriers between the people and God, no debt, burnt offering, or sacrifice worthy of your fear or separation of life and freedom.

So, speak of money and debt because they are not to be feared any longer. They are gifts and tools so long as they do not separate, shame, or steal you away from the moral imagination of God's Holy Spirit, freedom, and life."

The truth is that God enters into all situations in our lives of faith, our time on this earth when we try to be disciples of Jesus. God is there with us when we succeed, and just as present when we fail. God is close to us when we are in our favorite comfy chair, or when you are uneasy with the world around you. God is in money talk and stewardship devotionals, and gives us the gift to engage these parts of ministry to feed and grow the rest of our ministries.

God is in everything.  Amidst this apocalyptic language in the reading from Luke, there is Gospel good news. As the writer proclaims, in the very midst of false prophets and messiahs, of wars and insurrections, of natural disasters and famines, of dreadful portents, (you really gotta watch out for those dreadful portents you know, the mediocre portents on the other hand… meh), but in the midst of all that stuff along with betrayals and more, God is still there and here, hither and yon, boldly in the middle of it all to give us the defense we need and the endurance to continue. For all of this, I **ask** you to give **thanks** as we all do and finally, to **tell** of the good news of our Savior so that other may receive the gifts we have received, so that other may join us in our pilgrimage of discipleship. Thank you. Amen.

**Hymn of the Day:*Christ, Be Our Light* (ELW 715)**

**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**

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

Reviving God, keep your church active in its mission and ministry. Encourage bishops, deacons, pastors, and lay leaders to risk boldly in their proclamation and fill them with wisdom and endurance for challenging times. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, as the northern hemisphere prepares for winter, make us mindful of the ordered beauty of your creation. Teach us to treasure cycles of rest and new life. Help us care for what you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, accompany all who make sacrifices for the sake of others. Safeguard first responders and active-duty military personnel. Grant peace to veterans and heal any wounds in body, mind, or spirit. Almighty and everlasting God, whose providence guides your people in diligent service, bless the officers and enlisted women and men of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard as they perform the duties of their calling. Give them not only true love of country but also love of you and an understanding of your love for all people; so that, relying upon your guidance, they may courageously defend our nation from every foe, promote justice, honor, and unity among our people, and be a means of fostering mutual respect and understanding among all peoples of the world. Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, your people cry out to you. Sustain doctors, nurses, and hospital personnel in their tireless work. Uphold mental health professionals and those in their care. May the sun of righteousness rise on all who are sick, especially Nancy Blackmer; JoLynne Buehring; Arnette Calkins; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz and family; Carole Erickson; Kally Homchick; Brian Kniss and family; Loni Knowles; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Carol Morris; Sheila Neal; Andrew Quinn; Marilyn Rieti; Yolanda Rosales; JoAnne Schriock; Bill and Dee Seel; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Dennis and Carol Sutherland; Diane Swarts and family; Diana Ward; Nancy Wargolet; the family of Julie Wrankle; 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. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Uniting God, unite this assembly in its shared mission and ministry for the sake of the gospel. Highlight ways we can better work together and give us patience to work through disagreement. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Consoling God, abide with all who grieve for loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of resurrection and new life with you. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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: *There is a Balm in Gilead* (ELW 614)**

**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**

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

**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.

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.**

**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:*God of Grace and God of Glory* (ELW 705)**

**Doxology:*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 884)**

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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