**Worship Plan for Sunday, October 29, 2023** **\* 22nd Sunday after Pentecost**

**Introduction to the day**

Jesus’ summary of the law in today’s gospel echoes our first reading from Leviticus. We are called not only to love God with heart, soul, and mind, but also to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is out of such deep care that Paul shares the gospel with the Thessalonian community. In the confession of sins, we acknowledge that we have not loved God, neighbor, and self; yet we gather to hear the word of forgiveness and to be strengthened by word and meal to be signs of God’s love and mercy in the world.

**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**

This week’s altar flowers were given by Ruth Ditsch.

Sunday School resumes today immediately following the service.

Monday, the 30th: Council meets at 1:00 in person and on Zoom

Wednesday, the 1st: Bible Study leaders meet with Pr. John at 9:30 in person; Worship & Music meets at 1:00 in person and on Zoom

Thursday, the 2nd: Snip 'N Stitch meets at 9:00

Friday, the 3rd: Al-Anon meets at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall; the Pacifica WELCA Convention & Gathering begins at 5:00 pm at Messiah Lutheran Church in Yorba Linda

Saturday, the 4th: The second day of the Pacifica WELCA Convention & Gathering begins at 8:00 am at Messiah Lutheran Church in Yorba Linda; Daylight Savings Time ends! Be sure to set your clocks BACK 1 hour before you go to bed so you can make it church on time!

Next Sunday, the 5th: All Saints Sunday. If you would like to bring in photos and/or mementos of loved ones, please do so.

For the month of November, we are collecting canned chili, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer.

Thursday, November 16 we are having a Thanksgiving worship service at 5:00, followed by a Pie Social! Please sign up to bring a pie (including sugar-free and gluten-free) and join us for an early taste of Thanksgiving! Our guests will be the members of Sun City Methodist Church and any others you invite along.

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office. You can also go to the narthex and sign up to have the Forecaster and weekly announcements sent to you via email or via phone call. Thank you!

**Welcome New Members**

Pastor: We are here this morning to welcome these new members into our community of Faith Lutheran Church. We are not a building, but the gathered family of God. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, given this new identity through our baptism into Jesus’ death and resurrection. Today we welcome you as members of this family in the larger body of Christ.

And so, we ask, do you desire to join the membership of Faith Lutheran Church? If so please answer: “We do.”

I ask the congregation to stand and join in confessing our faith.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

**All: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastor: Having together confessed our faith in the Triune God, we now welcome you into the family of our congregation and into the ministry of the church. As active followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to spread his Good News. We encourage you to accept that call through your involvement in the church.

**Congregation: We welcome you as brothers and sisters in Christ, and thank God for this unique opportunity to serve God and one another. May the God to whom we belong equip us for every good work that we do together in God’s name.**

**New Members: We welcome and accept your invitation and commit ourselves to using our time and talents for the good of the congregation.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, as you called James and John, Simon and Andrew to fish for people, so you have called us to serve you with our own talents and resources. We thank you for bringing to us these new members of Faith Lutheran Church. You have told us that wherever two or more are gathered in your name, there you are with them. Help us, we pray, to see and feel that presence and that others may come to know you through our interactions and through your ever-present love and grace. We pray all of this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ,

**All: Amen**

Pastor: Let us welcome our new members with a round of applause as they return to their seats!

**Silence**

Let us take a moment of silence to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

**And now please turn to hymn 377**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song:*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!* (ELW 377)**

**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 Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Children's Chat**

**Word**

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

**First Reading:** Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

1The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. 15You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. 16You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord. 17You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. 18You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PsalmODY: PSALM 1**

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.**

**Amen.**

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

1You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, 2but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. 3For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, 4but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. 5As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; 6nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, 7though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. 8So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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:** Matthew 22:34-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

34When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, 35and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” 37He said to him, “ “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38This is the greatest and first commandment. 39And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” 41Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 42“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” 43He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 44‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’? 45If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” 46No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**And now please turn to hymn 597**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day:*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* (ELW 597)**

**Pastor and Assisting Minister: Prayers of Intercession**

Trusting in the transformative power of God’s loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Holy God, you give the law that your people live by it and flourish. Write your law on the hearts of all who bear your name, and teach us to love your commandments, that we live as you intend. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you plant the earth and water it and bring forth a fruitful harvest. Send favorable weather, just wages, and the bounty of your abundance to all who are engaged in the labor of harvest. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you watch over the ways of the righteous and judge your people with fairness. Guide judges, courts, elected officials, and all those tasked with upholding the law, inspiring them with your wisdom and zeal for justice. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you hold your people in love and surround them with your mercy. Draw near to all who are in need, especially Jamie, JoLynne Buehring; Arnette Calkins; Vicki Crow; Arlene Dressler; Carole Erickson; Don Little; Patsy Loughboro; Donna McCain; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Sheila Neal; Ray and June Paxton; Joelle Ramos; Marilyn Rieti; Ashleigh Schmits; Dee Seel; Joyce Stromberg; Jim and Kay Thomas; David Vendetti, Diana Ward; the homebound; the emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery/tests. At this time, we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Be their rest and comfort. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you call us to love one another as we love ourselves. Give us the will and patience to love those who are difficult to love. Bless all the ministries of this congregation through which we show love for our neighbors. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you have broken the chains of death and daily make all things new. We give you thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and all the saints. We pray that your transformative spirit is at work in us. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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.**

**TEMPLE TALK: Amy Sinclair**

**And now, please turn to hymn 592**

***Please feel free to either listen to our musical offering or sing along***

**Musical Offering:*Just As I Am, without One Plea* (ELW 592)**

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue (ELW p. 152)**

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 (ELW p. 153)**

**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.**

**Thanksgiving at the 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.**

**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.

Gather at the altar rail to receive the communion elements or if you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. You may commune yourself once you’ve received the communion elements. Please commune the bread first, turn over the vessel and then carefully open the grape juice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. Please deposit empty cups in the provided baskets on your way back to your seat.

If you would like communion brought to you at your seat, indicate by raising your hand for the Assisting Minister to see and they will bring communion to you.

**Invitation to Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**During Distribution:*Here Is Bread* (ELW 483)**

**During Distribution:*Eat This Bread: Jesus Christ, Bread of Life* (ELW 472)**

**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.**

**And now please turn to hymn 504**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song:*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (ELW 504)**

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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