**Worship Plan for Sunday, September 11, 2022** **\* 14th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Introduction to the day:** The grumbling of the religious leaders in today’s gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, “The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” Thanks be to God.

**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: We are assembling hygiene kits for God's Work Our Hands today after the service. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall to help with this project.

Tuesday, the 13th: Lydia Circle meets at 2:00 in the Library

Wednesday, the 14th: Mary Circle meets at 10:00 in person and Zoom; Worship & Music meet at 2:00 in person and Zoom

Thursday, the 15th: Game Day - Dominoes at 2:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Friday, the 16th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Other: We are in the process of updating the church directory! If you would like your photo updated since the last edition, Pr. John will take your photo after the worship service today or any Sunday in Sept. Please sign up in the Narthex.

We are collecting dry pasta and pasta sauce for the Community Cupboard this month.

Sunday School will not begin today and will remain on hiatus until further notice.

The envelopes for the Thankoffering Service are now in your mailbox! Please bring them back to church for the Thankoffering service on Sept. 25th.

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

**Godspeed for Military Deployment and Training**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Pr. Shane and Ryan, as you leave our community of faith we wish to bid you farewell.

A reading from Exodus: The Lord said, “I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared.” (Exodus 23:20).

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we thank you for Pr. Shane and Ryan and for the time we have shared with them. As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others.

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces*,* and all who serve this country at home and abroad, especially Pr. Shane and Ryan. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be.

In the day of battle, watch over them; when peace prevails, guard them from evil; and in good time, bring them safely home. Give them courage and loyalty, and grant that they may serve without reproach; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Almighty God bless us, and direct our days and our deeds in peace.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song – *Surely Goodness (Camp Song)***

**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 God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Childrens Chat**

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

**First Reading:** Exodus 32:7-14

7The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; 8they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” 9The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. 10Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.” 11But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. 13Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” 14And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

**PsalmODY:** Psalm 51:1-10

1Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

2**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

3For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

4**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

5Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother’s womb.

6**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

7Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

8**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

9Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

10**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Amen.**

**Second Reading:** 1 Timothy 1:12-17

12I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, 13even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. 16But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. 17To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 15:1-10

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

1Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] 2And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”3So he told them this parable: 4“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ 7Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. 8“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ 10Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

**Sermon (and discussion with LRCC Camp Staff):** Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus the Christ; the Savior of the universe!

An unknown author said: "I believe churches are meant for praising God. But so are 2am car rides, showers, coffee shops, the gym, conversations with friends, strangers, etc. Don't let a building confine your faith because we will never change the world by just going to church, we need to be the church."

Where 2 or 3 are gathered, Christ is there, we are church there.

Church is where we come together with God, and that certainly happens at camp!

Praising God is also for our struggles, even out in the woods, moving rocks, even big rocks - or fighting fires. Maybe you all had a new appreciation for Meshach,  Shadrach, and Abednego being delivered out of the fiery furnace.

What is the importance of Camp in the context of the church today?

21 years ago today, I was waking up and seeing what looked like a terrifying movie on TV, which was alarming because I didn't think my parents would put something like that on before school. It was only more alarming when I found out it was real and that twin towers and 9/11 would become engrained in our vocabulary. It would become our generation’s Pearl Harbor or Kennedy assassinated moments. All the campers who come to camp now are born after 9/11. Where were you when you found out?

How does camp help people become more resilient to traumatic events, or heal after they have occurred?

God's presence in a loving and supportive atmosphere. A safe place to unload the accumulation of baggage, to take off the armor of the world, and surround yourself with things that are much more effective than that armor - beloved and faithful community as well as the blanketing presence of God who seeks out the lost sheep or the lost coin.

Helping to reset the narrative of how our worth is defined. As we grow up, plenty of people try and tell us we're worthy or not, or define our worth according to them. In the gospel, Jesus reminds us that our worth is set by God's grace, calling each one of us worthy, each individual is worth God's time to go and seek out that one person even with nine or 99 others already being found. There is not one person among us here, one person who finds themselves going to camp, or anyone else in the world who God will not seek out who calls out for help. The fact that you don't have to earn approval, or worthiness can be such a freeing concept, especially in middle and high school, and I think it is that graceful declaration of God's good news message that God is on our side that camp instills and bakes in to all of its programs that is one of the greatest things about camp.

"Over the years, those who have seemed to me to be the most happy, contented and fulfilled have always been the people who have lived the most outgoing and unselfish lives." - Queen Elizabeth II

Camp folks are the embodiment of those things, even though the queen might not have thought about it. Thank you! Amen.

**Hymn of the Day:*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* (ELW 857)**

**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**

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God’s good creation.

Your people receive mercy and your grace overflows in our lives. Fill your church with faith and love, and give understanding hearts to those who work to strengthen our ecumenical and interreligious commitments. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation groans as it suffers the impacts of pollution and lack of care. As the seasons change, renew in us the will to protect plants, animals, and habitats. Bless us with bountiful harvests that all may share. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world is shattered and the nations rage. Remember us in your mercy. Teach wisdom to our elected leaders so that we know peace in our world, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children wander homeless and the hungry cry for bread. Seek out those who are lost or lonely, anxious or depressed, or struggling with addiction or illness. Provide for those in any need, especially JoLynne Buehring; Arnette Calkins; Julie Chevraux; Vicki Crow; Stephanie DeSimone; Carole Erickson; Jill Harper; Kally Homchick; Brian Kniss; Loni Knowles; Sandra Miller;  Carol Morris; Pat Myers; Sheila Neal; Andrew Quinn; the family of Emily Rasmussen; JoAnne Schriock; Bill and Dee Seel; Amy Sinclair; Dennis and Carol Sutherland; Diana Ward; Nancy Wargolet; Peggy Westby; 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. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your work is done in this congregation with our hands, feet, voices, minds, and hearts. Build up the ministries of this community, that we serve our neighbors and welcome the stranger in your name. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your blessed saints who have died now rest in your presence. Give us thankful hearts for those who have been examples of faith in our lives, and receive us with joy when we come to share eternal life with you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; 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.**

**Musical Offering: *Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)***

**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**

Now, I invite you to gather bread and drink for communion and share with anyone in your household.

As a note, it helps to take the wafer off first then the juice separately afterward.

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*This Little Light of Mine* (ELW 677)**

**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.*