**Worship Plan for Sunday, October 6, 2024** **\* 20th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Introduction to the day**

Today’s gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus’ saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God’s law. Jesus’ rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

**GOSPEL MESSAGE: Relationships over Rules**

This gospel reading is one that hits everyone’s ears as uncomfortable. Divorce has touched the lives of most listeners in some way, whether it’s themselves, parents, siblings, children, colleagues, or friends. We all know and understand the sting of pain that divorce can cause. Holding this pain and naming its vulnerability in our lives might just be exactly what Jesus is getting at in his reply to the Pharisees.

The Pharisees are testing Jesus once again. “Is it lawful . . . ?” Lawful, yes, but if that’s the sole focus, we miss the point. It’s not primarily about the law; it’s about relationship. In Jesus’ response to the Pharisees, he draws his listeners to the Creator and to relationships. Jesus points to Genesis, where God sets the intention for relationships to be filled with love, respect, and accountability. The law is there because we human beings fail to comprehend the value of relationships.

Jesus’ seemingly absolute prohibition on divorce is not meant to justify staying in a harmful or toxic relationship—quite the opposite. He is challenging the Pharisees to understand the damage that is caused when we discard another human being. This hurt is the opposite of what God intends for our relationships.

Jesus continues to draw his hearers into the power of loving relationships by welcoming children and blessing them. One way to interpret his words is that one must receive the kingdom of God the way one receives a little child. How we treat each other matters to God. God invites us into relationships to see the belovedness in one another, to uplift each other, and to care for one another. When a person is vulnerable like a child, this is exactly when we are to share grace and love, not the sting of law.

**Processional**

**AM: Welcome**

Good morning! It's wonderful to see all of you this morning! Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church, where grace and love abound and the Holy Spirit uplifts and inspires us. A special welcome to those joining us on line, to those of you who are here for the first time, and to our guest pastor, Pr. Rex Wignall. Exciting things are happening here during our search for a permanent pastor, and everyone is encouraged to participate fully, whether you are a first-time visitor, or have been around for a while.

**Moments of Abundance:** Pat Adams

**AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The altar flowers were provided by the Shirley Houghton celebrating her sister's birthday, and by Doris Hays celebrating her 90th birthday!

Today you will receive a “favorite hymn” suggestion form. Please complete it and put it into the offering plate.

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

This Saturday is The Blessing of the Animals! Bring your pets to church for a blessing and some fun on the 12th at 10:00!

Ladies, the annual WELCA Convention and Gathering is coming up on October 18th and 19th! Be sure to get your registration in right away!

The Outreach Team is looking for E-Z Up weights for the Menifee October Fall Festival. Faith Lutheran Church Outreach will have a booth there. If anyone has them to borrow, please contact: Debbie Ehrig 951-317-5977.

Sunday, October 20th is WELCA's Thankoffering Sunday! There are envelopes in your box for you to use if you are able to give an extra offering that week!

FaithWear will be available for purchase today through October 27th! Long and short sleeve t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies will all be available! Please check them out in the Narthex each Sunday in October and get your order in! This is the last chance to purchase FaithWear in 2024! Let's plaster Menifee with our logo and advertise Faith Lutheran Church everywhere we go!!

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!

**P: Silence**

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

**P: Gathering**

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

**P: 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.**

This is the day that the Lord has made,

**let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**AM: Please turn to hymn 641**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song:*All Are Welcome* (ELW 641)**

**P: 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.**

**P: Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

**Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**Children's Chat**

**P: Word**

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

**Lector: First Reading:** Genesis 2:18-24

### 18The Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” 19So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. 21So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.” 24Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AM: Psalmody:** Psalm 8

1O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

2**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

3When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

4**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?**

5Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

6**You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:**

7all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

8**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

9O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**Amen.**

**Lector: Second Reading:** Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

1Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. 3He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. 2:5Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. 6But someone has testified somewhere, “What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? 7You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, 8subjecting all things under their feet.” Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, 9but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. 10It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, 12saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

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.**

***Please stand for the gospel***

**P: Gospel:** Mark 10:2-16

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

2Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” 3He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” 4They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” 5But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. 6But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ 7‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” 10Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. 11He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; 12and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” 13People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. 14But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. 15Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” 16And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:** "Children of the Kingdom" by Pr. Rex Wignall

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day: *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God* (The Marantha Singers)**

**AM: Apostle's Creed**

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 we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for any who are sick and suffering, especially Kiki; Arnette Calkins; Vicki Crow; Stephanie DeSimone; Reba Dyer; Ruth Ditsch; Yvonne Fields; Doris Hays; the Holmes family; Sarge Hunter; Patricia Lee; Pat Loughboro; Patsy Loughboro; Donna McCain; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Ray and June Paxton; Marilyn Rieti; Dee Seel; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Diana Ward; the family of Sheron Zolzer; the homebound; the emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery or tests. At this time, we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts.

Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died, especially Arlene and Sheron. Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**P: Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**P: Offering**

This week’s Offering Highlight is focusing on the Education Ministry. This ministry includes Sunday School for our children and Confirmation classes for any youth. Occasional Adult discussions are possible. Work with children requires more than one person and background checks are necessary. We have volunteers who qualify, but could use more people who are willing to share their time and educational talents with our youth. Learning materials costs are covered in our budget, so your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thanks to all who share in this ministry and to those who are considering helping in this area.

**AM: 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.**

**AM: Please turn to hymn 656**

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

**Musical Offering:*Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (ELW 656)**

**P: 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.**

**P: Preface (ELW p. 153)**

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 (all sing) (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.**

**P: 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.**

**P: 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.

**P: Invitation to Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**During Distribution:*Just As I Am, without One Plea* (ELW 592)**

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

**P: Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**AM: 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.**

**P: 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.**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song: *Every Praise* (HEZEKIAH WALKER)**

**AM: Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AM: Invitation**

The Church Council Members invite guests and visitors to come and meet us in the narthex as you exit so that we can meet and welcome you. All are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall for cookies, coffee and conversation.

**THIS WEEK AT FAITH**

Tuesday, the 8th: Hymn Planners meet at 10:00; WELCA Board meets at 12:30; Outreach meets at 3:30

Wednesday, the 9th: Mary Circle meets at 10:00; Remembering & Honoring meets at 2:00

Thursday, the 10th: Cheer/Eucharistic Team meets at 4:00; Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study begins at 7:00

Friday, the 11th: Menifee Reads Book Club has a planning meeting at 10:00; Al-Anon meets at 10:30; "The Woman in Black" begins at 7:00

Saturday, the 12th: The Blessing of the Animals begins at 10:00; "The Woman in Black" begins at 7:00

Sunday, the 13th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Karen Marohn; "The Woman in Black" begins at 2:00

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