**Worship Plan for Sunday, November 3, 2024** \* All Saints Sunday

**Introduction to the day**

Of all three years of the lectionary cycle, this year’s All Saints readings have the most tears. Isaiah and Revelation look forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John’s gospel, Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah’s feast to come.

**GOSPEL MESSAGE: Grief Unbound**

We get so much emotive action in this All Saints gospel! There is weeping and more weeping. There is deep regret, “what ifs,” and “if onlys.” We hear how deeply loved Lazarus was, and even Jesus is moved in body and spirit.

Grief is a full-body experience, and it is comforting to know that our God, in the form of Jesus—completely human and completely divine—fully understands this. Death stinks—there is no getting around it. Death stinks for the loved ones left behind, and decay (“Lord, already there is a stench”) signals a finality to all living things.

And yet . . . All Saints Day is a time when we celebrate the finite human existence and how resurrection shows up beyond this. Jesus declares to Lazarus’s loved ones, “Unbind him and let him go,” resurrecting Lazarus back to life. During All Saints worship, we remember our loved ones who have died, and we hold fast to Jesus’ proclamation of resurrection for them. Death is no longer the end of their story, or ours. Jesus has promised eternal life and a love that goes beyond any tomb we find ourselves trapped in.

All Saints Day is a time when you do not have to pretend that everything is okay. Grief is a part of the human experience, and it is a messy, smelly, loud, and overwhelming ride. May you know that no matter where you are on this day, God shows up next to you, weeping and disturbed. There is no stench that keeps God away.

May you know that your grief is holy. May you also know that this grief is not the end of your loved one’s story or yours. Someday we shall be unbound. Someday we shall be whole. Someday all shall be well.

**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, 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.

**AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

When you come forward for communion today, please bring your pledge envelope and place it in either the "Private" or "Collaborative" treasure chest. The "Private" treasure chest will keep your pledge anonymous and the "Collaborative" treasure chest will allow the Finance committee to read your pledge and consider the amount when budgeting. Both pledges will remain confidential.

The altar flowers were provided by Ken Puccio celebrating Madeline's birthday, and by Ruth Ditsch in appreciation of her family!

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

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall next Sunday, the 10th after worship for a luncheon to celebrate the life of Sheron Zolzer.

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

**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 426**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song:*Sing with All the Saints in Glory* (ELW 426)**

**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.

**Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Children's Chat**

**P: Word**

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

**AM: Psalmody:** Psalm 149

### 1 Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song, God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

### 2 Let Israel rejoice in their maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.

### 3 Let them praise their maker's name with dancing; let them sing praise with tambourine and harp.

### 4 For the Lord takes pleasure in the people and adorns the poor with victory.

### 5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them sing for joy on their beds.

### 6 Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand,

### 7 to wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,

### 8 to bind their kings in chains and their nobles with links of iron,

### 9 to inflict on them the judgment decreed; this is glory for all God's faithful ones. Hallelujah!

**Amen.**

**Lector: Epistle:** Ephesians 1:11-23

11In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. 15I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 17I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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:** Luke 6:20-31

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

20Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 22Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. 23Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. 24"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 25"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. 26Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets. 27But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. 31Do to others as you would have them do to you.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon: "Saints and the Status Quo"** by Pr. Rex Wignall

**AM: Please turn to hymn 422**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day: *For All the Saints* (ELW 422, vs. 1, 6, 7)**

**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**

Rooted in God’s abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

O God of resurrection, you call us by name and raise us to life. Rouse your church from slumber. Where we have held back in fear or shame, unbind us. Embolden us in our proclamation of your good news, that all may know abundant life. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God of creation, you have founded your world on rivers and seas. Preserve fresh water sources and the creatures who call them home. Heal places of pollution and nourish places of drought. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God of the earth, you reign over all nations and peoples. Inspire us with wisdom and discernment as we elect legislators and leaders. May they govern with justice and uphold the dignity of all people. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God of heaven, you make your home among mortals. Come alongside those who weep this day. Befriend all who are lonely, encourage those in despair, and heal any who are suffering, especially Kiki; Lynn Bennett; Arnette Calkins; Vicki Crow; Reba Dyer; Ruth Ditsch; Yvonne Fields; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Patricia Lee; Pat Loughboro; Patsy Loughboro; Donna McCain; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Marilyn Rieti; Dee Seel; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Diana Ward; Harold Whitford; 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. Abide with your faithful ones in love. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God who serves, you set before us a feast of rich food. Sustain our ministries of fellowship and hospitality. Strengthen the hands and hearts of all who prepare and serve food for our nourishment. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, Alpha and Omega, we give thanks for your faithful ones who are now at peace with you, including Florann Finn; Mary Ann Whitford; Jerome Stoner; Lou Anne Frasier; JoLynne Buehring; Arlene Dressler; and Sheron Zolzer. With all your saints, we praise you, for you have swallowed up death forever. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**P: Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**P: Offering**

The Offering Highlight for this week is Women of the ELCA, otherwise known

as W-ELCA. It’s an organization within, and in support of the church. Women  
gather for Bible study, quilting, special events and more here at Faith, in our  
synod, and beyond. Their offerings of time, talent and treasure are given to  
W-ELCA over and above their regular offerings given to the church. The same  
women who are active in W-ELCA also serve in every aspect of our life here at  
Faith - as Church Council and committee members, worship helpers, and  
more. Something happens when women come together to strengthen their  
relationship with God and with each other. That something – that Someone –  
is the Holy Spirit! All women are always welcome!

**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.**

**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: *Take My Life, That I May Be* (ELW 685)**

***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.**

**P: Please turn to hymn 290**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song:*Go Tell It on the Mountain* (ELW 290-Requested)**

**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 5th: Election Day; Worship & Music meet at 10:00

Thursday, the 7th: Snip 'N Stitch meets at 9:00; Bingo begins at 4:00

Friday, the 8th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30; the Transition Team meets at 1:00

Sunday, the 10th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Shane, followed by a luncheon to celebrate the life of Sharon Zolzer

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