**Worship Plan for Sunday, June 17, 2018**

**SHARING CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS**

**GATHERING SONG** *Faith of Our Father’s (ELW 812)*

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

Full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

**Amen.**

Trusting God’s promise of forgiveness,

let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*Silence*

Eternal God our creator,

**In you we live and move and have our being.**

**Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands.**

**Forgive us all our offenses,**

**and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.**

**By your grace draw us near to you,**

**Our refuge and our strength;**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

Since we are justified by faith,

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

God’s love has been poured into our hearts

Through the Holy Spirit give to us.

In the mercy of almighty God,

Christ died for us while we still were sinners;

And for his sake, God + forgives you all your sins.

**Amen.**

**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.**

**BLESSING OF FATHERS**

God our Father,

in your wisdom and love you made all things.

Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as fathers.

We pray your blessing

upon fathers who strive to balance the demands of work, marriage, and children with an honest awareness of both joy and sacrifice.

upon those fathers who, by their own account, were not always there for their children, but who continue to offer those children, now grown, their love and support.

And we pray for those fathers who have been wounded by the neglect   
and hostility of their children.

We pray your blessing

upon those fathers who, despite divorce, have remained in their children's lives.

upon those fathers whose children are adopted, and whose love and support   
has offered healing.

upon those fathers who, as stepfathers, freely choose the obligation of fatherhood   
and earned their step children's love and respect.

We pray your blessing

upon those fathers who have lost a child to death, and continue to hold the child in their heart.

upon those men who have no children, but cherish the next generation   
as if they were their own.

upon those men who are about to become fathers; may they openly delight in their children.

upon those men who have "fathered" us in their role as mentors and guides.

and upon those fathers who have died, but whose love continues to nurture us   
as we remember them.

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit upon all fathers,

so that in all times they may be sustained with the knowledge that

they are your beloved children.

We ask this in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

**KYRIE** *Kyrie Eleison (ELW p. 184)*

*(The first reading is read by the lay assistant)*

**THE FIRST READING**:  Ezekiel 17:22-24

A reading from Ezekiel:

22Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. 23On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. 24All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(The second reading is read by the lay assistant)*

**Second Reading:**2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

A reading from Second Corinthians.

6So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— 7for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

14For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. 15And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

16From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to welcome the Gospel.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)**

*(The gospel is read by the pastor)*

**GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

26He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, 27and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. 28The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. 29But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

30He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? 31It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; 32yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

33With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; 34he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Almighty God, Your Word is Cast (ELW 516)*

*vs. 1, 3, 4*

**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.**

*(The pastor reads the introduction and the ending,   
the lay assistant reads the indented petitions.)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place, praying for the world that God so loves.

*A brief silence*

O Most High, your divine realm is like a noble tree whose boughs and branches give shade and rest to the peoples of the earth. Make your church a nesting place for all who need your peace and healing.

Hear us, O God - **Your mercy is great.**

O Most High, all the world is a garden for your creativity. Refresh places of drought with abundant rains. Strengthen and keep safe those who fight fires in your forests. Help us tend your mountains and plains, oceans and rivers with loving care.

Hear us, O God - **Your mercy is great.**

O Most High, you speak and your word is accomplished. Speak to the leaders of the nations so they might end cycles of violence, giving people everywhere tranquility and peace.

Hear us, O God - **Your mercy is great.**

O Most High, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Bring the abundant healing blessings of the new creation into the lives of those who suffer illness or deprivation of any kind *(especially…)*.

Hear us, O God - **Your mercy is great.**

O Most High, your steadfast love and faithfulness sustain your people. Bless fathers and all father figures with such love and joy. Bless those who long to be fathers and those for whom this day is difficult.

Hear us, O God - **Your mercy is great.**

O Most High, just as the earth produces of itself and the harvest comes, you gather up your people from all times and places. Bring us along with those who have died into the lasting harvest of your kingdom.

Hear us, O God - **Your mercy is great.**

By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands Hannah Lewis*

**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 life lived for others, and his death and resurrection which renews the face of the earth, 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.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

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**

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

**Our Lord’s body let us take together.**

**COMMUNION**

*(The prayer after communion is read by the lay assistant)*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Jesus Christ, host of this meal,

You have given us not only this bead and cup,

but your very self,

that we may feast on your great love.

Filled again by these signs of your grace,

may we hunger for your reign of justice,

may we thirst for your way of peace,

for you are Lord forevermore.

**Amen.**

**Blessing**May God, whose power working in us   
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,   
grant you the gifts of faith, hope, and love.  
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,   
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing (ELW 547)*

*(The dismissal is given by the lay assistant)***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.  
**Thanks be to God!**

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