**Worship Plan for Sunday, September 23, 2018**

**SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Those who are truly happy do not follow wicked advice, or stand on the road of sinners, or sit with the disrespectful  **Instead of doing those things, we try to follow God’s way.**

We want to be like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit at just the right time. **We want to serve God.**

So come, friends – let us worship our God!

**NOW THE FEAST** *Now the Feast and Celebration (ELW 167)*

**LITANY OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Forgiving God, sometimes we argue about being important – pushing others out of the way so you will notice us.  
**Forgive us, O God.**

We choose fear over love and bury our God-given gifts  
**Forgive us, O God.**

We confess those times we fail to notice that others have gifts to express, that the body of Christ needs all of its members to flourish.  
**Forgive us, O God.**

We confess those times we are jealous of others and crush and obstruct their gifts, denying that they too are chosen.  
**Forgive us, O God.**  
**Amen.**

While God is sometimes frustrated with our behavior, God is always patient with us.

Know that, whatever you do and wherever you have been, God loves you, forgives you,   
and seeks to plant you by streams of living water, that you might bear good fruit for God and for the world.  
**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, quiet us  
*(gently cover mouth with fingertips of both hands)*

Speak to us in this worship.  
*(please one hand to one ear, in listening gesture)*

Empty our hearts and minds of things not so important.   
*(both hands sweep gently away from head and heart, in smooth outward motion)*

Open us and fill us with your presence.  
*(arms move in, cross over chest)*  
**Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM I Will Give Jubilant Thanks**

*(The first reading is read by the lay assistant)***THE READING**:  Proverbs 31:10–31

A reading from Proverbs.

A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.   
The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax,   
and works with willing hands.

She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away.

She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household   
and tasks for her servant-girls.

She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.   
She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong.

She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.   
She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.

She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.

She is not afraid for her household when it snows,   
for all her household are clothed in crimson.

She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple.   
Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land.

She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.   
Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her:

“Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.”

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

*The reading may be concluded:*Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**THE READING**:  **James 3, 13-4:3, 7-8a**

A reading from James.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.

But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts,   
do not be boastful and false to the truth.

Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish.

For where there is envy and selfish ambition,   
there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield,   
full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.

And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from?   
Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you?

You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder.   
And you covet something and cannot obtain it;   
so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask.

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly,   
in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

*The reading may be concluded:*Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to welcome the Gospel.***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*(The gospel is read by the pastor)*

**GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37**

*The gospel is announced.*The holy gospel according to St. Mark.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

They went on from there and passed through Galilee.   
He did not want anyone to know it;

for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them,   
“The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands,   
and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.”

But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them,   
“What were you arguing about on the way?”

But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another   
who was the greatest.

He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them,   
“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”

Then he took a little child and put it among them;   
and taking it in his arms, he said to them,

“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me,   
and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815)*

**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.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always  
 **And also with you.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** A Story For All People (vs 4)

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

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s beloved creation.

Gracious God, you gather congregations together by the power of your world. Bless leaders with the gifts of wisdom and discernment as they seek to make your church the community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Creative God, every animal sings the goodness of the earth, from blue whales to honeybees. Glaciers and deserts declare your greatness. Make us good stewards of our home for the generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you raise up governments to protect the widow and orphan. Bless citizens with wisdom and discernment as they choose leaders, and inspire leaders to always seek the common good. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you desire health and wholeness for us. Reconcile the conflicts and disputes among us. Teach us to heal the trauma of racism and poverty. Break our hearts open to all who suffer and mourn, especially….  
…and others for whom we now pray, either aloud or in silence now.   
Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Welcoming God, you place children among us. Teach us to honor the children and pay attention to what they can teach us about who you are. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Your surround us with a cloud of witness who announce the good news of abundant life to a sad and needy world. Make us a pilgrim people, always telling the story of your lovingkindness. Lord, in your mercy.  
**Hear our prayer.**

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer   
**Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

O God of justice and love,

we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and bring all the world to your feast.

For, 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 his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit; in our gathering; within this meal;   
and among your people throughout the world;   
even as we pray in the words of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**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**

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**COMMUNION**

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

Holy and compassionate God,  
in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous.  
May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness,   
that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world,   
through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer  
**Amen.**

**Blessing**

As we leave this place now, let us go, daring to do great things for God!  
Let us dare to take the risks to love, to live, to forgive, and   
to welcome each other in God’s love.  
And may the power and gentleness of Christ go with us all.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song** *God is Here ELW 526, Vs 1, 3, 4*

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

Go in peace. Share the Good News.  
**Thanks be to God!**