**Worship Plan for Sunday, September 30, 2018**

**SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

God welcomes us to this time of worship.

**We come giving praise to the Lord!**

For the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever.

**Come, let us worship the Lord!**

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

**LITANY OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

O God of all times and places, speak to us now in the quietness of this holy place.

**Open our hearts to hear your voice.**

Jesus welcomed the children. We confess today that we do not always welcome your children, young or old.

**Open our hearts to hear your voice.**

Sometimes we behave in selfish ways and our relationships suffer. Help us to overcome our selfish demands and efforts to have it our way.

**Open our hearts to hear your voice.**

Jesus blessed the children and Jesus blesses us. Jesus turns no one away. Jesus gave his life for the whole world. Jesus gave himself for you! In Jesus’ name, you are forgiven. In Jesus’ love you are made whole.

**Thanks be to God!**

**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**

Gracious God, we rejoice in the beauty of this place,   
made most beautiful by the lives of those you gather here to worship you.   
Help us this day and always to walk with integrity the paths you set before us,   
and have mercy on us always. Amen.

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

**THE first lesson**:  Job 1:1; 2:1-10

A reading from Job.

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord.

The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the Lord, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”

The Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.”

Then Satan answered the Lord, “Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives.

But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.”

The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.”

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.”

But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE Second lesson**:  **Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12**

A reading from Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

but 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.

He 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,

having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels.

But someone has testified somewhere, “What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?

You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor,

subjecting 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,

but 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.

It 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.

For 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,

saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise 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 10:2-16**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?”

They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.”

But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you.

But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’

‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh.

Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter.

He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her;

and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them.

But 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.

Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”

And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *All Creatures, Worship God Most High* (ELW 835 vs. 1, 4, 6)

**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 indented petitions.)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Loving God, we live in a confusing world:

a world where people too often disregard others, putting them down and tossing them away. Yet we hear Jesus calling us to love one another

– to make sure that in all our relationships we do not treat each other with contempt,

but with compassion and concern, always, for their well-being.

May all of those who have been mistreated by others know that they are loved by you, O God. Help us to reach out to those who feel tossed aside and assure them that they are not discarded, but are loved and respected. In a world where too often others can be cut down by a quick tweet or an outburst in social media, help us to counter this, and affirm the goodness in all your people.

We pray also for our leaders, in this congregation, in our hometowns, in our state, in our nation, and throughout the world. May the power that has been entrusted to them be used for the betterment of all, held with compassion and integrity, and covered in your grace.

Strengthen the relationships we share within this congregation and with all those you bring into our lives. Bring healing and wholeness to our relationships and to those especially in need of your care, …

and those we name aloud or in silence.

We pray in Jesus’ name.

**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**And now may the God of gentleness and peace,   
the God who loves all children, young and old, big and small,   
be with you as you go from this place.   
May our love for others reflect the love of Christ.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song** *For the Beauty of the Earth (ELW 879 vs. 1, 4, 5)*

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

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

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