

Worship Guide for Sunday, August 29, 2021

14th Sunday after Pentecost
First Lutheran Church - Sandpoint

Welcome!

We are thankful you are joining in this time of worship and healing. We all are sick and tired of trying to make it through this world of uncertainty and constant change. We are more than ready to be “on the mend”. This Fall, the Gospel readings from Mark tell many stories of Jesus healing and speaking about what brings life, wholeness (the “Reign of God”). Continue with us as we uncover the wounds that are preventing us from living into this fullness of life Jesus offers. Together we will move out of our old ways into the new possibilities the Spirit prepares us to discover.

GATHERING

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

Note: Covid-19 Protocol update - The back half of the worship space is for those who will offer 6 foot distancing from other family or friend groups and are wearing masks.

Please leave this taped off area for those who need these safety measures in place to participate in worship. Additional information about our pandemic protocols in response to the delta variant can be found on page 12.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***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**

Let us pray.

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG - *Change My Heart, O God* (ELW 801)**

Refrain

Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.

You are the potter;

I am the clay.

Mold me and make me;

this is what I pray. Refrain

WORD

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

FIRST READING: James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

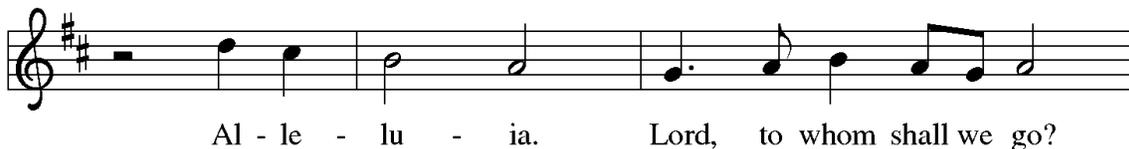
²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



***GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY -

This Is My Father's World

(ELW 824, v 1&3)

1 This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

3 This is my Father's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems
oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;
God reigns, let earth be glad!

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for individuals in positions of authority (*national and local leaders may be named*). Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, state, and local governments and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need. Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, especially those beginning a new school year (*students, teachers, or others may be named here*). Empower teachers and school administrators. Guide students in their learning and development. Accompany parents, foster parents, and caregivers who provide encouragement and love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful departed who showed us how to honor God with our heart. Inspire us by their example and renew our faith, trusting that we will be united with them in glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, (like waving from your location) and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

You may share your offering as you return to your seat at Communion or give online through our

<https://firstlutheransandpoint.breezechms.com/give/online>.

The offering plates are in the front corners and near the exit doors.

Also, for those worshipping with us from home, please prepare a form of bread and wine/ grape juice as we turn to gather now, around God's table of grace.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

***DIALOGUE**

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.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.

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.

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**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

Communion will be served at one station. The lectern side will start by coming forward by the center aisle. The wine and grape juice (white) will be served in pre-poured glasses. A bowl is near the outside aisle to collect empty glasses.

*Please give the next family unit **six feet** as you make your way forward.*

COMMUNION

The gifts are given as the following promise is spoken,

“The body of Christ given for you.”

“The blood of Christ shed for you.”

*You may respond. **Amen.***

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*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.**

SENDING SONG *For the Beauty of the Earth* (Chuck Bell arrangement)

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: Refrain

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: Refrain

5 For thyself, best gift divine,
to the world so freely giv'n
For that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
: Refrain

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES:

Cover Image from Holy Spirit as Dove, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57519> [retrieved August 24, 2021]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/laurapadgett/2533880070/>.

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Scripture text from the NRSV (New Revised Standard Version, sundaysandseasons.com)

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Worship Team:

Pastors - Lori Morton and Steve Neuder

AV/Tech - Scott Youngren and Don Farnham

Office Contact Information: T & Th 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

208-263-2048

office@firstlutheransandpoint.org

Prayers - Don Harms, Steve Harms, Debbie Haberlock, Gene Dillon, Mary Laker, David Hollyer, Frances Cavagnaro, Dar Cogswell, Carrie Cummings, Alyssa Grant, Allyson Kemp, Betty Mitchell, Royce Howell, George Marker, Lynn Franck, Chris Ingham; Randy Petersen; Charles Shobe Sr., Nicky Schripsema; Wendi Lies; Gerda Burke; Kara Schripsema; Trey Haberlock; Tom Taylor; Hunter Taylor; Eugene Kurwicki; Mike Shobe; Marguerite Suttmeier, Sylvia Greenwood; Janet Merrill, and those on your hearts and minds today.

Luther Park residents, their families, and staff.

The extreme temperatures and all life unable to find relief from this drought. Fire response teams to wildfires across the country and into Canada.

Nations in crisis, esp.: Afghanistan and Haiti and the relief efforts by organizations like ELCA Disaster Response and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services serving the people impacted.

Fellowship: We are temporarily suspending the food and coffee aspect of Fellowship time after the service, until the rate of Covid-19 community transmission decreases for two weeks straight.

Please see the bulletin board for notes from youth who attended Lutherhaven Camp and were supported by FLC camper scholarships.

Luther Park Patio Project: The new Patio and Walking Garden gives the residents a CHANCE TO REJUVENATE MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT by getting outside. The space allows them to:

Get out and take walks
Meet family and friends outside.
Get fresh air and exercise.
Nature does wonders.

If you would like to support this project financially, see the poster illustrating the current progress in the narthex.

The **ELCA** Disaster Response is tending to communities impacted by fire, flood, and the latest earthquake in Haiti. 100% of donations made will go directly to offering care to the people impacted. Also, LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services) are looking for volunteers to help with the relocation of Afghan allies being evacuated from Kabul. Go to **www.elca.org** to learn more or donate support.

Organ Console Committee: Held their first meeting this week. Their job is to research the congregation's worship priorities, possible solutions to fix our aging organ, and determine the financial resources needed to do so, then present their findings to the Council. Please talk to Jim Carlson, Scott Youngren, Jean Cafferty, or Jim Payne with feedback or questions.

Covid - 19 Protocols:

With the increasing rate of infection in the area, following CDC updated guidelines, we strongly encourage everyone to wear masks inside. Panhandle Health has moved Bonner County into the Red category as of 8/12/2021 because local hospitals have reached capacity from delta variant infections. Therefore, we are practicing the following protocols for groups gatherings:

- We have polled members and have found that 88% of the congregation is vaccinated as well as both pastors. While the chance of serious illness is slight, vaccinated people are becoming infected (showing some or no symptoms) and within the first 3-5 days of exposure, carry enough virus in their throats to be able to infect others. Non-vaccinated (our children under 12 and members with allergic reactions to vaccines) need our help to remain healthy.
- Practice physical distancing: 6' spacing between family/ friend groups while seated or standing inside, unless invited to sit with the other group.
- Communion is being served with washed / sanitized hands and masks worn by pastors.
- Use Hand sanitizer or wash hands upon entry for all congregants.
- All extended conversations please conduct outside.
- Please respect everyone's choices and desire to be healthy and to feel safe while worshiping together.
- With greater freedom, comes greater responsibility to caretake each other. if you do not feel well or have symptoms of illness like coughing and sneezing, we welcome you to worship with us online instead of in-person. This includes responses to the smoke, which make it more difficult to know if we are ill or not.
- We are singing a few verses of the hymns (the CDC names this as a high risk behavior in larger groups of people from differing households, who are not wearing masks). Humming is preferred. If you do sing, please wear a mask. We also are planning worship to be shorter than an hour and windows are opened for ventilation to mitigate the risk.
- Groups may request use of the fellowship hall, following these practices and are required to clean surfaces after use.

Thank you for helping us provide a care-filled worship and ministry experience during this ever-changing pandemic.