



“On The Mend: Healing Inhibitions”

Worship Guide for Sunday, September 5, 2021

15th Sunday after Pentecost
First Lutheran Church - Sandpoint

Welcome!

We are thankful you are joining in this time of worship and healing. We are all 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”). As we explore the ways in which we need to be healed, this Sunday we consider the things we are closed off to and the things about which we stay silent. Shutting things out or holding things in can both be dangerous to our health. Healing can mean the freedom to face difficult things. Jesus says to us, “be opened!”

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.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and help us recognize our resistance or hesitation to receive and offer your wholeness, through Jesus Christ, the healer of our every ill.

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 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major (two sharps) and common time. The first staff begins with a whole rest followed by a quarter note, a eighth note, a half note, a dotted half note, a quarter note, another dotted half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?" are written below the notes. The second staff continues with a quarter note, a eighth note, a half note, a dotted half note, a quarter note, another dotted half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The lyrics "You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia." are written below the notes.

*GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY - *We Come to You for Healing, Lord* (ELW 617)

1 We come to you for healing, Lord,
of body, mind, and soul,
and pray that by your Spirit's touch
we may again be whole.

2 As once you walked through
ancient streets
and reached toward those in pain,
come, risen Christ, among us still
with pow'r to heal again.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. (*Especially as we celebrate Labor/Labour Day,*) unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. 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 worshiping 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.

God of abundance,

you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.

Accept the gifts you have first given us.

Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through 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.
Lord of life,
in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (ELW 858)

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES:

Cover Image from <https://www.journeywithjesus.net/lectionary-essays/current-essay>

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

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Worship Team:

Piano (prelude, postlude, and Holy Communion)- Jim Payne

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.

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Prayers - Cathy Bradetich, 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.

Friends and family of Sylvia Greenwood, upon her death this week.

Luther Park residents, their families, and staff.

Parts of the world burning, impacted by wildfire smoke, and all those who continue to fight them.

All those impacted by hurricane Ida and those responding to their need.

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.

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 natural disasters in Haiti and from hurricane Ida. 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.

Schools in our community resume this week in buildings, online, and in homes. We hold in prayer all teachers, students, staff, and families as they seek to help develop the gifts God has given to the youth of our community and remain well in the days ahead.

God's Work. Our Hands Sunday. The larger ELCA invites all its members to an emphasis of service, September 12th. As part of the worship, we will give thanks for all the ways the hands of this congregation, serve Sandpoint and Bonner County. We will also offer a blessing and farewell to Bruce and Peg Getty as they move to Minnesota.

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.