

# 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude by Jean Welch, "Jesus Loves the Little Children," arr. Higgs, piano solo*

## GATHERING

*\*Call to Worship and Confession*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: *(Jeremiah 17:7-8)* <sup>7</sup>Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

C: **<sup>8</sup>They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.**

P: Our family tree of faith is filled with men and women who live by faith and make mistakes. When we stumble, we are in good company. Yet, we are also surrounded by a company of saints, redeemed by the mercy of God. Let us confess our sin and put our trust in this mercy.

*Silence*

C: **Forgiving God, we confess that our actions do not always reflect your goodness. Like Abraham, we question your promise. Like Jacob, we take what is not ours. Like Moses, we fear that we are not enough. In your love and compassion, prune our faults and failures and keep us connected to you.**

P: God has heard your confession and forgives your sin. Jesus is living water for you and all. May the Holy Spirit dwell in you richly that you bear the fruit of love for God and one another.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Song – “Beneath the Tree of Life”

(organ)

*Refrain: Come and gather beneath the tree of life.*

*Come and gather beneath the tree of life –*

*Root of wisdom, branch of peace, fruit of healing and release.*

*Come and gather beneath the tree of life.*

**Rooted in the rich earth of your Gospel,**

**May we bear the fruits your Word has planted deep within our hearts. *Refrain***

*Children’s Sermon*

Hymn of Praise – “Our God is Here”

(piano)

**1. Here in this time, here in this place, here we are standing face to face.**

**Here in our hearts, here in our lives our God is here.**

**Here for the broken, here for the strong, here in this temple we belong.**

**Here in our hearts, here in our lives, our God is here. And we cry:**

*Refrain: “Holy! Holy! Holy are you!” We cry: “Holy! Holy! Holy and true!”*

*Amen, we do believe our God is here. Our God is here.*

**2. Here in the Word, God is revealed, here where the wounded can be healed.**

**Here in our hearts, here in our lives, our God is here.**

**Here we become what we receive, here in this Eucharistic feast.**

**We are his body, living as one; our God is here. And we cry: *Refrain***

**And we cry: “Holy! Holy! Holy are you!” We cry: “Holy! Holy! Holy and true!”**

**Amen, we do believe our God is here. Our God is here.**

## WORD

*Reading:* Hosea 11:1-9

*Reader:* John Williams

<sup>1</sup>When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son.

<sup>2</sup>The more I called them,  
the more they went from me;  
they kept sacrificing to the Baals,  
and offering incense to idols.

<sup>3</sup> Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,  
I took them up in my arms;  
but they did not know that I healed them.  
<sup>4</sup> I led them with cords of human kindness,  
with bands of love.  
I was to them like those  
who lift infants to their cheeks.  
I bent down to them and fed them.

<sup>5</sup> They shall return to the land of Egypt,  
and Assyria shall be their king,  
because they have refused to return to me.  
<sup>6</sup> The sword rages in their cities,  
it consumes their oracle-priests,  
and devours because of their schemes.  
<sup>7</sup> My people are bent on turning away from me.  
To the Most High they call,  
but he does not raise them up at all.

<sup>8</sup> How can I give you up, Ephraim?  
How can I hand you over, O Israel?  
How can I make you like Admah?  
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?  
My heart recoils within me;  
my compassion grows warm and tender.  
<sup>9</sup> I will not execute my fierce anger;  
I will not again destroy Ephraim;  
for I am God and no mortal,  
the Holy One in your midst,  
and I will not come in wrath.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*\*Gospel Reading:* Mark 10:13-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>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.'

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

Song: "God, When Human Bonds are Broken" ELW 603 *(organ)*

- 1 **God, when human bonds are broken and we lack the love or skill  
to restore the hope of healing, give us grace and make us still.**
- 2 **Through that stillness, with your Spirit come into our world of stress,  
for the sake of Christ forgiving all the failures we confess.**
- 3 **You in us are bruised and broken: hear us as we seek release  
from the pain of earlier living; set us free and grant us peace.**
- 4 **Send us, God of new beginnings, humbly hopeful into life.  
Use us as a means of blessing: make us stronger, give us faith.**
- 5 **Give us faith to be more faithful, give us hope to be more true,  
give us love to go on learning: God, encourage and renew!**

*Sermon:* "The Fruit of Forgiveness"

*Song of the Day* – "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" *(piano)*

1. **How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,  
That he should give his only Son to make a wretch his treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.**
2. **Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon his shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held him there until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life – I know that it is finished.**
3. **I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer,  
But this I know with all my heart, his wounds have paid my ransom.**

*\*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

*\*Prayers*

*Stewardship Time:*

“The Goodness of God,” by Johnson, Johnson, Ingram, Cash, & Fielding  
*The Faith Singers*

Stewardship is about our grateful response to God's grace for us. How do you respond? If you would like to financially support our ministry together, you can place a donation in an offering box or through our website. If you would like to support our ministry together through service, you can find a list of ministry teams online or on our ministry team menu. Consider joining a ministry team, or starting a new one, today!

*—Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew—*

*\*Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*\*Words of Institution*

P: 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.

*\*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.**

*Communion Songs*

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” ELW 742 (*organ*)

1. **What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear –  
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!**
2. **Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged -- take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness -- take it to the Lord in prayer.**
3. **Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge -- take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

“Here at This Table”

*(piano)*

*Refrain: Come and be filled here at this table.  
Food for all who hunger and drink for all who thirst.  
Drink of his love, wine of salvation.  
You shall live forever in Jesus Christ the Lord.*

1. **You who labor for justice, you who labor for peace,  
You who steady the plow in the field of the Lord. *Refrain***
2. **You with lives full of pain, you who sorrow and weep,  
You, beloved of Christ, come to him, come to him! *Refrain***
3. **Children of ev'ry color in ev'ry land,  
You are his own, he gathers you gently.  
Don't you grow weary, for when you run, you run with the Lord! *Refrain***
4. **You, the aged among us, holy, faithful, and wise,  
May the wisdom you share form our lives and our world! *Refrain***
5. **Let each woman and man learn from the stranger,  
We're not so diff'rent and so much unites us.  
For we are one, blest with the Spirit and the power of love! *Refrain***

*\*Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

*\*Closing Prayer*

## SENDING

*\*Benediction*

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

*\*Sending Song – “Forever”*

*(piano)*

**1. Give thanks to the Lord our God and King; his love endures forever.  
For he is good, he is above all things; his love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise.**

**2. With a mighty hand and outstretched arm; his love endures forever.  
For the life that’s been reborn; his love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise!**

*Refrain: Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong,  
forever God is with us, forever.*

**3. From the rising to the setting sun his love endures forever.  
And by the grace of God we will carry on; his love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise! *Refrain***

*Ending: And ever, forever.*

*Dismissal*

**P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Worship Assistants**

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker

Greeters: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson

Reader: John Williams

Usher: Hallie Mayner

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Drummer: John Demien

Financial Assistants: Mindy Carlson & Kelly Hartz

Chancel Committee: Kris Roth

Coffee Host: Kay Schnitker





Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Rigby Dichsen	Adam Krohe	Carol VanderKloot
Louis Dichsen	Kelly Hartz	Kris Roth	
Marilyn Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Melissa Street	

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Greg Kimler	Mike Oldenettel	Kelly Street
Marilyn Dichsen			

The altar plants are donated today  
by Carol Rauen in honor of Annette Kilver's birthday on November 22

**Song Credits**

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**What's Coming Up at Faith?**

Sunday, November 19, 9:30am: Worship  
10:45am: Sunday School

**Newsletter Deadline**

Monday, November 20, 11:30am: Potluck & Movie

Wednesday, November 22, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

Thursday, November 23: **Happy Thanksgiving**

Sunday, November 26, 9:30am: Worship  
10:45am: Sunday School

Wednesday, November 29, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

## News Updates

### **Sunday School**

Calling all kids! After worship, fellowship, and snacks, we will gather for music and then head to our classes. We have two classes this year, one for pre-K through Kindergarten and the other for early elementary. If you have questions or are interested in helping, contact Patty Nelson at 217-653-3105.

### **Potluck & Movie**

Potluck and a Movie will be on **Monday, November 20 at 11:30am** and will feature the film "Same Kind of Different as Me" based on our Book Club book. *Sharon Zuiderveld*

### **Community Thanksgiving Service**

The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is proud to announce its annual Community Thanksgiving Service, "Giving Thanks in All Circumstances," **TODAY** at 2:00pm. This year's event will be hosted at Trinity Episcopal Church, 359 W. State, Jacksonville. The service will include song, reflections, prayer, and a salute to veterans. This is a free event, and all are welcome. A free-will offering will be received for New Directions Warming & Cooling Center of Jacksonville. New Directions provides a safe place for displaced individuals to stay while they work to reestablish an independent living situation.

### **Giving Boutique**

The Giving Boutique will be open after today's service. The project has raised over \$5,100 for 6 organizations: The Faith Youth Group, H.U.G.S., Lutheran World Services, the Foster Care Closet, the "Shine the Light" ministry at Faith, and the Jacksonville Food Center. Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of this project. There are still wonderful items from which to choose. Not really interested in "stuff" but want to be included? Stop by the Justice Room and make a donation to the organization(s) of your choice. Every single cent goes to the group you choose.

### **Music Rehearsals**

**Exaltation Ringers** rehearse on some Sundays after the service at 10:45am in the Choir Room. We ring one Sunday each month. If you are interested in ringing, please let me know. Jean Welch, *Music Director*

### **Book Group - "Blood Brothers" by Elias Chacour**

As a child, Elias Chacour lived in a small Palestinian village in Galilee. When tens of thousands of Palestinians were killed and nearly one million forced into refugee camps in

1948, Elias began a long struggle with how to respond. In *Blood Brothers*, he blends his riveting life story with historical research to reveal a little-known side of the Arab-Israeli conflict, exploring whether bitter enemies can ever be reconciled. This book offers hope and insight to help each of us learn to live at peace in a world of tension and terror. **A discussion will be held after worship on December 3.**

### **Ideas Wanted!**

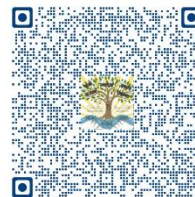
Help prepare a great list of books for us to read in 2024. Which authors, titles, and subjects are you interested in exploring next year? Please email your suggestions to Kelly Hartz at [khartz@sompo-intl.com](mailto:khartz@sompo-intl.com). If you're passionate about a book and would also love to lead the group discussion, please let us know! We're looking for books AND leaders.

### **Sound Celebration Chorus**

The Sound Celebration Chorus invites you to their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Free Christmas Concert: Thanks for the Holidays. **Sunday, November 26, 2:00pm** at St. John's Lutheran Church, 2477 W. Washington St., Springfield. A free-will offering will be taken for our chosen charity – Springfield Area Micro Food Pantries.

### **Faith Directory**

Thank you for your updated photos and information for our new digital directory! You can access it online by using this QR code. It is password protected, and the password is "faith". If you notice any changes or would like to add your photo, please contact the church office.



### **Advent Allegro Lunchtime Concerts**

We have a great lineup for this year's Advent Allegro concert series.

December 6: "The Extension Chords" (*with Jean Welch*)

December 13: Jacksonville High School Madrigals

December 20: Matthew Nall on piano

The brief concerts will last approximately 30 minutes and begin at 12:15pm. Lunch of soup, chips, fruit, and dessert will be served beginning at 11:30am and after the concert for \$5. **We could use some help with serving the meal and providing cookies and soup.** If you would like to pitch in, contact the church office (245-8919 or [faithlutheran62650@frontier.com](mailto:faithlutheran62650@frontier.com)) or **sign up on the sheet on the counter by the coffee sales.**

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Sharon Zuiderveld and her sister, Mary Ellen Peterson, are looking for crocheters and knitters (or those who want to learn) to help make prayer shawls. The shawls will then be given to friends as reminders that they are covered by our prayers and the love and grace of God. Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting for the Prayer Shawl ministry may contact Sharon Zuiderveld. Beginners (and lefties) are welcome. Please let her know what day and time are best for you: [sharonzuiderveld@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonzuiderveld@hotmail.com) or 217-883-1258

### **Sign-Up Sheets**

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

### **Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea**

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange (on the counter outside of the coat closet). Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display. Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.