

## **Worship Plan for Sunday, October 29, 2017**

Lectionary 30

Proper 25

21st Sunday after Pentecost

ELW Holy Communion Setting One

Sunday, October 29, 2017

### **Introduction to the day**

Jesus' summary of the law in today's gospel echoes our first reading from Leviticus. We are called not only to love God with heart, soul, and mind, but also to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is out of such deep care that Paul shares the gospel with the Thessalonian community. In the confession of sins, we acknowledge that we have not loved God, neighbor, and self; yet we gather to hear the word of forgiveness and to be strengthened by word and meal to be signs of God's love and mercy in the world.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18**

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from Leviticus.

*The holiness code in Leviticus urges people to be holy because God is holy. Holiness is lived out in partiality for and consideration of the poor and the weak. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves. God's people exercise justice and love in their dealings with one another.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

<sup>2</sup>Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them:

You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. <sup>16</sup>You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. <sup>18</sup>You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 1**

Their delight is in the law of the LORD. (*Ps. 1:2*)

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night. R**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due  
season, with leaves that | do not wither;  
everything they | do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so | with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed. R**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8**

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

*Paul uses maternal imagery to depict the caring and nurturing relationship he shares with the Thessalonian Christians. When he first came to their city it was not to benefit himself but to share the gospel with them, which was his responsibility as an apostle of Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, <sup>2</sup>but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. <sup>3</sup>For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, <sup>4</sup>but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup>As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; <sup>6</sup>nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, <sup>7</sup>though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. <sup>8</sup>So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-46**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.*

<sup>34</sup>When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup>and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to

test him. <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” <sup>37</sup>He said to him, “ “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup>This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

<sup>41</sup>Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: <sup>42</sup>“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” <sup>43</sup>He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

<sup>44</sup>‘The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet”’?

<sup>45</sup>If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” <sup>46</sup>No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s creation.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, grant courage to your church. In all things and among all people of faith, prosper our Lord’s call to love and serve in strength and humility. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy Creator, protect this world so lovingly made. Align our stewardship with yours so that plants offer shelter and nourishment, water sources

sustain life, habitats thrive, and all creation flourishes as you intend. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sovereign God, bring justice to the nations. Turn enemies from vengeance and warfare, direct leaders in fair and honest governance, and equip citizens to seek the needs of their neighbors. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy Provider, you care for all your children. Heal those in need: the sick and their caregivers (*especially*), victims of family strife, and any who grieve this day. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you bless this congregation and community. Reveal your servant-love through our ministries, that our work on behalf of our neighbors bears fruit that endures. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give you thanks, Holy One, for those who served you in this earthly life (*especially*). Renew our hope until that day when all are nourished by your tree of life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

**Amen.**

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