Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

ELCIC

A Welcoming Christ-Centered Community

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October 18, 2026 – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Service of the Word

Pastor: Rev. Liz Bell
Assisting Minister: Kaitlyn Alcontin
Ministers: Every member
Ushers: Harry W & Dan L

Council President: Karen Oko
Musician: Kathryn Elford
Video/Live Stream: Anton Chell
Worship Host: Karen Oko

Welcome

Gathering Song "*God Is Here!*" (ELW 526) vs 1,4

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Children's Time

Reading Mark 1:16-20 *Jesus Calls the First Disciples*

16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew
casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. **17** And Jesus said to them, "Follow
me, and I will make you fishers of people." **18** And immediately they left their nets and
followed him. **19** As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his
brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. **20** Immediately he called them,
and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Reading- 'Follow Me'

*'Follow me' he said – and we did we let go of the heavy wet nets, the tough strands of tarred rope: our strong hands were empty – we let go of all we knew how to do our livelihood, our identity –to follow a dream, a job description that no one in their senses would take seriously. 'Follow me" he said – and we did.

Song – '*Will You Come and Follow Me'* (ELW 798) vs 1

Reading Mark 2:13-17 *Jesus Calls Levi*

13 Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. **14** As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. **15** And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. **16** When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" **17** When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Reading- 'Follow Me'

*'Follow me' he said – and I did. Tax collecting never made me popular, but it put a rood over my head and bread on my table, bitter bread, because grabbed and grudged. He invited me to become no longer dog in the manger, but host at the feast. He came right under my roof sharing my bread and showing me how to share with all the rest - 'follow me' he said -- and I did.

Song – '*Will You Come and Follow Me'* (ELW 798) vs 2

Reading Mark 7:25-30 *Jesus Heals the Bold Mother's Daughter*

25 but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. **26** Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. **27** He 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." **28** But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." **29** Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." **30** And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

Reading- 'Follow Me'

*'Follow me' he said "Let the children be fed first—why should the dogs eat their bread?" But I would not be turned away: hoping for healing, hungry for justice, I stood my ground and argued: "In God's household even the dogs are fed." Seeing my faith he told me to go home and find my daughter healed.
"Go" he said -- and I did.

Song – '*Will You Come and Follow Me'* (ELW 798) vs 3

Reading Mark 10:17-22 *Jesus & The Rich Man*

17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" **18** Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. **19** You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.' " **20** He

said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” [21] Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” [22] When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Reading- ‘Follow Me’

*‘Follow me’ he said, for I had asked him the next step on a journey of personal salvation. He reminded me of all the good things I already knew and did. So nothing was left to do – I was ready to go. “Now sell all you have,” he said. “Give it away to the poor.” How could I let go just like that – lighten my load, shed my responsibilities, become someone i did not know -- what would be left? “Follow me,” he said but with a heavy heart I shook my head.
“Go” he said -- and I did.

Song – ‘*Will You Come and Follow Me’* (ELW 798) vs 4

Reading Mark 10:46-52 *The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus*

[46] They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. [47] When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” [48] Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” [49] Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” [50] So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. [51] Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” [52] Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Reading- ‘Follow Me’

*“Come” he said – and I did, following his voice through the crowd on the edge of town. I need wait no longer, my voice had been heard calling for change crying out for a fresh start—even though it meant casting off old ways, no longer the needy person everyone knew. “Come” he said and I saw what God could do. “Your faith has healed you,” he told me. “Now go.” he never said “follow me’ – but, as I could see, there was no other way.

Song – ‘*Will You Come and Follow Me’* (ELW 798) vs 5

Prayer

Song of the Day ‘*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant’* (ELW 659)

Affirmation of Faith

from Universe Sunday, posted on the Web of Creation website.
webofcreation.org/SeasonofCreation/universe.html

We believe that God creates all things,
renews all things, and celebrates all things.

We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet
filled with God's presence,
a home for us to share with our kin.
We believe that God became flesh and blood,
became a part of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ,
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,
suffered and died on a cross,
for all human beings and for all creation.
We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation
reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation,
and filling the universe.
We believe the Spirit renews life, groans in empathy
with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

Prayers of Intercession

In our prayers: Gertie B, Susan K, Cody M, Brendan S, Pr. Erin T, Shirley E, Pr. Rod A, Darlene & Randy F, Anna E, Pathma D, Lasantha J, Margaret O, Dwight M & family, Hubert L, family of Sonia Willems, Liz H, Marla W, Julian S, and those we hold dear in our hearts.

Peace

Offertory '*Great Is Thy Faithfulness'* (ELW 733, WOV 771) vs 3

Offering Prayer

Lord's Prayer Emerging Church movement's retranslation from the Aramaic – Mark Berry

O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere!
Release a space to plant your Presence here.
Imagine your possibilities now.
Embody your desire in every light and form.
Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.
Untie the knots of failure binding us,
as we release the strands we hold of others' faults.
Help us not forget our Source,
Yet free us from not being in the Present.
From you arises every Vision, Power and Song
from gathering to gathering.
Amen - May our future actions grow from here!

Blessing

Community Life

Sending Song '*We All Are One in Mission' (*ELW 576)

Dismissal

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*Jan Sutch Pickard. *'Follow Me,'* Month 1, Day 30 Entry in This is the Day: readings and meditations from the Iona Community. Neil Paynter, editor. Wild Goose Publications, 2002.