



God's love, Our service.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sunday, September 8, 2024

16th Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The September Noisy Offering collection will go to the Wounded Warrior Project, chose by our Confirmation class.



Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first
we make distinctions among ourselves.**

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW 731, vs. 1,2 & 5

Earth and All Stars!

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snow-
storm!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

5 Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wis-
dom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Refrain

God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

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tress.

2 Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

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Greeting page 98

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.**

KYRIE Pg. 98

HYMN OF PRAISE page 101

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God,

throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life.

Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!"

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 146

I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2)

¹Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

³Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed
down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Second 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? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION page 102

Holy Gospel, according to Mark, the 7th Chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician 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, 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 So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.



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

CHILDREN'S SERMON Blessing of Backpacks
SERMON Pastor Kris Dietzen

BLESSING OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

For the marvels of your creation,

We praise you, O God.

For the opportunity to explore and study,

We praise you, O God.

For those who guide us, teachers and mentors,

We praise you, O God.

Teach us your ways and guide us in your path,

For you are the creator of all that is, seen and unseen.

Amen.

Let us pray for all who are beginning a new school year, that both students and teachers will be blessed in their academic endeavors.

Almighty God,

you give wisdom and knowledge.

Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight,

And students the gift of diligence and openness,

That all may grow in what is good and honest and true.

Support all who teach and all who learn,

That together we may know and follow your ways;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 612

Healer of Our Every Ill

Refrain

Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

1 You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*

2 In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*

3 Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*

4 You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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APOSTLES CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 of Intercession

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict (*especially*) and strengthen global commit-

ments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

In Jesus Christ, God has made his peace with us.

The peace of the Lord be with you always,

And also with you

Let us share God's peace with one another.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, Holy pg. 108

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table.

Come, here is your God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG pg. 112

COMMUNION HYMNS ELW 592

Just As I Am, without One Plea

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.



- 3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,
- 4 Just as I am; thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

ELW 460

Now the Silence

Now the silence
Now the peace
Now the empty hands uplifted
Now the kneeling
Now the plea
Now the Father's arms in welcome

Now the hearing
Now the pow'r
Now the vessel brimmed for pouring
Now the body
Now the blood
Now the joyful celebration

Now the wedding
Now the songs
Now the heart forgiven leaping
Now the Spirit's visitation
Now the Son's epiphany
Now the Father's blessing
Now
Now
Now

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919
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The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God,
you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.
Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING

God all mighty,
God most merciful
✠ bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.
Amen.



RECESSIONAL HYMN ELW 673

God, Whose Almighty Word

- 1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.
- 2 Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light.
- 3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.
- 4 Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might:
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.



PRAYER REQUESTS & CONDOLENCES

Contact Janet Anderson at 913.638-9331 to add names to the prayer chain or to join the prayer chain.

Please contact the church office to make changes to this list.

St. Mark's members:

Naydeen Tuley,
Donna Nichols,
Pete Cagle,
Linda Cagle,
Janet Nichols,
Ruth Ann Hackler,
Chuck Vandenberg,
Susan & Bill Roberts,
George McElroy,
Janet Schmidt,
Phyllis Dettmer,

Family & friends:

Sandra Borg, sister of Joyce Johnson,
Peggy, cousin of Jane Scherrer,
Monica Brown Melin, daughter of Ron & Nancy Brown,
Kerry O'Rourke, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Fran Besser, friend of Joni Benz,
Family of Lois Fogle, friend of Joni Benz,
Family of Fran Jean Hornick, mother-in-law of Amy Hackler,
Family of Assaad Nassar, friend of Susan Fetsch,
Wayne Beck, friend of Pete Cagle,
Rosemary Williams, friend of Pete Cagle,
Charles EMFs, friend of Pete Cagle,
Randy Hackler, relative of the Hacklers & Susan Fetsch,
Mindy Gustus, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Everett, friend of sister-in-law of Janet Anderson,
Jessica Parker, great-niece of Jane Stresewki,
Tammy Strampe, Daughter-in-law of Barbara Strampe,
Bob Bergene, friend of Clarence Linsey,
Family of Matthew Livingston, grandson of Joni Benz's friend,
Rosie, great-niece of Don & Janet Anderson,
Doug & Kathy Thee, cousins of Barbara Strampe,
Pete, brother of Jenny Wheeler,
Norma Heath and her family, Aunt of Don Anderson,
Steve Wells, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Sheryl Thompson, friend of Pete Cagle,

Scott Miller, son-in-law of Jane & Mike Scherrer,
Family of Judy Wendt, Jeannine Matthew's sister-in-law,
Harry Cagle, brother of Pete Cagle,
Janice, sister of Jenny Wheeler,
Dr. Owens, friend of Kathy Hinkle,
Mike and Susan Becker, friends of St. Mark's,
Sheryl Aldersen, friend of Dale Albers,
Elizabeth Applebaum, friend of Kathy Hinkle
Hugo B Gibson, friend of Pete Cagle,
Kai son Davis, friend of Pete Cagle,
Cameron Leckliter, neighbor of Ginny Schwartzbeck,
Alyssa, niece-in-law of Mike and Jane Scherrer,
Stan, friend of Pete Cagle,
Chris, brother of Pete Cagle,
Joetta Eagle & family, friends of Linda Bayer,
Kara Campbell, niece of Pete Cagle,
Bill Benne, friend of Joyce and Louis Johnson,
Candy, sister of Tom Bryer,
Craig Aldag, Uncle of Ali Luin,
Donna McCarthy, friend of Ginny Schwartzbeck,
Andrew, friend of the Scherrers,
Amber Smith, friend of Pete Cagle,
Family of Kathy, cousin of Barb Nail,
Gary Stepenson, Uncle of Jason Howe,
Rowan Espey, family of Barbara Strampe,
Peggy Hinkle, Step-Mother of Kathy Hinkle,
Tim Eiter, Father of Todd Eiter,
Rebeka Gillette, friend of Janet Nichols,
Jackie Warriner, Sister-in-law of Linda Goodheart,
Don Thun, Father of Matt Thun,
Katherine Gile, sister of Anne Gardner,
Matt Warriner, Great Nephew of Linda Goodheart,
Joanne, Amy Fisher's sister,
Neil Warriner, Linda Goodheart's brother,
Donna Poppe, friend of St. Marks,
Brooke Harris, friend of Gretchen Goodheart Stewart,
Bruce Dawson, friend of the Goodhearts,
Kirk Wheeler, cousin of Verna McMullin,
All People affected by natural disasters

Those in the Military:

A.J. Simons, nephew of Stan and Karen Thompson,