

Sunday, August 16, 2020
11th Sunday after Pentecost
ELW Service of the Word



Introduction to the day

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around the word, we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.**

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life.

Amen.

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through ✝ Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

**Glory to God in the highest;
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,

and hold fast my covenant—
⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
⁸Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 67

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.
²**Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**
³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**
⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
⁶**The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**
⁷May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

A reading from Romans.

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom and cured every sickness among the people. *Alleluia.* (Matt. 4:23)

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[¹⁰[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

SERMON

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Ever-living God, author of creation, we give you thanks for your gift of water that brings life and refreshes the earth. We bless and praise you, for by water and the Word we are cleansed from sin and receive everlasting life. Join us again this day to the saving death of Christ; renew in us the living fountain of your grace; and raise us with Christ Jesus to live in newness of life; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident of your care and upheld by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need, responding with the Canaanite woman to each petition “Help us, O Lord.”

A brief silence.

We pray for the Christian church around the world,
for humility where the church is dominant,
for courage where it is oppressed,
and for faithfulness when it cannot assemble for worship: *A brief silence.*
Bless your church, faithful God: **help us, O Lord.**

We pray for your bountiful earth,
for cleaner air,
for the fields on which our food grows,
for the renewal of lands and waters that have suffered from disregard: *A brief silence.*
Protect your earth, creative God: **help us, O Lord.**

We pray for the nations of the earth,
for the peaceful resolution of disputes around the world,
for just policies that care for the poor,
and for the upcoming political conventions in our land: *A brief silence.*
Save humankind, sovereign God: **help us, O Lord.**

We pray for all in need of healing,
for the residents of Beirut and other distressed cities,
for those suffering from hurricane damage,
for those sick and dying of COVID-19,
for the unemployed,

for people without medical care,
for medical workers and researchers,
for the outcasts of our society,
and for those we name here: *A brief silence.*
Heal the sick, merciful God: **help us, O Lord.**

We pray for a spirit of respect the world's religions,
for wisdom concerning the many houses of prayer,
and for guidance where religion serves as an arm of the government: *A brief silence.*
Direct all people of faith, gracious God: **help us, O Lord.**

We pray for schools around the globe,
for educators who must plan for the fall,
and for children without the resources to access remote learning: *A brief silence.*
Guide us, compassionate God: **help us, O Lord.**

We pray, finally, for ourselves,
for whenever we feel tormented by demons,
and for all our family and friends: *A longer period of silence.*
loving God: **help us, O Lord.**

We mourn the deaths of those we love,
and we praise you for the lives of all your faithful people.
At the end, gather us all into the joy of your presence. *A brief silence.*
Grant us salvation, eternal God: **help us, O Lord.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING
Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

Great and wonderful are your deeds,
O God of the universe;
just and true are your ways,
O Ruler of all the nations.

Who can fail to honor you, Lord,
and sing the glory of your name?

**For you alone are the Holy One,
and blessed is the one
whose name is the Word of God.
All praise and thanks to you, holy God!**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

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