

WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE: Prelude and Fugue in A Minor

by J. S. Bach*

Please stand

INVOCATION, CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[Silence for reflection and self-examination]

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN 886 "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE "This Is the Feast"



Refrain This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -



ia. (1) Wor thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Refrain This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our



God. Al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu -



ia. (2) Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



29 *Refrain* This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our



32 God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -



36 ia. (3) Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



40 join in the hymn of all cre - a - - - tion:



44 Bless-ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the



48 Lamb for - ev - er. A - - - men.



51 *Refrain* This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our



54 God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -



57 ia. (4) For the Lamb who was slain has be -

61
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - - ia.

65
Refrain This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our

68
God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

71
lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say 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." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then 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; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

R: The Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For 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, and 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," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, 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? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For 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. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and 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? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



A - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



A - le - lu - ia. A - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the seventh chapter of Mark.

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

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

From there he 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, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 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." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. 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. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to

him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

ANTHEM Sicilienne

by Gabriel Fauré
Seth Jersild, piano
Mark Meuser, organ

SERMON

Pastor Seth Jersild

HYMN 359 “Where Charity and Love Prevail”

APOSTLES’ CREED

C: 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 into hell. 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 OF THE CHURCH

Response:

P: ...Lord in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

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 Him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...
...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians who believe that Christ is present in the wine and bread for forgiveness, life, and salvation are welcome to partake of communion. Please indicate to the server if you would prefer to receive grape juice. All children and adults who prefer to receive a blessing instead of communion are welcome to come forward. Please indicate you would prefer to receive a blessing by keeping your hands folded.

BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

HYMN 574 “Here I Am, Lord”

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE: Fugue

by Johann Pachelbel

** This morning’s prelude is by J. S. Bach (1685-1750), and considered to be one of the greatest composers of all time. Bach wrote thousands of pieces of complex yet beautiful music, most of which is still played today.*

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

15th Sunday after Pentecost – September 5, 2021

“And she begged him...” (Mark 7:26)

Jesus, because he was exhausted, was out in Gentile territory by himself, trying to hide from the crowds of people. A Syrophenician finds him, a desperate woman, who comes to Jesus, falls at his feet, and begs him to cast out an unclean spirit from her daughter. When she first pleads with him, Jesus responds in a disrespectful manner that he came to save the lost sheep of Israel. She is clearly an outsider with no right to request anything of Jesus. He pushes her away using abrupt, rude, language. She is a “dog” who has no part of the lost sheep of Israel.

Amazingly, the woman persists and argues with Jesus. She says, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Wow! Jesus is impressed not only by her argument but by her persistence. He gives her what she so desperately seeks and miraculously heals her daughter.

Some people are troubled by the way Jesus brushes her off. That doesn’t sound like the compassionate Jesus we have come to know and love. Others are troubled that at first Jesus says “no,” and then after hearing the woman’s argument, he says, “yes.” Does Jesus change his mind? Is the divine Jesus susceptible to human logic?

Perhaps we should not speculate but rather stay with the plain facts. A desperate person came to Jesus, an outsider, a stranger, someone from the margins of society, and as far as we know, never met Jesus and knew little about him. But she dared to argue with Jesus and he responded. Jesus marvels at her faith, determination, and persistence.

What do we make of this story? We should not think of this story as a step-by-step method to get what we want from Jesus. Perhaps it may be possible to not only see the desperate woman, but to see Jesus. Perhaps we are like the woman who comes before Jesus, pleading. She shows us that Jesus is not only Lord, but is also the one who has compassion for the desperate. She may not know everything about Jesus, but somehow, she knows that he is her hope.

Remember this woman when you face times of desperation. Go ahead and request what you think you need. But don’t just request, plead, beg, implore, and even argue! Do so with faith that he hears. Jesus is Lord of the desperate. Amen.