

AUGUST 16, 2020

WELCOMING WORD *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?*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,

C: that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God;

C: let all the peoples praise you.

L: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

C: for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

OPENING HYMN #397 O Zion Haste (vs 1,2,3)

O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling,
to tell to all the world that God is light,
that he who made all nations is not willing
one soul should perish, lost in shades of night.

Refrain:

Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace;
tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.

Proclaim to every people, tongue, and nation
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
tell how he stooped to save his lost creation,
and died on earth that we might live above.

Refrain:

Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace;
tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.

Give of your own to bear the message glorious;
give of your wealth to speed them on their way;
pour out your soul for them in prayer victorious;
And hast the coming of the glorious day.

Refrain:

Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace;
tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin,

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: 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 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.

P: Beloved of God, by the 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 by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

INVOCATION

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: God of all peoples,

C: 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.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.⁶ And 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—⁷ these 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.⁸ Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

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.² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience,³¹ so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy.³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-28

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?"¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit."¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us."¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding?¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."²¹ Jesus left

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

SPECIAL MUSIC - Noah Strube

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

HYMN #433 The Church of Christ in Every Age

The Church of Christ in every age
Beset by change but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage
And keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street,
The victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for bread to eat,
And never live until they die.

Then let the servant Church arise,
A caring Church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,
And clothed in Christ's humanity.

SERVICE OF BEGINNING FOR INTERN TAMARA SIBURG

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER Of all the gifts which you have given us, we treasure your Holy Spirit, O God. In gratitude for guidance and discernment, we offer these tributes before you and ask your blessing. May our lives be a blessing to others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: Let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence

L: Lord, you gather the church to be part of your mission as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. As Jesus acknowledged the great faith of a woman from outside his people, help your church discover and find blessing in the faith of people we might overlook or reject. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You have blessed us with the bounty of the earth. Grant your grace to all creatures that the earth will flourish. Relieve waters choked by garbage; renew soils stripped of nutrients, and refresh the air that all creatures need to live. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You call the nations to be glad and sing for joy. Let your way be known among all the nations of the world, now divided by competing interests, contending alliances, and consumed by enormous worry. Bless us and make your face shine upon all. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You show unexpected mercy, kindness and generosity. We pray for those who do not have enough, for outcasts in our villages, cities and towns, and for those who need your strength and healing. *(especially ...)* Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: In you we live and move and have our being. Grant our congregation grace to find our life refreshed in you. Accompany us in the rhythms of each day. Give us rest and renewal, and strengthen us for mission in your name. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen

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. 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.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again*

CLOSING HYMN: #752 Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away
I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 16, 2020

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 87, The joy of living in Zion

Tuesday, Romans 11:13-29 Salvation for Gentiles and Israel

Wednesday, Matthew 8:1-13, Jesus Heals

Thursday, Psalm 138, Thanksgiving and Praise

Friday, Ezekiel 31:15-18, The lofty cedar

Saturday, Ezekiel 36:33-38, The Renewal of Israel

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." – Matthew 15:28 Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observance. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered a religious outsider approaches him for help.

- Have you ever felt like an 'outsider' in the midst of a community?
- Who might still feel excluded in our community?
- Have you ever doubted that Jesus' grace, love, and healing are for you?
- Have you extended that promise of love to those who might feel left out?

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.

BLESS: May Jesus focus your heart on the grace that leads to faith. Amen!

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Family and friends of Gary Schulz (brother of Randy Schulz) Gary passed away unexpectedly on August 8.

John Conrad (Kathy Conrad's son)

Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)

Makenzee Smith

Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)

Martha Hartman

Jeannie U'Ren

Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)

Irene Bruflat

Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)

Bill Steinhauer

Peter Toniazzo

Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)

Diane Pladziewicz

Nick Sydow (friend of Connie Curran's sons)

Delores Bryant

Brock Howe

Dorothy Jelle

Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)

Ruth Ann Nemet

Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)

Harlan Oimoen

Grace Aavang

Trevor Sayre (son of Tamie Reichert)

Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)

Service of Beginning

Presiding Minister: O God, who through the Holy Spirit illumines the mind and sanctifies the lives of those who are called to be pastors and teachers, look with favor upon the seminaries of our church in their efforts to instruct and discipline those who are to serve in the Sacred Ministry of your Church.

Bless your people in this congregation who by word and example aid your servant, Tamara, in learning to practice the principles of ministry that have been taught in seminary. Grant as we diligently work together, submitting ourselves in obedience to your Son and guided by your Spirit, that our lives may be enriched and our ministries fulfilled with joy -- to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Apostle Paul writes, "People have different gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them. There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served. God works through different people in different ways, but it is the same God who achieves God's purpose through them all." (1 Cor. 12:4-6)

It is the task of the intern, under the direction of the supervising pastor, to be fully involved in the life and work of ministry in this congregation, so that you may obtain experience in the practice of pastoral ministry. You are a learning colleague in this ministry.

Congregational leader: I ask you, Tamara, are you willing to assume your partnership in ministry here and will you seek under God's guidance to fulfill that ministry to God's glory? If so, answer, "I am ready. May God help and empower me in this ministry."

Intern: I am ready. May God help and empower me in this ministry.

Presiding Minister: It is your opportunity as members of this congregation to accept this intern as a worker within our congregational ministry, to invite and welcome Tamara into your stories, and in every way strengthen and encourage her in this year of service.

Congregational leader: Now I ask you, will you receive this servant of God as a laborer in the Gospel of Christ and uphold and support Tamara in every way? If so, answer, "Yes, with God's help."

Congregation: Yes, with God's help.

Presiding Minister: Almighty God, by whose call we are at work, bless and empower us in our minis- try together.

Let us pray: Almighty God, we ask you to bless this congregation, and to offer your continual help to those who labor in it in your love and service; grant us your spirit, power and wisdom, steadfastness of faith, and hope for all good things; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.