

WELCOMING WORD *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.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

C: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

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

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

L: Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

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

OPENING HYMN: #559 - O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (vs. 1, 2, 5)

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God, our comforter

C: like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help.

Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

L: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C: 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: Gracious God,

C: 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 LESSON: Isaiah 35:4-7a

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

SECOND LESSON: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

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

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37 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, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He 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.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So 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. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell

no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

SERMON HYMN: #448 (Green) *Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

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

God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.
Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need

A brief silence

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. (*Especially as we celebrate Labor/Labour Day,*) unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation (*especially...*) Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only 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. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN: #543 (Green) Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (vs. 1, 4)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE PRAY FOR Terri Hermann Meyer (Hazel Hermann's daughter). Ashley Van Galen, Mary Jane Ellis (friend of Bonny Kellogg), Kristin Swedlund-Twiton, Mike Mackler (friend of Char Smith), Connie Peterson, Bonnie Bender, Ginger Quadtree (Diane Mueller's cousin), Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag), Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg), Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Shirley Thompson, Brock Howe, Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith), Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher), Jeannie U'Ren, Ruth Ann Nemet, Mike Olson, Irene Bruflat, Connie Fausett, Bill Steinhauer, Harlan Oimoen, Peter Toniazzo, Grace Aavang, Carol Johnson

Our partner congregation IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R

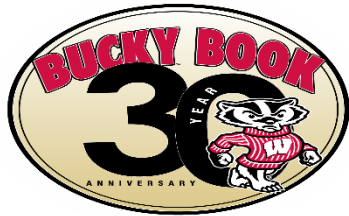
We Extend our Sympathies to the family & sister Kay Truman of Lori Wardell, who passed away on Thursday August 19th.

ELC COFFEE TIME Coffee Time meets on **Wednesdays at 10:00am**. Join us at ELC for time to gather and catch up with our church family.

SARAH CIRCLE Will meet at Brigham Park on Tuesday, **September 21st at 6 p.m.** Please bring your sandwich/supper. We will gather on the back side of the park to see the sunset as we visit.

ELC FAITH CONNECTION-Our ELC Group on Facebook, *ELC Faith Connection*, is for everyone of all ages. This summer, keep your eyes open for 'hearts' you notice in nature. Share your photos on our Facebook group and we will draw names for gift cards to our local community before school begins. #heartsinthewild. Contact Brenda, if you need help connecting.

COLLEGE ADDRESSES: With many of our young adults moving this fall, we are updating our contact information for graduates of ELC. Please email Brenda (brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org) with their address, phone and email. If they are attending a college, please list the college as well. For those attending UW Madison, UW Whitewater and UW Platteville, we share names and contacts with Lutheran Campus Ministry. They reach out to them, to help them with their faith journey.



BUCKY BOOKS '30' FOR SALE - Bucky Books are available after Sept 2nd! Our youth are fundraising for our two trips in the Summer of 2022. Pick up a copy after worship beginning Sept 12th. (Contact Brenda if you would like one before then). Each book sells for \$35.00. To celebrate 30 years of Bucky Books, each book will include a coupon on page 1 for an ABSOLUTELY FREE Coffee and Donut from Dunkin Donuts! Don't miss out on the new books and their amazing offers!



7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION BEGINNING - 7th & 8th graders (& parents too) will meet together on Sept 8th at 7:00 PM, outside on the ELC front lawn. Classes will be weekly, from 7 -8 pm, hybrid style.

7th & 8th graders REGISTER for confirmation, using the following link.

<https://forms.gle/cBeeZBssQz1sJz8S8>

9th GRADE CONFIRMATION -

Sept 7th at 7 pm (Tues) - Youth and their parents will meet on the ELC front lawn to check on their preparations for Confirmation.

2022 SUMMER YOUTH TRIPS REGISTRATION BEGINS- -YOUTH GATHERING, Mpls, MN - July 24 - 28, 2022

Early Registration begins for the Youth Gathering on September 22. 8th - 12th graders (this fall) are eligible to attend the Gathering. A trip of a lifetime!

-YOUTHWORKS MISSION TRIP, St Louis, MO - June 26-July 1st, 2022



SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS We will begin on Sept 19th, 9:30 am - 10:20 am, outside this fall. Youth, who are 3 years old - 8th grade is invited to participate. Even though plans may change a bit, our focus is always to provide fun opportunities to learn and grow in our faith together. Come and join us!

REGISTER FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL - Follow this link: <https://forms.gle/MNpkxPwfV1kRr9k7>

FUSE NIGHTS - 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group on **Tuesday, September 14 & 28, at 7 pm**, on the ELC front lawn.

Come on Sept 14th to meet our new Intern Joseph. Join us for an outdoor scavenger hunt and begin a Ping Pong competition with Joseph

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

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, Isaiah 38:10-20, Hezekiah's prayer

Tuesday, Hebrews 12:3-13, Don't grow weary

Wednesday, Matthew 17:14-21, Jesus Cures a Boy with a Demon

Thursday, Psalm 116:1-9, Thanksgiving for Recovery

Friday, James 2:17-26, Faith without Works is Dead

Saturday, Matthew 21:23-32, The Parable of the Two Sons

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: *"They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak." -Mark 7:37* In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles. Jesus seems hesitant to help the woman in the story, but then seems to see her

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

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 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48, A Confession of Israel's Sins

Tuesday, Deuteronomy 4:15-20, Moses Commands Obedience

Wednesday, Mark 7:9-23, The Tradition of the Elders

Thursday, Psalm 146, Praise for God's Help

Friday, Romans 2:12-16, God's Righteous Judgement

Saturday, Isaiah 33:1-9, A Prophecy of Deliverance

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: ²¹*For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder,* ²²*adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly.* ²³*All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."* Mark 7:21-23 Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart

Are outward pious practices always an indication of a faithful heart?

What traditions remain important to you?

What things did you use to do that don't seem important anymore?

PRAY: O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**