



Worship Program  
September 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Lectionary 23

## 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 Syrophoenician 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.

## Confession & Forgiveness    *\*Please stand if you are able.*

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

**C: Amen.**

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

*\*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: 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. Amen. 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.**

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

## 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.**

## Gathering Hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Hymn 733



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

### *Refrain*



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

## 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.**        *\*Please be seated.*

## 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.)*

WA: 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 word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalmody: Psalm 146

WA: 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.**

WA: 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.**

WA: 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.**

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

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

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

**C: 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.)*

WA: 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. The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

**"Alleluia"**(Setting 3, ELW pg.142)

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

## Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

*(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.)*

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

### **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: 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, 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

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

*\*Please be seated.*

Sermon – *Pastor David Bowman*

Hymn of the Day "**Will You Come and Follow Me**" v.1-3 Hymn  
798

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 "Will you come and follow me<br/>if I but call your name?<br/>Will you go where you don't know<br/>and never be the same?<br/>Will you let my love be shown,<br/>will you let my name be known,<br/>will you let my life be grown<br/>in you and you in me?</p>          | <p>3 "Will you let the blinded see<br/>if I but call your name?<br/>Will you set the pris'ners free<br/>and never be the same?<br/>Will you kiss the leper clean,<br/>and do such as this unseen,<br/>and admit to what I mean<br/>in you and you in me?</p> |
| <p>2 "Will you leave yourself behind<br/>if I but call your name?<br/>Will you care for cruel and kind<br/>and never be the same?<br/>Will you risk the hostile stare,<br/>should your life attract or scare?<br/>Will you let me answer pray'r<br/>in you and you in me?</p> |  |



## Apostles' Creed

**C: 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 power of 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

P: 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.

*\*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among people in conflict and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven.

Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

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

**C: Amen.**

### Sharing of the Peace

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

*\*After sharing of the peace, please be seated.*

### Offertory Song Hymn 692

**"We Are an Offering"**

## Offering Prayer

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

P: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## The Dialogue

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 our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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, Holy"** (Setting Three, ELW pg.144)

## Thanksgiving at the Table

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**C: Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

### Invitation to Communion

P: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

*\*Please be seated.*

**"Lamb of God"** (Setting Three, ELW pg.146)

### Special Music

"If We've Ever Needed You" Performed by Casting Crowns

### Prayer after Communion

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

## Blessing

P: God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **C: Amen.**

## Sending Hymn "Lift High The Cross" Hymn 660



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

## Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Readers/Communion Assistants

**Sept 7** Marsha Pauley

**Sept 8** VR READER

**Sept 14** \*\*Help Wanted\*\*

**Sept 15** \*\*Help Wanted\*\*

**Sept 21** Jack Weisbrodt

**Sept 22** Carter & Laura Bower

Ushers

**Sept 7** Tim & Kerri Moyer

**Sept 8** \*\*Help Wanted\*\*

**Sept 14** \*\* Help Wanted\*\*

**Sept 15** David & Missy Raho

**Sept 21** \*\*Help Wanted\*\*

**Sept 22** \*\*Help Wanted\*\*

Altar Guild

September – Gale Swartz, Wendy Mayket, Krista Miller

Worship Leader Schedule

**Sept 7/8** Pastor David Bowman

**Sept 14/15** Gary Mickle

**Sept 21/22** Pastor Ed DeVore



Come and join us for

# COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup> Starting at 8:15am



We are currently looking to form an **Emergency Response Team** here at Mt. Calvary. Members of our new Response Team will be trained church volunteers that will help provide protection and assistance to our congregation in case of any emergency. If you can help volunteer, please contact Ray Leverknight, or the church office.



ONE DAY ONLY - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024  
SHOP 8AM - 11PM

**DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:**

- 25% OFF DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS\*
- REGISTER TO WIN A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD  
One Winner at every Boscov's store

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION

Clothing

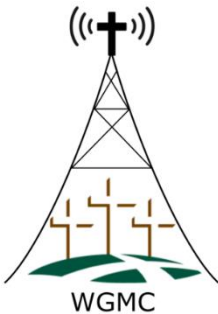


&



Our annual clothing and toy sale will be on **Saturday October 5 from 8am-12pm.**

We are now accepting donations during church office hours.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

WGMC will be collecting donations for **Blanket Sunday on September 28 & 29.**

*You can also donate NEW blankets that are 60 x 80 or standard twin size.*

Envelopes will also be available in the narthex.

