

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 8th, 2024 – 9:30 AM

WELCOME



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.

- ✝ Preacher – Reverend Wes Smith
- ✝ Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider

WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN 1: Forever

Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever --sing praise--sing praise

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
sing praise--sing praise--sing praise--sing praise

Chorus

From the rising to the setting Sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God, we will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing, praise --sing praise--sing praise--sing praise

Chorus

OPENING HYMN 2: Here I am to Worship

1. Light of the world You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You.

Here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.

2. King of all days You're so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon the cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon the cross

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CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **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. 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.**

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. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day - 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. **Amen.**

GOD'S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: 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; ⁶then 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; ^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 146

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

³Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

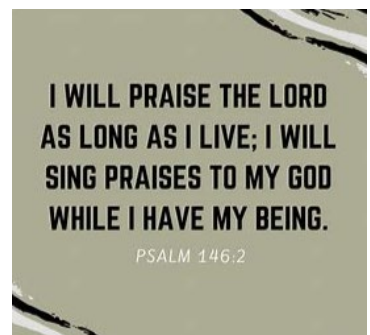
⁴**When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**



⁹The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**



HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Mark 7:24 - 37; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

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,²⁵ but 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.

³¹Then 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."

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

SERMON – Reverend Wes Smith

HYMN OF THE DAY: Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer, There is no more for Heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom, My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, "all is mine", Yet not I but through Christ in me.
2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken, For by my side the Savior He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, For in my need His power is displayed.
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won and I shall overcome, Yet not I but through Christ in me.

3. No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven, The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated, Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing "I am free". Yet not I but through Christ in me.
4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus, For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day, I know He will renew me Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, All the glory evermore to Him When the race is
complete, still my lips shall repeat. Yet not I but through Christ in me.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- ✝ At this time, we would like to also recognize those joining us via FaceBook Live, and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests submitted for our worship.

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. *A brief silence.*

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Grace those from our families and community in greatest need of our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud).* Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Almighty God, As we come before you with our offerings, we are reminded of our constant need for you in our lives. You are our provider, our sustainer, and our strength. Without you, we are nothing. May these gifts be a symbol of our dependence on you, acknowledging that all we have comes from your hand. Help us to rely on you more fully in every aspect of our lives, trusting in your unfailing love and care. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus the Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages, to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.

He fulfilled all your will. He stretched out his hands in suffering, in order to free from suffering those who trust in you. As he was born to die, you raised him from death to life, so that we too know that we shall be raised from death to life.

We therefore remember that he took bread, and after giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And in the same way, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. And unto that time, we come before you praying;

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

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

COMMUNION HYMN 1: Glorify Thy Name

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|--|---|
| 1. Father we love You,
We worship and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth. | 3. Spirit we love You
We worship and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth. |
| 2. Jesus we love You
We worship and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth. | |



COMMUNION HYMN 2: You Sat Down at the Right Hand

You sat down (You sat down)... at the right hand (at the right hand)
Of the Father (of the Father)... in majesty
You sat down (You sat down)... at the right hand (at the right hand)
Of the Father (of the Father)... in majesty
You are crowned (You are crowned)... Lord of all (Lord of all)
You are faithful and righteous and true
You're my master (You're my master)... You're my owner (You're my owner)
And I love serving You

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Closing Prayer - 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. **Amen.**

Blessing – The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: Great are Your Works

- 1) Your works Lord (Your works Lord)
Are Awesome (Are Awesome)
Your Power (Your Power), Is Great (x2)

Chorus

- 2) You will Reign (You will Reign)
Forever (Forever)
In Power (In Power), You will Reign (x2)

Chorus

- 3) Because of (Because of)
Your Greatness (Your Greatness)
All the Earth (All the Earth) Will Sing (x2)

Chorus

Chorus:

Great are Your Works Lord,
Great are Your Deeds,
Awesome in Power, So Awesome to Me

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Dismissal: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Notes:
