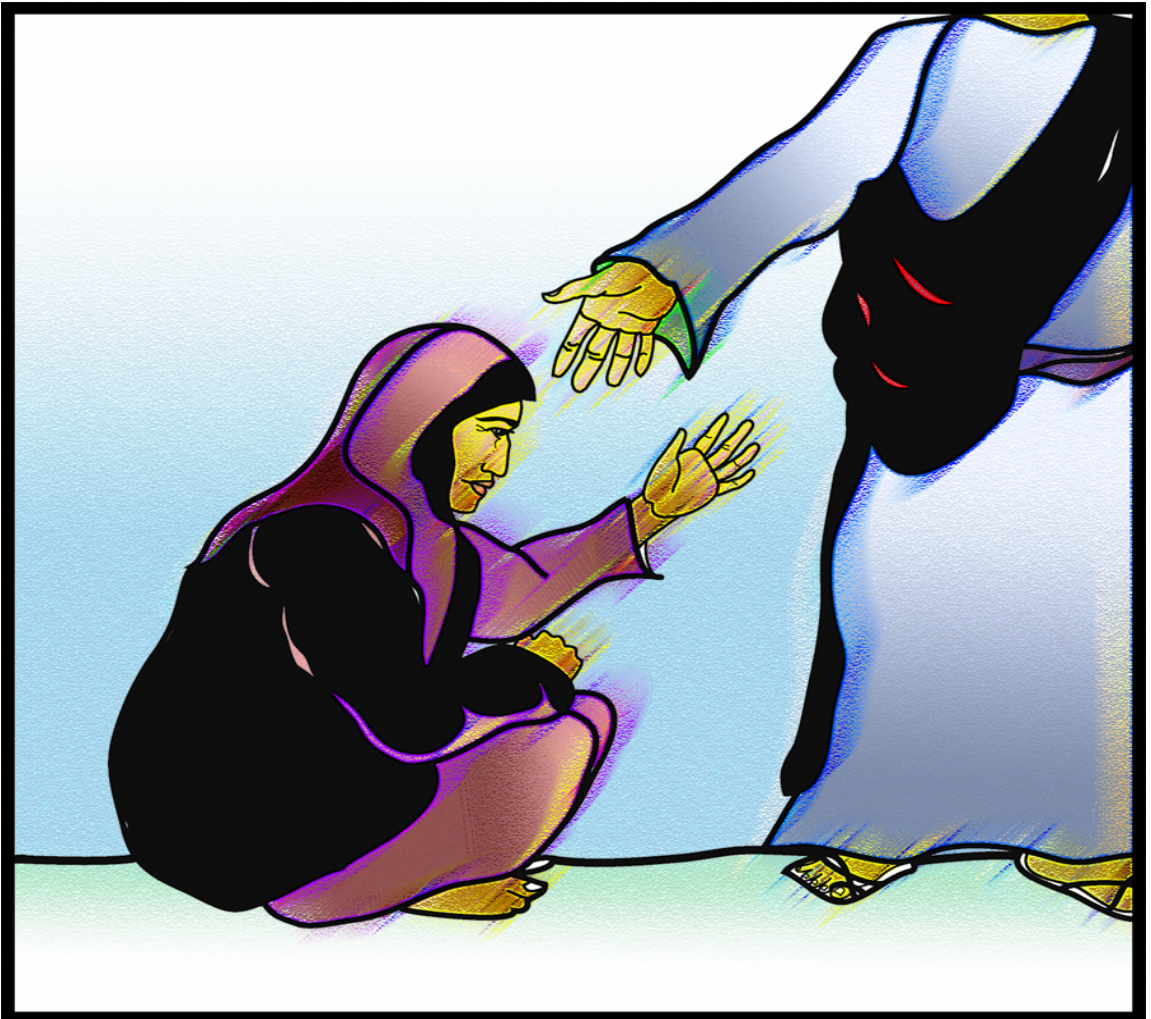


*10:45 Celebration Worship
Service & Fall Kick-Off
Church Picnic*



September 8, 2024

September 8, 2024 The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Please stand

GATHERING HYMN

Here I Am to Worship

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

Refrain So here I am to worship Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

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

Refrain

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross **Refrain**

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.**

P You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C **a people holy to the Lord our God.**

P Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

C **Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**

P One does not live by bread alone,

C **but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. 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

Psalm 146

¹Hal- | lelujah!

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 re- | turn to earth,
and in that day | their thoughts perish.**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob¹ for their help,
whose hope is in the¹ LORD their God;
⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that¹ is in them;**
who keeps promis-¹es forever;
⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to¹ those who
hunger.

The LORD sets the¹ captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those
who¹ are bowed down;**
the LORD¹ loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares¹ for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way¹ of the
wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall¹ reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.¹ Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

James 2:1-10, 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.

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. 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.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

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 St. Mark the 7th Chapter.

C 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, 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.

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.”

P The gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

MESSAGE

Pastor D & Donkey

Please Remain Seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Cornerstone

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly trust in Jesus' Name

Refrain Christ alone cornerstone weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm He is Lord Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil

Refrain

When He shall come with trumpet sound Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone Faultless stand before the throne

Refrain

Please Stand

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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 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.**

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C **pray in the Holy Spirit.**

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C **look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C **Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



Members of Our Congregation: Larry Angerer, Bob Brown, Don Cool, and Mason Erwin.

Friends of the Congregation: Shirley Beachell, Antoinette Newton Bright, Chris Dukes, Wayne Ford, Kathy Freese, Cullen Gaston, Bill Gilbert, Jim Gleason, Naziha & Abraham Hanna, Tyler Kreiter, & Family, Carol Krone, Rich Mihm, Josie Minnich, Emily Padamonsky, Dan Rovelstad, John Spagnoletti, Regina Spagnoletti, Susie Spagnoletti, Tony Stoops, William Swetcharnik, Sherry Toomey, Rennie Tressler, Joe Vance, Sue Vance, and Mrs. Viscusi. Please Pray for the U.S. Presidential Inauguration in Jan. 2025, a prayer for safety and protection for all candidates and for all U.S. voters. Please pray for the state of Georgia, those were are grieving and involved in the school shooting.

(Names will be posted for a month. If you would like to have them on longer, please contact the church office.)

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.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

Mighty to Save

Ev'ryone needs compassion, love that's never failing.
Let mercy fall on me.
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior.
The hope of nations.

Chorus Savior, He can move the mountains,
My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save
Forever, Author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me, all my fears and failures.
Fill my life again.
I give my life to follow, ev'rything I believe in.
Now I surrender. **Chorus**

Shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King. Jesus.
Shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King. **Chorus (2 times)**

Shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King. Jesus.
Shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

CCLI Song # 4591782 Ben Fielding | Reuben Morgan
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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Love One Another
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. JOHN 13:34



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sound System	Mark Reed
Greeters	Sean & Becky McDonald (W) Allison Devlin (C)
Children's Message	Donkey
Flower Delivery	Chuck & Teresa Morningstar
Ushers	Team D



*In memory of
Mary Jane Kline on her birthday
By
her daughter Karen*



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Karen Walker: Contemporary Worship Team Leader
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Emily Cordell: Nursery Caretaker