



Milton Lutheran Parish

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church – 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 – 570-742-7473

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – 100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 – 570-742-4601

<https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>

Deacon Gary Schaeffer, Interim Pastor

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Parish,

In our Gospel text for this week we hear the story of the Canaanite woman who asks Jesus to heal her daughter. Despite Jesus' unwillingness to help her, the woman persists and convinces Jesus to heal her daughter. He sends her on her way and tells her that she has 'great faith'. (Matthew 15: 21-28)

This text has me asking so many questions. Why did Jesus refuse to help her? What does it mean to have great faith in the midst of oppression? What does this mean for all of us? For me, this text is a reminder of Jesus' humanity. That Jesus was both fully human and fully divine. And, in his humanity he sometimes did things that didn't make sense. It's a reminder for all of us that even the son of God can grow, change, and learn.

My prayer for all of us this week that we remain open to the ways in which we are being challenged to grow, change, and learn. It's a lifelong process. Even Jesus was challenged with his faith, and through those challenges he was able to demonstrate the love of God in new and meaningful ways.

As we gather this week you are invited to join us either online through our parish website <http://miltonlutheranparish.faith> or through Facebook for bible study and online worship. Or you can join us in person for parking lot worship @ Christ from 6:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

You can reach me anytime through e-mail or on my cell phone at schaeffer0319@gmail.com or (845) 636-0194.

Many Blessings,

Gary



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Sunday, August 16, 2020, Worship Bulletin Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Milton Lutheran Parish- Milton, PA

Welcome to Parking Lot Worship Today!

As we gather for worship, here are some procedures and guidelines for our time together:

1. Tune in your car to FM 87.9 for the audio of the service.
2. For communion we will begin with a word of prayer and the blessing of the elements, followed by an invitation to take communion.
3. You are welcome to sing the hymns if you remain in your car. If you are outside, we ask that you refrain from singing unless you are a minimum of 25 feet from others.
4. The ushers will collect offering before and after the service at the entrances and exits of the parking lot.

Welcome and Announcements

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Opening Hymn: # 858- “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Confession and Forgiveness

P- Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

P- Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

C- Reconciling God,

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 good 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.

Beloved of God,

by the radical 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 through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1,6-8

¹Thus says the LORD:

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

Psalm: Psalm 67 (read responsively)

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a,29-32

Paul writes: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. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Gospel: Matthew 15:10-28

¹⁰Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the

stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just 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.” ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Sermon

Hymn: #650-“In Christ There Is No East or West”

Apostles Creed

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed.

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

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 reject. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

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, **hear our prayer.**

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

In you we live and move and have our being. Grant our congregation (name) grace to find our life refreshed in you. Accompany us in the rhythms of late summer. Give us rest and renewal, and strengthen us for mission in your name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your eternal promises are more than we could ever imagine. As you gather all the saints, join us also with them on the great day of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Communion

Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: #886 "Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Home Devotional- August 16, 2020

Introduction

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. 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? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.



Prayer of the Day

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.**

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

A house of prayer for all peoples

Psalm 67

Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter

Questions for Reflection

1. What do you imagine Joseph's brothers were thinking as he revealed his identity to them? (Gen 45:1-15)
2. How is the presence of plentiful oil, like that of an ordination, a symbol of spiritual unity? (Psa 133)
3. What does it mean for God to imprison us in disobedience? How do we find freedom? (Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32)

Pray the Lord's Prayer Together

Bless one another saying:

May God bless you this week and always. AMEN

Resources:

Opening prayer: Sundaysandseasons.com - Questions- Workingpreacher.org