



**The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 16, 2020**

The following worship service may be used on its own or along with the video found on the Swamp Lutheran YouTube page.

Thank you, Lord of life, for this beautiful summer day! May all who worship here know the warmth of your presence and the sunlight of your love.

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.

Hymn "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (Verses 1 & 4) ELW 858

- 1 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!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.
- 4 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!

The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Let us pray:

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.

First Reading Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

[¹⁰[Jesus] 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

If we tell the truth, we all are among the disobedient, as Paul so clearly says. We also are rightly among the foreigners, standing with the outsider woman, begging for help. We too are the dogs, with no right to the bread. But God holds all together in mercy, the ancient covenant people of the Jews but also those of us from the many peoples who have been gathered by the Lord. From Isaiah, from Paul, and from the Gospel according to Matthew, Christians have been learning the humility of the woman: “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs.” Because of his cross and resurrection, Jesus Christ makes bread available to all the peoples, including us — the bread of the eucharist when we can gather, but always the bread of his healing word. And so we come to see our neighbor in a stunning new way: another needy person beside us, under God’s mercy.

Homily The Rev. Kurt Strause

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends “Lord, in your mercy,” and the response is “**Hear our prayer.**”

Lord’s Prayer

Let us pray together

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace;

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (Verses 1, 3, 5) ELW 886

- 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!
- 3 The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.
- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world bearing the Good News of Christ in word and deed.

Thanks be to God.

The Sanctuary Candle today is presented in loving memory of her husband, Raymond Reitz, by Josie Reitz.



Our sincere condolences to the family of John Nicholas. John passed August 1st at home. His services were held August 5th. Interment in Swamp Cemetery.

Calling all talent. Singers, musicians or any talent you want to share. We are putting together a Mid Year Night of Music. This will be a virtual event. You can video yourself or arrange a time to come to church to have us video you. After we get all the videos together we will post a link on Youtube.

Contact us at webmaster@swamplutheran.org with your ideas to let us know what you plan to do or if you need help.



Sue Kittler
Thomas Beck
Lori Gockley
Jim and Mary Jane Miller
The Family of John Nicholas
Jean Wolf
Doris Kopp
Don Risser
Susan Levan
Barbara Mizdail
Ray Showalter
Nancy Kulp

When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.



Michael Crowther
Clarice Haws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer
Henry Rehlich
Ella Shirk
Alverta Showalter
Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel