

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
454 Miller Street Pembroke, Ontario
Office (613)732-8792 Pastor Scott Schellenberger (705)313-0333**

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost –September 5, 2021

Setting Three - Evangelical Lutheran Worship p. 138

**All page numbers are found in the front part of the hymnal and hymns
are found in the back.**

Prelude

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Anishnabeg and Algonquin People.

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 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 Hymn #858 ELW – *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

Greeting - Page 138

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

And also with you.

Kyrie– Page 138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Canticle of Praise – Page 140

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever.

Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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.

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!**

Second Reading—James 2:1-17

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. ¹¹For 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. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *Page 142*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.

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 our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon - Proper 23 B

Zion, Pembroke

Sept 5, 2021

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen

Martin Luther called the Epistle of James an “epistle of straw.” I can understand his reasoning. The church of his day needed to hear the good news that we are saved by grace through faith, not by our works or effort. The message of the Epistle of James is that “faith without works is dead.” That message seems to contradict Luther’s message.

A deeper reading of both Luther and the Epistle of James shows that they are not contradictory. Luther said, “Faith is not idle knowledge, but a thing that receives the Holy Spirit and justifies us.” (Formula of Concord, pg. 121.99)

Luther also said that faith “frees us from death, brings forth a new life in our hearts, and is a work of the Holy Spirit.” (Formula of Concord, pg. 161.64)

Luther describes faith as an active power within us, a power that changes us, transforms us to be more and more like Jesus, transforms us to obey God’s commands, a power that gives us new life in Christ, a power that justifies us and leads us to salvation.

That kind of faith results in good works, or pushes us to do good works. That power within us will not allow us to sit idly by and do nothing when our neighbour is in need. That faith will not let us rest until we have done all that we can do for our neighbour.

All of that aligns very well with the message of the Epistle of James. For James, faith is not a set of facts that we carry in our head; faith is action.

If you see someone who is naked and without food, and you offer only kind words, that person is still naked and hungry. Our kind words haven't changed that person's situation. But food and clothing would help. And then, doing what you can to help the person find a job would do even more to change his/her situation.

That is not normal human behaviour, that is faith in action. Normal human behaviour is to look after ourselves and our needs first, and let others look after themselves.

Jesus calls us out of "normal, sinful behaviour" to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. If we have a coat and our neighbour doesn't, we give our coat to our neighbour, and trust that God will provide what we need to replace the coat we gave away. Or if our neighbour lacks food, we give him/her food, and trust that God will enable us to have enough food for ourselves. Faith includes action, or even more, faith is action. So is love. Faith that does not include action is dead. Using Luther's words, faith is power within us.

That power doesn't come from within us, it comes from the Holy Spirit. Both faith and the Holy Spirit are God's gifts to us. We do not earn or deserve either of them, but we can resist or refuse them.

Over time, if we repeatedly refuse to follow the prompting of our faith or of the Holy Spirit to help someone in need, eventually that prompting will fade away to nothing. Our faith will be dead. We will be like most unbelievers who only serve their own needs and wants.

The real point I am making is that faith does not flow out of a vacuum. It flows out of our relationship with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God doesn't simply pour faith in to us. He provides situations and circumstances that test our faith or enable our faith to grow.

I can't see into your hearts or lives, so I can't speak to your situation; I can only speak to my own. My faith has grown in leaps and bounds as I have learned to trust situations and circumstances to God and let Him show me what He can do.

I have learned by experience that God's timing and God's ways are not my timing or my ways. I want prayers answered and things done immediately. I have learned that God does not share my sense of urgency.

Sometimes I trust a situation to God, but then want to take it back, or offer God some help in getting the situation moving in the direction I would like it to go.

Neither of those help my faith to grow. My faith grows as I learn to wait patiently, focus on God, watch and listen for direction from Him. Sometimes God provides specific direction, things that I need to do; other times I simply need to pray, watch and listen. God does all the work and I am amazed by what He accomplishes.

I get to know God by regularly reading my Bible – that tells me who God is and how He relates to people; what God likes, what He dislikes, and how I can please and serve Him.

That knowledge about God leads me to do as Psalm 34 suggests, “taste and see that the Lord is good.” Trust God, trust a situation to Him and let Him show you what He can do.

The bible says that God is trustworthy, keeps His promises, loves me so much that He sent His Son Jesus to pay the price of my sin so that I can receive eternal life through my faith in Jesus.

Another message is that God is life and gives life. We receive that life through our relationship with God.

The more I learn to trust situations and circumstances to God, the more I have come to realize that all of what I just highlighted is true. Everything God does is for our benefit, although that isn't always obvious, especially when He doesn't follow our timetable or doesn't act according to our expectations.

But when I do leave a situation in God's hands, and am willing to accept whatever outcome He desires, I am blown away by what He accomplishes. Living by faith is never a losing proposition, although there may be times when it may seem so. We look around at what others are able to have and enjoy, and we see ourselves doing without some of those. But we still have enough; we still have much that we are able to do and enjoy.

We have a relationship with our God who loves us and who will never forsake us; we have our family and friends; we have our church family who will share our burdens with us, and who will celebrate our joys with us too. And we have our faith in our God who will carry us through anything that life sets before us. God, and our faith can carry us through any circumstances

because we know the end of our story – eternal life in God’s Kingdom, with our Lord, and with those who have gone before us.

Our faith is not dead. It is a gift of the Holy Spirit; it is God’s power living within us. It empowers and enables us to love God and our neighbour; it gives us new life in Christ; it justifies us; it saves us. Amen.

Hymn of the Day #396 ELW – “*Spirit of Gentleness*”

Apostles’ Creed– Page 105

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

Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. (*Especially as we celebrate Labor/Labour Day,*) unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be always with you

C: And also with you.

Offering

Please place offerings on the plate as you leave the church or feel free to drop off your envelopes at the church and you can also e-transfer offerings.

Offertory Hymn 884 ELW Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 144)

Let us pray.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 (ELW p. 144)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p.145)

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, **Father**, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p.145)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 (ELW P.146)

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Communion Hymns #466 ELW – *“In the Singing”*

#617 ELW – *“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”*

Post Communion Prayer (ELW p. 146)

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body of blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord + look upon you with peace. **Amen.**

Hymn #596 ELW – “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

Sending

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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News and Announcements:

Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special Prayers: Florence Felske, Jason Godin, Richard Hubert, Stanley Kubiseskie, Heather Miller, Vince Rabishaw, Amy Recoskie (*granddaughter of Mae Schizkoske*), Aileen Roesler, Kaitlyn Vaillancourt, Dorian Verch, Ryan, Joan Schimmens.

RE-OPENING FOR IN-PERSON SERVICE – SINGING AGAIN!

We ask that you follow the Covid guidelines of social distancing of 2 metres and wearing of masks. **Entering Phase 3 we can sing again!** Masks must be worn while singing.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES REGISTRATION AND ORIENTATION MEETING

Do you have children who are confirmation age (12-14)? There will be a meeting following worship at **11:30am on September 19.** A new

confirmation class will be starting in the fall. The confirmation program will include regular classes, fun youth activities, and a year-end week-long camp experience with confirmands of other churches. If you or your children are interested, please contact the church office or Pastor Scott 705-313-0333 to talk more.

CAMP LUTHERLYN SUNDAY

We are excited to announce that we will be holding our Rally Sunday morning service at Camp Lutherlyn on Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 10am. Please bring a bagged lunch.

INSTALLATION SERVICE OF PASTOR SCOTT

Join us for Pastor Scott's installation service on Sunday, September 26th 2021 at 3:00pm. Once again, anyone wishing to attend this service will need to pre-register by calling the church office (613-732-8792), or emailing the church office at zionoffice@nrtco.net. The last date to register will be Thursday, September 23rd. Not only will we worship together on this joyous occasion, but we will also have fellowship in the parish hall following the service.

ZLW NEWS

The ZLW are collecting school supplies for children who may not have what they need. Simply bring them in and put them in the foodbank box - HB Pencils, Large glue sticks, Coloured pencil crayons. Pens (blue or black ink). White glue. Highlighter pens. Geometry set. Waxed crayons Washable markers Metric ruler Erasers 3-ringed lined paper. Also, the ZLW are again gathering donations for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Please consider giving. The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement for justice, peace, and reconciliation led *by* Christian women *for* women and girls all over the world.

MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

Rev. Stephen and Mrs. Jan Scheidt are pleased to announce the marriage of their youngest son, Neal to Kyla Ferrell on Saturday, September 4th in St. George, ON. After a honeymoon in Alberta, the happy couple plan to move into their new home in Burford, ON in early October. Thanks be to God!

GARAGE SALE

We are still planning to have our garage sale this fall sometime so if you have anything to donate please save it for us. If you want you can bring your donations over during office hours and Jean or Kevin can show you where to put them. The tentative date is Saturday, October 16, 2021.

ELCIC BIBLE BOOK CLUB

Each of the past two years the ELCIC has worked through the theme Living our Faith. Year 1 focused on Prayer, last year Read, this year Worship, and the next year Love. Because so many people loved the Bible Book Study study they have extended the program into the fall of 2021. This month we will read the book of Ephesians and answer the questions. To hear an invitation from National Bishop Susan Johnson invites you to engage in a year of reading the Bible!

<https://www.elcic.ca/livingourfaith/biblebookclub.cfm> The questions are also at <https://www.elcic.ca/livingourfaith/documents/BibleBookClub-SEPT2021-Ephesians.pdf>. This starts at 5pm on September 16 at the church.

SERVICE BROADCAST ON COGECO

Cogeco Community Channel is now broadcasting Zion's services at 9:00 a.m. and 12:30pm (if it is not on at 12:30, it will be on at 1:30pm) on Sunday mornings a week later.

UPDATES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Scott will be available at the church office during regular office hours – Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00am to 12:00 noon. Pastor Scott is available for visits. The church office phone number is 613-732-8792 or call Pastor Scott's cell phone at 705-313-0333

Today's Video Has Been Brought To You By Zion Lutheran Church's Production Crew:

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