

# Salem Lutheran Church

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## SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 ~ SEASON OF PENTECOST LECTIONARY 23

*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 Syrophoenician 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 & WELCOME

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

#### GREETING

The grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And, also with you.**

#### 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.**

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### WORD

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

<sup>4</sup>Say 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.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then 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;  
<sup>7</sup><sup>a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

**PSALMODY: Psalm 146** *We read responsively by whole verse*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

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

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers,  
in mortals in whom there is no help.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17**

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For 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, <sup>3</sup>and 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," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, 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? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all

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

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and 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? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>[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, <sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He 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.” <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They 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 given to you. **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

### **MESSAGE**

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*All People That On Earth Do Dwell*

ELW 883 vs 1 & 5

All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;  
come ye before him and rejoice.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
the God whom heav'n and earth adore,  
from us and from the angel host  
be praise and glory evermore.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594

Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

Tune Name: Old Hundredth

Public Domain

## **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.

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL BLESSING**

*Let us pray,*

Jesus, we believe you are present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We love You above all things and we desire to receive You into our souls. Since we cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace You as You are already there, and because of You we are united with You in death and in life. Never permit us to be separated from You. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

**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.**

### **BLESSING**

People of God,

you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, † one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*\*\*\*ANNOUNCEMENTS\*\*\*\*\***

**Altar Flowers** are given by Sarah Keller to the glory of God.

**We give thanks** to you Salem Choir for leading us in music! And, we give thanks for Cathy Hoefler and the gift of music she adds to the worship service.

**Our Daily Bread** ~ 24 casseroles were delivered for the month of August. Thank you for caring for the less fortunate and for your generosity.

**September 12 – Celebration of God’s Work Our Hands - Grandparents and Church Picnic Sunday!** More details about this day are in September’s Newsletter. Check the Picnic sign-up list in Narthex today and also the Personal Care Kit basket.

**September 19 - Rally Day & Backpack Blessing & Ice Cream**

**Mason Dixon Food Pantry** ~ Thank you for donating non-perishable food items for folks in the community. The collection bin is located under the coat rack in the Narthex. Thank you Sarah for delivering the food items!

**Interested in online giving to Salem and her ministries?** Check out Salem’s website

**Salem’s Fall Craft Fair and Flea Market** is slated for Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Contact Lynn Cox. Signup sheet is in the narthex

**Want to spread encouragement?** Let’s send notes / cards of care to:

Sterling Care Riverside  
**C/O Charles Phoebus**  
1123 Belcamp Garth ~ Room 219A\* Note room change  
Belcamp, MD 21017

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:** The family and friends of John Dorsett, Paul Faust, David, Mila & Maddox, Mary Anne Hollman, Mary Jane Fignisky, Ray Hebert, Daisy Lukens, Steve Awalt, Tony Garner, Ed Insel, Jumela Beecher, Lauren, John Dorsett, Cathy Preston, Elfriede Kiesling, Lance Graham, Debbie Connor, Judy Newsome, baby Diana, Gloria Mallard, Brent Przychoda, Cathy Marowski, Georgia Coleman, Cindy Miller, Charlie Phoebus, Austin Phoebus (military), Deana Vanhart, Faith LeBrun, Howard Kramer, James Rickman, Thelma Preisinger, Brenda Baker, Donna Glorioso, John Bragg, Pr. Dick Kiesling, Donna Miller, Bruce Greer, Debbie McDonald, Michelle Harshman, Lisa Barwick, Nick Carmichael, Walt Karoll, Marianna Putnam, Dawn Weaver, Joan Burleigh, Donald Rembert, Betty Burnet, Carrie Claus, Dorothy Long, Bailey Law, Pr. Myers, Maurice Grove, Nancy Roschli, Margaret Shank, Jim McNicholas, Joan & John Kusick, Robin Sealover, Kaidyn Jamison, Margret Krebbal, Frank Gailitz, Dolly Suiratt, Talu Elvove Arikan, Joyce Craig, Kattie Hale, Ray Morrison, Nicole Phelps, Kim Scott, Natalie Szparza, Pat Ward, Curtis Waters, Jason Whitney, Karen Wiley, Nick Wingate, and Jeanie Z., Will & Bernadine Boyce, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Bill Gohl.

*Contact Lynn Cox or Pastor with updates to prayer list.*

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