

An evening setting of Holy Communion



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday, September 8, 2018

5:30 pm

Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

Pentecost 16

Interims: The Reverend Larry Hoover and Bishop Emeritus Gregory Pile

Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994

www.stdavidslutheran.org

Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected with the offering.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

Prayer Requests may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

For your comfort there is a restroom, equipped with a changing table and supplies and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

Devotional – The worship folder you are holding is also a weekly devotional booklet. The prayers and Scripture readings are appropriate for use at any time during the week. The liturgy itself is a Scripturally based order for daily prayer and devotion with Scriptural references noted where they apply. Even the hymns are appropriate tools for prayer and praise. Finally, there is a daily lectionary of Scripture readings for the rest of the week on the last printed page.

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 her or his need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel/Sit

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

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.

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

GREETING

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

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

A reading from Isaiah the 35th chapter.

{These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.}

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 (read responsively)

I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2)

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!

All: I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2)

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

A reading from James the 2nd chapter.

{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. [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.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark the 7th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

{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.}

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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

Together we confess our faith:

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you call your church to proclaim the love of Christ to a needy world. Embolden us to be your risen body by welcoming strangers and serving our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creative God, small sprouts and tall trees proclaim your majesty. Give us clear eyes to see nature's beauty and wise minds to protect our home, this earth, from misuse and harm. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you draw order from chaos. Watch over the nations of the world. Bless citizens and leaders who strive toward the beloved community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you give us all that we need. When your children suffer from hunger, poverty, loneliness, persecution, injury, or illness, send generous helpers and companions. We pray especially for Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Welcoming God, you set a table for us. Embolden this congregation to seek new ways of inviting others to the feast of all creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You bless us with throngs of saints who witness to your compassion. With gratitude, we recall the lives and deeds of those who proclaim lovingkindness to a needy world (*including Peter Claver, priest and missionary*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you.

Peace be with you.

Please be seated, while the table is set.

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God,

you open wide your hand

and satisfy the need of every living thing.

You have set this feast before us.

Open our hands to receive it.

Open our hearts to embrace it.

Open our lives to live it.

We pray this through Christ our Lord.

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 him thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

All glory to you, Almighty God, heavenly Father:

out of Your great love for us You gave Your only Son Jesus,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have
eternal life.

It was your Son Jesus

who freely surrendered Himself to suffer death
on the cross for us and for our salvation.

There, on that cross,

He willingly offered Himself up as a full,
perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

By that gift of love and grace

we are your people,
born of water and word,
served, fed, and forgiven at your Holy Table
and called together by Your Holy Spirit.

Therefore we offer ourselves

as disciples who follow
as witnesses to the world
and as living memory of His gift of grace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son our Lord.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

On 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 many
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us:

as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son our Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

THE 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.

LAMB OF GOD

**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, grant us peace.**

The assembly is seated.

The Holy Communion is distributed with these or similar words:

The body of Christ, given for you

The blood of Christ, shed for you

Following the Holy Communion the congregation stands:

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus Christ, host of this meal,
you have given us not only this bread and cup,
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.

Filled again by these signs of your grace,
may we hunger for your reign of justice,
may we thirst for your way of peace,
for you are Lord forevermore.

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.

Amen.

QUIET MEDITATION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 9, 2018

Jesus Said What?

We like to believe we are insiders when it comes to knowing Jesus. We self-identify as Christians. We go to church, have Bibles in our homes, and maybe wear crosses around our necks. If any Bible story could cause us to question our judgment about following Jesus, today's gospel is it. Scholars and preachers have tried to soften the word—dog—that Jesus chooses to refer to the Syrophenician woman's daughter, but Jesus didn't choose a soft word. He didn't wink as he said it or intend for it to be heard as a pet name. The word he chose wasn't any nicer then than it is now.

We like to believe that, as insiders, knowing Jesus means we are like Jesus and that calling ourselves Christians means that, ultimately, we are good, righteous, deserving people.

If any story about Jesus could cause us to challenge and scrutinize our own behavior, question our own sense of what is acceptable, and make us rethink our entitlements—today's gospel is it. Jesus doesn't act like Jesus when he calls people derogatory names, treats them as outsiders, or denies them help—and neither do we.

After Jesus tells the Syrophenician woman that the demon is gone from her daughter, he encounters a man with a hearing problem and a speech impediment. Coincidence? Not in Mark's gospel. As Jesus heals the man, he uses the word *Ephphatha*, which means "Be opened." If Mark hadn't just told us about the Syrophenician woman, the only things being opened here would be the man's ears and tongue. But Mark included her story to show Jesus incorporating her into his own story. Because Jesus acts like Jesus when he's open to those on the outside—and so do we.

Daily Readings for the Week September 9-15

Sunday:	Isaiah 35:4-7a Psalm 146 James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17 Mark 7:24-37
Monday:	Isaiah 38:10-20 Joshua 6:1-21 Hebrews 11:29—12:2
Tuesday:	Isaiah 38:10-20 Joshua 8:1-23 Hebrews 12:3-13
Wednesday:	Isaiah 38:10-20 Judges 15:9-20 Matthew 17:14-21
Thursday:	Psalm 116:1-9 Joshua 2:1-14 Hebrews 11:17-22
Friday:	Psalm 116:1-9 Joshua 2:15-24 James 2:17-26
Saturday:	Psalm 116:1-9 Joshua 6:22-27 Matthew 21:23-32

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