



Sunday, September 8, 2024  
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
St. James Lutheran Church

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,  
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us  
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first**

**we make distinctions among ourselves.**

**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.**

**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.**

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,  
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,**

**our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity  
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ,

the source of eternal healing,

your sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

**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.

# ENTRANCE HYMN: "Precious Lord Take My Hand" (WOV 731)

## 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



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

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

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

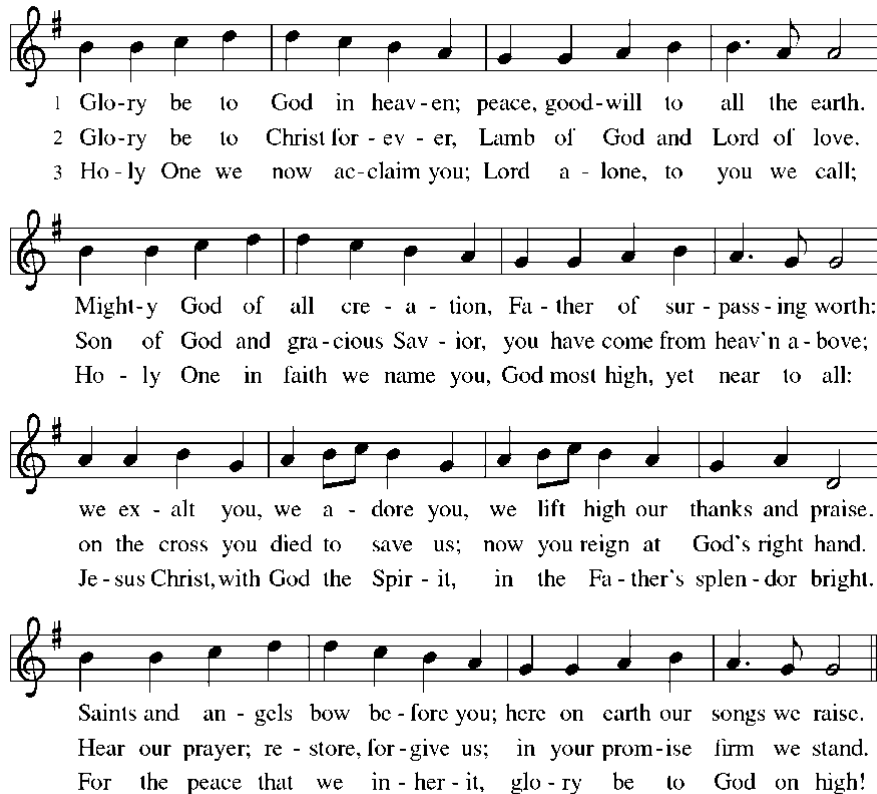
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. ☩ A - - men

## HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;

Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.

Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

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.

## FIRST READING:

*These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 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.*



### 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>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground

springs of water.

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 146

<sup>1</sup>Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;

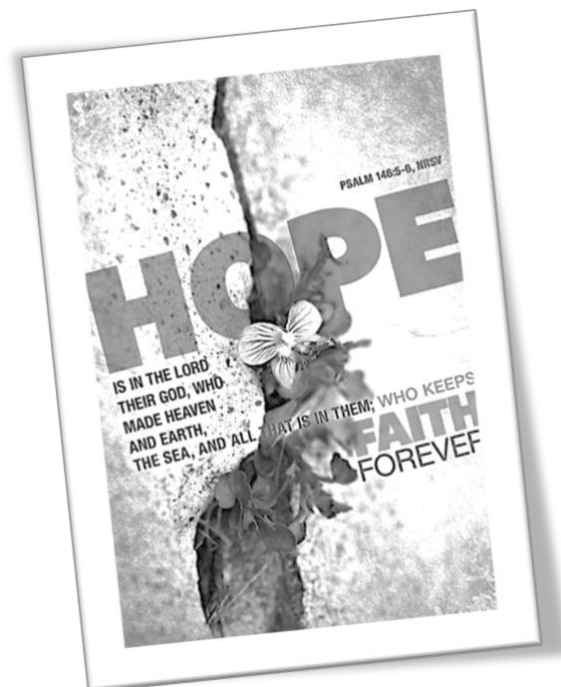
I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

<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 re- | turn 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 promis- | es forever;



<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to <sup>1</sup> those who hunger.

The LORD sets the <sup>1</sup> captive free.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who <sup>1</sup> are bowed down; the LORD <sup>1</sup> loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares <sup>1</sup> for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way <sup>1</sup> of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall <sup>1</sup> reign forever,**

**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!**

## Second Reading:

*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.*

## James 2:1-17

<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.

Here ends the reading.

**Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37



*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.*



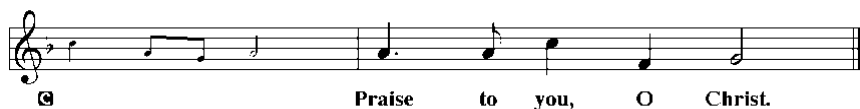
<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.

<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.



## SERMON: Rev. Gordon Putnam

### HYMN OF THE DAY: “There Is a Balm in Gilead” (WOV 737)

### APOSTLE’S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith by using the words of the Apostle’s 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.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Tend to those who are close to our hearts. We especially pray for Norma, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Inez, Claire, Charles, Ellen, Jerry, Josh, Mike, Melvin, Charles, Tony, Peggy, Bonnie, Wayne, Margie, Rick, Lynda, and Eckehardt. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

(Greet each other in the peace of the Lord.)

## OFFERING



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray...

Jesus, Bread of life,  
you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world.

**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

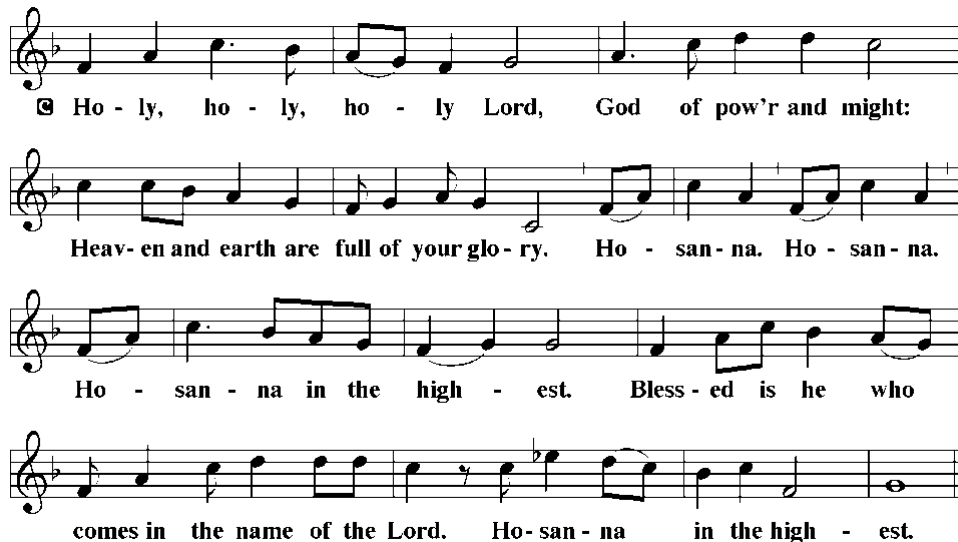
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING

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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
 Come!

### COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.  
 The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION


Let us pray...

Jesus, Bread of life,  
 we have received from your table  
 more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,  
 now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray.

Amen.



September

8 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Putnam
15 <sup>th</sup>	Ivan Diehl
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sam Diehl
29 <sup>th</sup>	Sherie W-Rohal

## SEPTEMBER



## BIRTHDAYS

9 <sup>th</sup>	Christopher Dull
18 <sup>th</sup>	David Diehl
26 <sup>th</sup>	Travis Thompson
26 <sup>th</sup>	Phyllis Stewart

## CLOSING HYMN: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (WOV 771)

### BLESSING

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### BACK PACK PROGRAM

The kids are going back to school. We have 12 kids. Below is the list of items, remember they are all individual servings.



Mac and cheese	Kroger meals
Chef Boyardee meals	Fruit cups
Boxes of cereal	Poptarts
Oatmeal	Ramen Noodles, any kind
Boxed juices	Yahoo chocolate milk
Apple sauce	Raisins
“Hugs” Drink Barrels	All single servings

Pastor Gordon Putnam  
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Pastor Carl Trost  
Hannah Pingel, Pianist  
Sam Diehl and Bambi Straw, Assisting Ministers

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#### Prayer Concerns

##### Ongoing Need for Prayer

Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Claire Viette, Ellen McDonald, Charles McDonald, Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie’s aunt), Josh Thornhill (Norma Turak’s grandson-in-law), Mike Martin (friend of Phillip Snyder), Charles Driver (Sam and Lynda’s neighbor), Melvin Glass (friend of Ivan), Bonnie Snyder (Danny’s mother), Peggy Desimore (friend of Norma), Wayne Puffenbarger (husband of Debbie’s friend Glenna), Rick Mays (friend of Joyce), and Margie Lambert.

##### Prayer Concerns

Betty Diehl, Tony Giltner (Gene’s brother), Lynda Diehl, Eckehardt Rupp, and Jerry Hill (friend of Pastor Gordon and Anne).

#### Community Conversations

- September flowers are given by Joyce Dull.
- September 10<sup>th</sup> Property Committee meeting at 9 am at St. James.
- September 10<sup>rd</sup> Open Circle at St. James at 1pm. Bambi is our hostess.
- September 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting at 9:00 am at St. James.
- September 14<sup>th</sup> Rise Against Hunger 10 am at Kate Collins Middle School.
- September 17<sup>th</sup> Quilting at 1pm.
- YARD SALE September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> from 8am-2pm. Set up is on Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup> from 9am-2pm. You can drop off items any time. Having them priced is most appreciated.
- Men’s Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
  - September—Ivan