

# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** It is our prayer that this will be a time of worship and renewal for you, when you will encounter the living God revealed in Jesus Christ.

In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge that as we meet virtually, we are a people who live and work and pray on traditional and ancestral land of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We give recognition to the Blackfoot people past, present, and future, and to the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

## 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.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from who no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We confess our sin. 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 fail to see ourselves for who we truly are. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We quickly judge others and separate them from you and from us. We fail to see others in the light of your forgiveness and grace.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us once more. 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.**

**GATHERING HYMN "Praise to the Lord" ELW 844**

1 Lou - ez l'E - ter - nel, ser - vi - teurs de  
 2 Qui est comme no - tre Dieu, dans les cieux, sur la  
 1 Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's  
 2 There is none like our God in the heav'ns or on

Dieu. Bé - ni soit son nom, main - te - nant,  
 ter - re, qui ex - al - te les pauvres au rang des grands  
 ser - vants. Bless - ed be the name of our God  
 earth, who lifts the poor from the dust, seat - ing them

à ja - mais. Du le - ver du so - leil,  
 de son peu - ple, qui ma - ni - feste mi - sé - ri - corde?  
 now and ev - er. From the ris - ing of the sun,  
 with the might - y, who stoops to raise the weak and low:

*Refrain*

bé - ni soit son nom! Lou - é soit Dieu, l'E - ter - nel!  
 may the Lord be praised, praise to the name of the Lord!

## **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.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **FIRST READING James 2:1-10, 14-17**

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

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

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

This is what God is saying to you today.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Listen, God is Calling" refrain

Refrain  
Leader                      All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,  
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.  
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

## SERMON – ELCIC SUMMER SERMON SERIES

As our summer season draws to a close, we are blessed to have shared occasionally in the ELCIC Summer Sermon Series provided by our bishops and others who serve throughout our national church. This morning's sermon is the last in the summer sermon series and is provided by Rev. Kathy Martin, Assistant to the Bishop in the BC Synod.

**\*\*\*\* NOTE TO PKC DO NOT READ GOSPEL, READ IN THE VIDEO Video is played...**

### GOSPEL Mark 7:24-37

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

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

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. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is,

“Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. 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.  
Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Listen, God is Calling" (vs 1&3) ELW 513

*Refrain*  
Leader      All

Ne - no,    ne - no    la - ke    Mu - ngu    la - ku - i - ta    we - we,  
Lis - ten,    lis - ten,    God is    call - ing,    through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no    la    wo - ko - vu,    te - na    je - ma.    ma.  
of - fer - ing    for - give - ness,    com - fort,    and    joy.    joy.

All

Ye - su    a - li - se - ma,    Mka - hu - bi - ri.  
Je - sus    gave his    man - date:    share    the    good    news  
Help us    to    be    faith - ful,    stand - ing    stead - fast,

All      *Refrain*

Ne - no    la - ke    Mu - ngu    la    wo - ko - vu.  
that he came to    save us    and    set us free.  
walk - ing    in your    pre - cepts,    led    by your    Word.

## **SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM: GEORGIA RUTH IRENE JORGENSEN-SKAKUM**

What a joy to be invited this past Saturday to baptize Georgia Ruth Irene Jorgensen-Skakum, daughter of Danika and Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum and granddaughter of Robert and Heather Skakum of Good Shepherd congregation. As the words of the baptismal liturgy speak and as scripture affirms, baptism is not just a “Jesus and me” thing—we are always and ever baptized into a full community of God’s grace and life. And so together let us join in the service of Holy Baptism and in welcoming Georgia into the community we all share in the waters of our baptism.

*Video is played...*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Prayers from Morning Prayer Liturgy

Let us pray.

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you for the sustaining goodness of your creation, for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness, for the gifts of relationship with others and for the communion of faith in your church. This has been reinforced during the covid pandemic, we have encountered a lot in this past year and with it we can strike to be strong.

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray for those who govern nations of the world, for the people in countries ravaged by warfare as in Afghanistan and the destruction as in Haiti, for all who work for peace and international harmony, for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction as caused by the numerous raging fires in all parts of our country and for the church of Jesus Christ in every land.

Let us pray especially for Myrtle Alison, Sharla, Debi, Renee, Marion, Arne, Janine, Eva, Olai, Dave & Trudy, Olivia, Sarah, Lyle & Marlene, Syd, Corrie, Pastor Dick & Jan, Patrick, Klaus, Shirley, Eowen, Doug & Lorraine, Grace, Lilian, Margaret, Clayton, Mary, Brad, Clayton, Rosemary, Shellene, Janice, Sheila, Judy & Ron, and Miriam.

Today and the coming week we pray for Erna Oelke and Fran Opheim. Also for Sunday School.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in adversity. In all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## **PEACE**

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

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven,  
    hallowed be your name,  
    your kingdom come,  
    your will be done,  
    on earth as 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 God of all steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus; and +bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN "Step by Step" W&P 132

O God, you are my God, and I will ev - er praise  
you. O God, you are my God, and  
I will ev - er praise you. I will seek you in the morn-  
- ing, and I will learn to walk in your ways, and  
step by step you'll lead me, and I will fol-low you all of my  
days. O days, and I will fol-low you all of my  
days, and I will fol-low you all of my days, and  
step by step you'll lead me, and I will fol-low you all of my days.

## SENDING

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which God blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are Christ’s body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

(Theresa of Avila, adapted, [Quote by Teresa of Avila: "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no ..."](#) (goodreads.com))

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

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