

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 16, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.



In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold

faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

We welcome Alyssa Sanders who will be giving today's message. A member of St. Paul's, Alyssa is a sophomore at the University of Delaware and was very active in our churches' shared Youth ministries.

Pastor Christian McMullan
Daniel S. Bower, Music Director
Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

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WELCOME

Please stand

GREETING

P: The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN

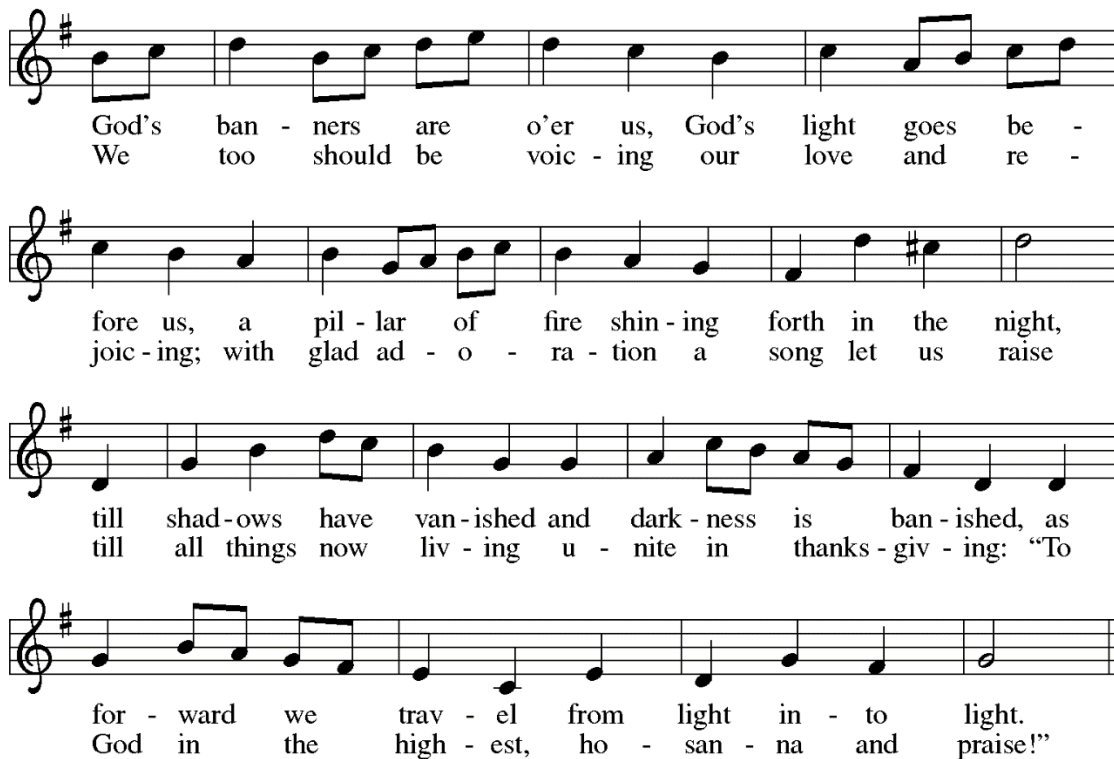
Let All Things Now Living ELW 881

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

P: Jesus says, “Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.”

In the name of God the Almighty,
✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God’s love.
C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 56:1,3-8

A: A reading from the Book of Isaiah, the fifty-sixth chapter.

¹ Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

³ Do not let the foreigner joined to the Lord say,

“The Lord will surely separate me from his people,”
and do not let the eunuch say,
“I am just a dry tree.”

⁴ For thus says the Lord:

To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,

⁵ I will give, in my house and within my walls,
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;

I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—
⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
⁸ Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SECOND READING

Psalm 67

A: A reading from Psalm 67.

A: ¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

**C: ² Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

A: ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**C: ⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

A: ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**C: ⁶ The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

A: ⁷ May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL

Matthew 15:10-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE: Alyssa Sanders

HYMN

You Are My Strength

You are my strength, strength like no other
Strength like no other, reaches to me

You are my hope, hope like no other
Hope like no other, reaches to me

In the fullness of Your grace
In the power of Your Name
You lift me up, You lift me up

Unfailing love, stronger than mountains
Deeper than oceans, reaches to me

Your love, O Lord
Reaches to the heavens
Your faithfulness Reaches to the sky

You are my strength, strength like no other
Strength like no other, reaches to me

You are my strength, strength like no other
Strength like no other, reaches to me.

THE PRAYERS

P: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P: ...Merciful God,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please be seated

THE OFFERING

Please stand

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

In gratitude to God we give out of the abundance that God has given us.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.
The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.
C: We praise you, O God.

P: Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.
C: We bless you, O God.

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.
C: We thank you, O God.

P: 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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.

C: Come, Holy Spirit!

P: Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, One God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

C: Amen.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

Please be seated

COMMUNION

This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Compassionate God, our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love through these gifts of bread and wine, your body and blood.
Strengthen us that we may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

All the People Said Amen

You are not alone if you are lonely
When you feel afraid you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God it's all you need

And all the people said amen whoa
And all the people said amen
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends
And all the people said amen

If you're rich or poor well it don't matter
Weak or strong you know love is what we're after
We're all broken but we're all in this together
God knows we stumble and fall
And He so loved the world
He sent His son to save us all

And all the people said amen whoa
And all the people said amen
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends
And all the people said amen

DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

St. Matthew's Staff

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