

Prelude

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

(Pastor) Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose name is majestic in all the earth,
who rescues and heals in every time of trouble, who does all things well.

(People) Amen.

Let us come before God, seeking forgiveness and life. Steadfast and saving God,
have mercy on us. We confess to you all the ways we turn from you and harm one another. In your compassion, forgive our sins and heal our hurts. Bring forth from us a harvest of righteousness, the fruits of gentleness and peacemaking, the sheaves of wisdom and justice; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

In the name of ☩ Jesus, the Son of God, receive mercy and find grace in your time of need. Your transgressions are forgiven; God's love is healing balm for your wounds. Rejoice, for God raises you up to new life in Christ.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Come, Let us Join Our Cheerful Song”

Hymn No. 847

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

(Together) **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**

WORD

Teaching Moment

Children's Sermon

The Lesson

Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴ 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."
⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ 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; ^{7a} the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

Reading Responsively– Psalm 146 (Lector and People)

¹ Hallelujah! 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.
³ Put 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.
⁵ Happy 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;
⁷ who 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.
⁹ The 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!

Gospel Acclamation

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Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia,
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 7:24-37

(Spoken after the announcement) **R/ Glory to you, O Lord.**

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,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ 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.” ²⁸ But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹ Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. ³¹ 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. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

(Spoken after the reading) The Gospel of the Lord. **R/ Praise to you, O Christ.****Sermon**

Pastor Krista Zimmerman

Hymn of the Day

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

Hymn No. 612

Prayers of Intercession

With confidence in God’s compassion and generosity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s creation.

(After each petition:) Lord, in your mercy, ... **hear our prayer.**

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R/ And also with you.

(4)
MEAL

Offering

Offering Prayer

(Together) Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

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Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, mighty, merciful Lord... Be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Traditional, Page 191
Right Hand Column

Invitation

God gives food to those who hunger. Come, be fed, be healed.

Lamb of God

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Distribution

We invite all baptized Christians and visitors of all denominations, even the youngest, to the table of the Lord. Children who desire a blessing rather than receiving the bread and the wine should stand with folded hands to indicate their preference. Please follow the ushers' directions to one of several communion stations in the sanctuary. If you need to have the sacrament brought to your pew, please inform an usher. Receive the wine or indicate a preference for grape juice by asking the server or pointing to the center of the tray.

Distribution Hymns

"We Come to the Hungry Feast"
"Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace"

Hymn No. 479
Hymn No. 716

Blessing

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

R/ Amen.

Prayer after Communion

(Together) **We give you thanks, O God, that you welcome us to your table and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst. By your gifts of word and holy meal, strengthen us to take up the cross as we go about our callings in this world, following after Jesus Christ, our servant Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

Benediction

Like children in the arms of Jesus, receive blessing:
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Hymn No. 886

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
R/ Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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.