

Ascension Lutheran Church

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 16, 2020

Welcome, All, In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

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 we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

PRELUDE

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
full of compassion and mercy,
abounding in steadfast love.

Amen.

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection.

Eternal God our creator,
in you we live and move and have our being.
Look upon us, your children,
the work of your hands.
Forgive us all our offenses,
and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.
By your grace draw us near to you,
our refuge and our strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

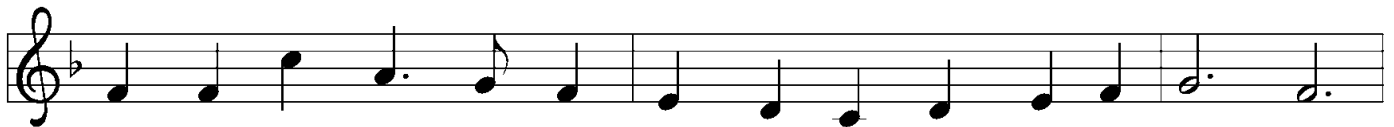
Amen.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ☩ forgives you all your sins.

Amen.



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

Psalm 67

Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

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

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

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

⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.

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

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

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

READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10 - 28

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰ Then he 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, fornication, 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 instantly.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON The Rev. Christina Auch

HYMN #733 **"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"**
Verses 1-2



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
 morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy
 hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
 Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was
 conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come 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

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Silence for reflection.

Lord, you gather the church to be part of your mission as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. As Jesus acknowledged the great faith of a woman from outside his people, help your church discover and find blessing in the faith of people we might reject. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have blessed us with the bounty of the earth. Grant your grace to all your creatures, that the earth will flourish. Relieve waters choked by garbage, renew soils stripped of nutrients, and refresh the air all creatures need to live. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call the nations to be glad and sing for joy. Let your way be known among all the nations of the world, now divided by competing interests, contending alliances, and consumed by enormous worry. Bless us and make your face shine upon all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You show unexpected mercy, kindness, and generosity. We pray for those who do not have enough, for outcasts in our cities and towns, and for those who need your healing. We pray especially for those we name aloud now or silently in our hearts...

Betty Jean Adams (Judy Bridge's friend), **Grant** Adcock (Bob and Vicki Jones' grandson), **Kathy** Backof (Donna Lilly's friend), **Dan** Birch (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Carolyn** Blitz (Bill Bridges' friend), **Kathy** Bradley (friend of Bill Bridges), **Cody** Bryant (Bob Bryant's grandson), **Chris** Carman (Judy Bridges' friend), **Martha** Cash (Bill Bridge's friend), **Edna** Cooper (Bill Bridges Aunt), **Joan** Craig (Clarann Schiavo's friend), **The Davenport Family** (Dave and Priscilla Williams friends), **Charles and Mary** Degree (Karen Long's friends), **Gloria** Dellinger (Greg Blalock's aunt), **Charles** Duval (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Noah** Duvall (Judy Bridges great nephew), **Ann** Fitzsimmons (Steve and Jenny White's friend), **Kendall** Fuller (Gail Sherman's friend), **Mike** Greene (Gail Sherman's friend), **Markye and Carl** Greenwald (DeBell's friends), **Rena** Huffman (Jim Wilson's sister-in-law), **Chris** Huffstetler (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Michael** Huntsinger (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Patti** Jenkins (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Steve** Jolly (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mark** Kent (Majorie Olsen's son), **Rachel** Kidwell (Dave William's niece), **Jim** Lilly (Dick and Donna Lilly's son), **Kevin** Lilly (Vicky Galloway's 2nd cousin), **Brenda** Lowery (Gail Sherman's friend), **Eva** McCombs (Sandra Waldrop's mother), **Bernice** McDaniels (Dean Davis' daughter), **Jamison** McGill (Pastor Christina's friends' son), **Janice** McGoven (Eleanor Hendricks' sister), **Sheri Dawn**

Mack (Relative of Karen Hubbard), **Maribeth** Norris Mies (Carol Berger's cousin), **Charlotte** Morin (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Teresa** Olsen (Marjorie Olsen's daughter-in-law), **Bob** Patzer (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Margaret** Peruzzi (Carol Berger's mother), **Liz and Ron** Dal Poggetto (Judy Bridges' friends), **Tommy** Price (Edith Kelly's nephew), **Beth** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Harold** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Jan** Tucker (Ozark bank employee), **Pam** Unger (Willi and Ray Lacy's friend), **The Vonbehren Family** (Barbara Davis' cousins), **Edith** Walker (Allen and Lisa Philbeck's friend's mother), **Molly and Darryl** Waterstraat (Karen Hubbard's friends), **Alfie** Welch (Renee Buchanan's brother), **Eric** West (Bob and Vickie Jones' son-in-law), **Christopher** Willever (David Williams' grandson), **Mary Ann** Woolley (Sandra Waldrop's aunt), **Denise and Savannah** Yount (Sandra Waldrop's friends)

Members: **Dean** Davis, **Lin** Washburn, **Dot** Paul, **Bob** Bryant, **William** Coyne, **Jim** Wilson, **Steve** Eckard, **Sandy** Harman, **Bobbie** Johnson, **Bobby** Jones and **Gerald** Washburn

In Undergraduate College: **Emma** Auch, **Brooke** Buchanan, **Samantha** Hoffman, **Jacob** Stone, **Catherine** Mae Lilly

Those Awaiting Arrival of Children: Kristen and Becca Gillespie (daughter and daughter-in-law of Joanna Gillespie)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In you we live and move and have our being. Grant our congregation grace to find our life refreshed in you. Accompany us in the rhythms of late summer. Give us rest and renewal, and strengthen us for mission in your name. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your eternal promises are more than we could ever imagine. As you gather all the saints, join us also with them on the great day of your salvation. We pray especially for the family of Anne Lyerly. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace on video or say: "Peace be with you" from wherever you are or type it in the chat or comments.

OFFERING

*Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.*

*Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.*

Or mail your regular tithe or offering to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

OFFERTORY

"Doxology"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

O God of justice and love,
we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,
and at the end bring all the world to your feast;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

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.

BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord's face shine on us with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon us with favor and ☩ give us peace.

Amen.

HYMN #886

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Verses 1-2



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coronavirus Response: All indoor gatherings at Ascension are canceled at this time and the buildings remain closed.

Prayer Concerns: Please call or email the office or text Pastor Christina at 704-472-7783 to update prayer requests. You may leave a voicemail but please provide the spelling of any names, and your relationship to the person being prayed for.

Please continue your tithes and offerings. Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.

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