

August 15 - 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Readings

First Reading

A Reading from Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:
Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

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.

Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from Romans

Paul writes:

I ask, then, has God rejected the chosen people?

By no means!

I myself am an Israelite,

a descendant of Abraham and Sarah,

a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

God has not rejected the chosen people who were foreknown long ago.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Just as you were once disobedient to God

but have now received mercy because of Israel's disobedience,

so also Israel has now been disobedient,

in order that, by the mercy shown to you,

they also may now receive mercy.

For God has imprisoned all in disobedience

so that God may be merciful to all.

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A Proclamation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

Jesus called the crowd and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."

But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us."
Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding?
Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth
enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer?
But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart,
and this is what defiles."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.
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."

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."
He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."
He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs
that fall from their masters' table."
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.

Pastor: **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.