



Sunday August 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

*As you enter, you are invited into a time
to silently reflect and center for worship*

***Services are live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook
each week. Welcome to all to view.***

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN **ELW 641** *"All Are Welcome"*

GREETING

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

R/ And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

WORD

FIRST READING

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹ Thus says the LORD:

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

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.

L/Word of God, Word of Life **R/Thanks Be to God**

PSALM

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

Psalm 67

- ¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.
- ² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**
- ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**
- ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**
- ⁷ May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING

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.

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹ I 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.

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

L/Word of God, Word of Life **R/Thanks Be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW pg. 102



GOSPEL

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

Matthew 15:21-28

P/ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 15th chapter. **R/Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Canaanite Woman meets Jesus in the coastal region of Palestine known for the two cities of Tyre and Sidon. It is important to note that this is the first experience in Matthew's gospel that Jesus brings his disciples out of Galilee to the gentile area of Philistia and Syria. It is part of Lebanon today. It never was a part of Israel in Jesus' day.

Jesus says some very un-Jesus like things in the public space which precede the miracle of the casting out of the demon which was terrorizing the daughter of this woman. We need to put these comments in the context of public gesturing which draws out the expression of hope and faith. Jesus was probably seeking to teach attitudes of outreach to the disciples through this dialogue. He states first ignores the woman, then when the disciples beg him to expel her for

public nuisance he engages her with the comparison of non-Jewish people to dogs. She calls him Lord, accepts the insult to her nationality, and says “Even the dogs get scraps from the master’s table”. Now Jesus reveals that the Lord of Israel is indeed also Lord of all people. He casts out the demon and the daughter is healed.

This miracle reminds me of the hopeful Hobo who approaches a farmhouse near the Hobo camp, asking, “Pardon me, Ma’am, but could you sew a shirt on this button?” She accepts the public put-down of her heritage to ask for healing on behalf of her daughter. Jesus rewards her with public praise for her brash hope and faith.

P/ The Gospel of the Lord **R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGES

HYMN OF THE DAY *“O For a Faith That Will Not Shrink”*
(To Tune of “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”)

O, for a faith that will not shrink, Though pressed by every foe,
That will not tremble on the brink of any earthly woe!

That will not murmur nor complain Beneath the chastening rod,
But, in the hour of grief or pain, Will lean upon its God.

A faith that shines more bright and clear When tempests rage without;
That when in danger knows no fear, In darkness feels no doubt.

A faith that keeps the narrow way Till life's last hour is fled,
And with a pure and heavenly ray Lights up a dying bed.

Lord, give me such a faith as this, And then, whate'er may come,
I'll taste, e'en here the hallowed bliss Of an eternal home.

Attributed to William Hiley Bathurst

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P/ Lord, in your mercy **R/ Hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN: **ACS 1071** *“In Sacred Manner”* vs 1,4,6

OFFERING PRAYER:

God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. **Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING:

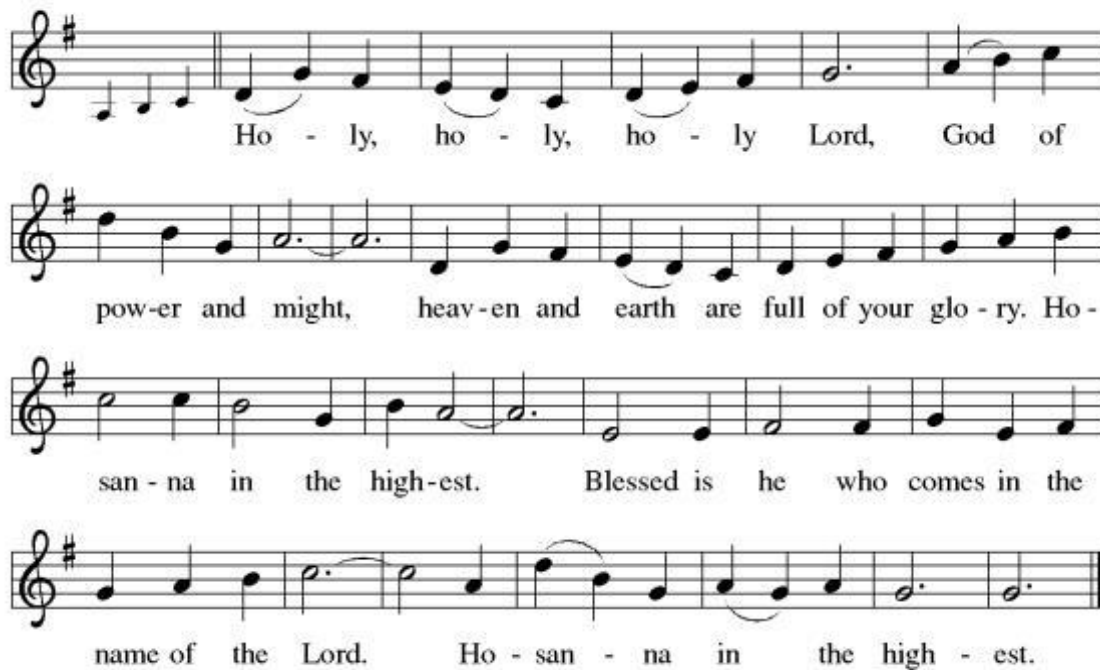
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to our God. **It is right to offer our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

P/..... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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



DISTRIBUTION HYMN **ELW 496** *"One Bread, One Body"*
 ELW 610 *"O Christ, The Healer, We Have Come"*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER :

Lord God, **you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN **ELW 434** *"Jesus Shall Reign"*

DISMISSAL

P/ Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **R/Thanks be to God.**

Worship Leaders: Pastor Charlie Bunk and John Graber

Musician: Lorrie Brandt

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