

ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifteenth Weekend after Pentecost

Saturday, September 4, 2021 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 5, 2021 9:30 a.m.

Introduction to the day

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 a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

~Please quiet your hearts, your minds, and your cell phones ~

PRELUDE (5:00) - "In Christ There Is No East or West" arr. R. Hughes
(9:30) - "Jesus, Lead Thou On" arr. Paul Manz

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen**

P: Let us confess our sins for the one who welcomes us with an open heart.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God our comforter:

C: **like lost sheep, we have gone astray.**
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.
We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.
Free us from our sin, gracious God.
Listen when we call out to you for help.
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Amen.

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
By the gift of grace in † Jesus Christ, God makes you righteous.
Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C: **Amen**

GREETING

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

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: 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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

(Read by: Carole Ropel)

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴Say 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.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then 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;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

(Read by: Carole Ropel)

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

C: **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, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.

²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He 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.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they

proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

MESSAGE - "Be Opened" *Rev. Brian Hooper*

APOSTLES' CREED

**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 to the dead.***

**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

We join together to pray for the needs of the world, concluding each petition by speaking, "O Lord, hear my prayer."

A brief silence.

God of grace and God of glory, for the church we pray: uphold our bishops, pastors, and deacons; sustain all volunteers during these autumn months; inspire our worship; and teach us how to pray. Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Creator of the stars of night, for the earth we pray: lower global temperatures; provide a healthy harvest; protect the habitats of wild animals; and train us to care for your creation. Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Mighty Fortress, for the nations we pray: protect the world from tyranny and violence; guide our elected officials; look with mercy on the people of Afghanistan; lead our nation toward the right use of our military; and bring peace to all. Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Hope of the world, in this time of pervasive adversity we pray: preserve us from storms and wildfires; protect us from terrorists; and wean us from the ways of prejudice. Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Rock of ages, for laborers we pray: grant a just wage to the employed and meaningful jobs to the unemployed; and shape our society to honor all residents of our land. Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear our prayer.

O God of love, for those who are poor, we pray: feed the hungry; house all without homes; assist the powerless; and form us into habits of generosity. Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Healer of our every ill, for those who are suffering we pray: heal those who have contracted COVID-19; embrace those with mental illness; open up opportunities for persons who are deaf; and hear our cries for those we name here...Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving God, strong to save, for the grace shown to our ancestors in the faith, we praise you. For life at the end of time in your presence with all the saints, we pray. Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers, O God, for the sake of our beautiful Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY *(Thanks for sharing your gifts. Offering envelopes can still be mailed to the church, you can use the GIVE + app or you may wish to sign up for Simply Giving to have your offering scheduled on an automatic basis. Information for both programs can be found on the Electronic Giving page at ssmleca.org.)*

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite those with the offering

of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: People of God,
you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.

The holy Trinity, † one God,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

HYMN OF THE DAY - "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

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, *Erneuertem Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE (5:00) - **“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”** -arr. D. Wagner
(9:30) - **“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”** arr. James Engel

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***The Eternal Candle is given by Bob & Shirley Lieske
in Honor of their 68th Wedding Anniversary***

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN THE WORSHIP!

Reader: Carole Ropel

Saturday Ushers: Patti Nelson, Herb Leppien

Sunday Ushers: Diane Moraza, Shelly Rosenstock, Julie Starks

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Women of St Stephen the Martyr are invited to a day of camaraderie and fellowship with other Lutheran women on October 9, 2021 at Mount Zion Lutheran Church, 12012 W North Avenue, Wauwatosa. You will have a chance to listen to a variety of interesting speakers on: Human Trafficking, Mediation (a retired nurse and chaplain will present this workshop), Bee Ministry from Redeemer Lutheran Church and Baptismal Living (Pastor Mary Martha will discuss how the lead pipes have affected Milwaukee children). You will be able to buy your lunch from the Corner Bakery. Masks will be required, and we will follow the CDC guidelines. Registration ends on 9/24. The registration forms are located on the Women's Kiosk in the narthex of the church. We hope to see you there!

The Greater Milwaukee Synod Reconciling In Christ Ministry team will be hosting a Pride Worship Service entitled "Coming Out Beloved" on Saturday, October 9th at 10:30am. This worship service will be at Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N Stowell Ave. in Milwaukee. We are prepared to have this event either inside or outside depending on the weather. So please bring a lawn chair or blanket with your family and friends. Also, bring along a bag lunch and share in some fellowship together following the worship. We are strongly encouraging all to wear their masks to this event. With the two season cancellation of Pride events in Milwaukee we thought it would be good for us to gather for a time of worship and celebration of our place in this church and God's creation.

School Supplies are Needed to fill the 200 school kits that Shirley would like to send off to Lutheran World Relief. Single subject 70/80 page **Notebooks** - 504 needed; 30 centimeter **Rulers** (can also have inches) - 113; **Pencil Sharpeners** - 149; Blunt end **scissors** - 129; unsharpened #2 **Pencils** - 392; blue or black **Pens** - 711; 24 count **Crayons** - **48**. We have enough erasers. Thank you for your generosity.

Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others

KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Suzi Angeletti, Fred Ankebrant, Melissa Cooper, John Drover, Mary Freiburger, Joyce Gagliano, Kaylee Gray, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Lynda Johnson, Ken & Carolyn Kahl, Shirley and Bob Lieske at the death of their daughter Beth Ann Baumgartner, Vic & Sandy Peterson, Teri Peterson, Patrick Rafalski, Shirley Rau, John Rech, Joan Retzlaff, Bob & JoAnn Soderstrom, Richard Sontvedt, John Winter.

Shirley and Bob Lieske at the death of their daughter, Beth Ann Baumgartner.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Roberta Henrichs, sister-in-law of Joan Retzlaff	Cathy & Mark Kossow, friends of Lynda Johnson
Laurence Freemont, friend of SSM	Tippecanoe's "Larry under the bridge", friend of the Homeless
Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil & LaVerne Morgan	Katie Manzeck, friend of Carol Manning
Jane Janicki, sister of the Winter Family	Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff	Jon Kowalewski, husband of Susan Kowalewski
Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother-in-law of Barbara & Dan Davies	Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of Karen Miller
Josh Knapp, friend of Amy Billman	Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne Niese
Karen Stolz, neighbor of Julie Herman	Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Roger & Kathy Blanchard, cousin of Bob Lieske	Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters & Stepdad of Lori Salas	Maria Hill, friend of Lynda Johnson
Daniel Kilimann, son of Joy Kilimann	Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan
Carson Wudtke, grandson of Dan & Barb Davies	Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman
Sharon West, friend of Lynda Johnson	Laura Sussman, mother of Kimberly Carroll
Ted P., brother-in-law of Gail Jakus	Sharon Maschke, sister-in-law of Pam Maschke
Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan	Tim Ingram, grandson of Carole & Ron Ropel
Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau	Denise Hajos, friend of Kelly Sachse
Cindy Molter, mother of Fred Ankebrant	Bonnie, friend of Kurt & Jenny Koeff
Mark Molter, uncle of Fred Ankebrant	Louie Baumgartner, family member of the Lieske's.
Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese	Bob Guiliani, brother of Char Guiliani
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt	Barbara Goelz, friend of Kelly Sachse
Nikki Bruneau, friend of Kelly Sachse	Peter Misko, friend of Doug Winter family
James Haas, friend of Mark & Patti Winter	Kathy Manders, friend of Doug Winter family
Rose Zovi, friend of Shelly Rosenstock	Tom Freiburger, son of Mary Freiburger
Peter Salza, friend of Doug Winter family	Janet Heino, great aunt of Stephanie Falksen
Dawn Salopek, sister of Karen Miller	Paulie Long, friend of Kelly and Greg Sachse
Gloria Klinter, sister-in-law of Shirley Lieske	
Jerry Woelfel – nephew of El & Nancy Schneider	