



16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 8, 2024

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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.

Welcome

Pastor Wolfgang

Confession and Forgiveness

P. In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

P. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Most merciful God,

C. we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

The Peace

P. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C. And also with you.



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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
Men

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer of the Day

- A. 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.
- C. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7a

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;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146

Chanted Responsively



¹Hal- | luljah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

**²I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.**

³Put not your | trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there | is no help.

**⁴When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,
and in that day | their thoughts perish.**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

**⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;
who keeps promis- | es forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.
The LORD sets the | captive free.

**⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;
the LORD | loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares | for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

**¹⁰The LORD shall | reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!**

Second Reading

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

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. ¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

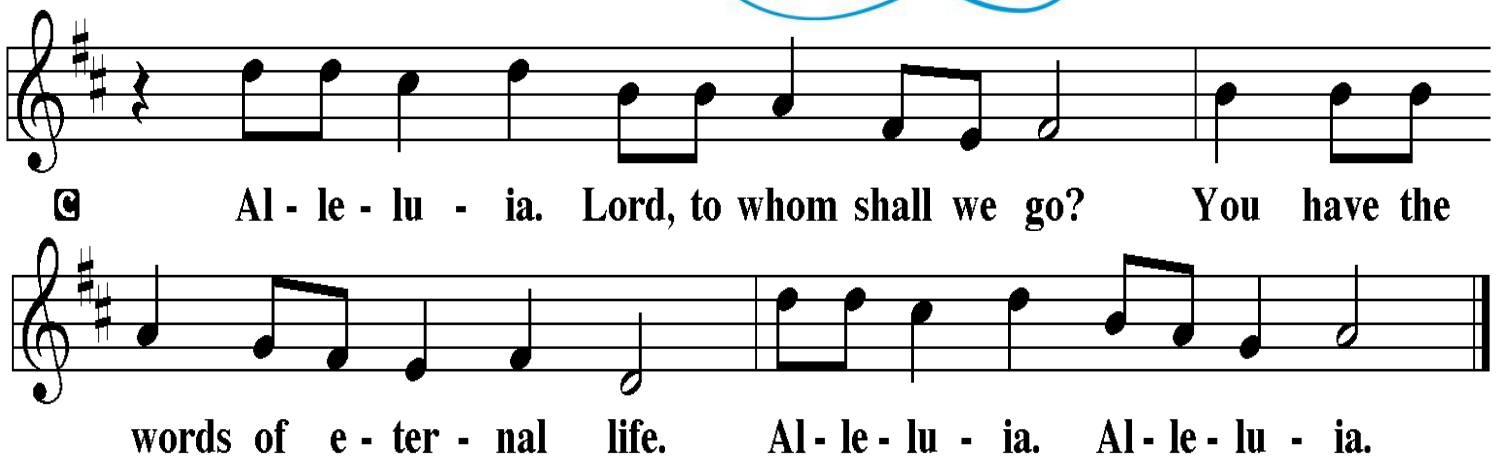
¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the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

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P. The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.
C. Glory to you, O God.

Mark 7:24-37

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.



Sermon

“God's Love is for All!”

Pastor Wolfgang

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

ELW 712

The Apostles' Creed

L. With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C. **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 again 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

A. Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence

A. Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A. Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A. Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A. Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A. Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

Other Prayers

A. We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

P. We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C. Amen.

The Offering

Anthem

I Choose Love

~ Mark Miller

Choir



Let the Vineyards...



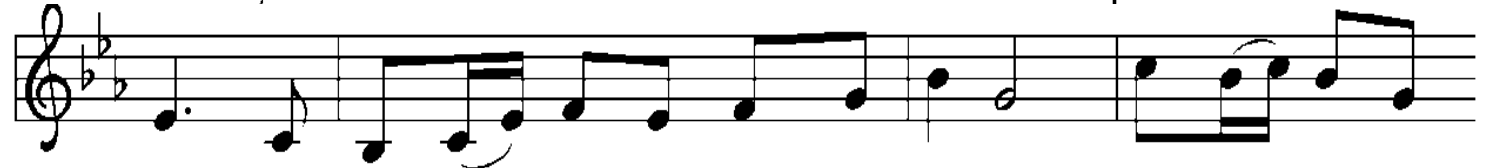
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

A. Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.



The Great Thanksgiving

P. The Lord be with you.
C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.
C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Lift Up
Your
Hearts*

The Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for 'The Sanctus' in G major, 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.'



Words of Institution

P. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Invitation to Communion

P. Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.
All are welcome, no exceptions.

C. Alleluia!

Jesus, Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW 612

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886

Post Communion Blessing

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

C. Amen

Post Communion Cantic



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post Communion Prayer

A. Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen



Blessing

P. Now may 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.

C. Amen.

Dismissal

- A. Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
- C. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
 ~ Charles Wesley/Carl G. Glaser

Gail Hrobuchak

Servers for Sunday, September 8th

- Assisting Minister/Reader Carol Wilhelm
- Reader Don Wilhelm
- Altar Guild Sarah Watkins
- Greeters/Counters Neil Brennecke / Matt Himmeger
- Acolyte Antonio Smith



Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.



Flowers this week are provided by Tom & Alecia Harrison in celebration of Ben & Kathleen's Birthdays.

Candles this month are given by Tom & Alecia Harrison in honor of their children's Baptisms.



Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheets are on the board in the hallway.

Keeping You in the Loop



We collect personal items and cleaning supplies during the month of September to support refugee families through Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC). The Social Concerns Committee is asking for personal hygiene items such as bar soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, razors, lotion and cleaning supplies like dish detergent, cleaning sprays and solutions, etc. A full list can be found at the collection bin in the lobby and in the September "Life-Lines" newsletter that was emailed to you last week. We will bless these donations on September 29 before shipping them off to LSC.

We are soooo close! As of this writing, we have raised \$9,895 toward our goal of \$12,000, or 82%, to fund the audio-visual tech improvements for our sanctuary. Now one of our members has pledged an additional \$1,000 as a matching fund, meaning that your gift will count double until we reach our goal. Make sure to mark your check "Tech Upgrades."

LOOKING AHEAD:

ATTENTION LADIES!! The CTK Ladies Night Out is the 2nd Thursday of each month. This month it will be September 12, 6:30 pm at BJ'S Restaurant and Brewhouse in Cary. Come out and join in for some good fellowship and food. Don't forget to RSVP on Church Center <https://ctkcary.churchcenter.com/my/groups/ladies-night-out/events>

September 15 is National Back to Church Sunday. Our 10 am worship service will be held outside with special music, followed by a picnic. We provide hamburgers and hot dogs; you bring a side and a chair! Invite family, friends, and neighbors by using the special invitation cards that are available at the Welcome Center in the lobby. Help us spread the word that at Lord of Life, "all are welcome, no exceptions!"

Able to Serve Inc. is having their annual banquet and silent auction on Thursday, September 19, at 6 pm at Garner United Methodist Church. This event features an Angie's Restaurant dinner and an exciting program by our ATS participants & special guests. You also get the opportunity to bid on travel experiences, art, local outings, decor, tech gifts, and more in the Online Silent Auction (Sept. 18-20). Tickets for \$60 per person are available online (add link) or by calling 919-779-5545.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



*Pray for people impacted by
devastating flooding in
Connecticut*

Thanksgiving for the birth of Jamison Ellis Stone & for his parents Amanda & Brian

Connie Fortmeyer - Hospitalized

Ian Lambert – deployment to Iraq

Pastor John Petry – eye surgery

Thomas Isaacs – second surgery

Donna Stone – new breast cancer diagnosis

Patti Flynn, friend of Bob - ALS

Denny Garner, Brian Stone's cousin – serious kidney issues

Greg Petersen, long-time friend of Julia Lochra, – serious accident

Mike Ritts, friend of Bob DeVito – brain cancer & aspiration pneumonia

Sarah Watkins – job search

David Van Benschoten, Tess Andrews' brother

Tom Harrison

Jerry Hart

Vito and Stella

Phil Garoutte

Bob DeVito



**PLEASE
NOTE...**

Names will remain on the church's Prayer List for **two weeks** unless otherwise requested. Due to privacy concerns, only first names will be read out during worship. Prayer requests can now be submitted on-line at LOLGarner.com.



Lord of Life

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GARNER, NC

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"All are welcome, no exceptions!"

Rev. Dr. Wolfgang Herz-Lane, Pastor & Mission Developer

(919) 810-3534

wolfgangherzlane@gmail.com



Monday – Thursday

1 pm to 6 pm

NOTE: To reach Laura outside normal core hours, please use email or call/text to (919) 349-4370.

Special Thanks to our good friends at Able to Serve, Inc.®
for assembling these bulletins!

