

The 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 16th, 2026

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHURCH CONFESSES: FOR SELF-PRESERVATION

From Meta Herrick Carlson's "Speak It Plain"

Living God, we have come to offer public apology...

Merciful God,

**you put on flesh and lived among us,
showing all of creation how
to hold this world lightly,
to lose ourselves,
to trust that death is not the end after all.**

**And yet we struggle
to practice what we preach,
hiding behind locked doors,
frozen by fear of loss and change.**

We confess...

Have mercy on us, O God. [5x when cued]

We confess that we prefer
our slow denial and dissolution...

*But if you let go of this life
for my sake, you will finally find it.*
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 641

All Are Welcome

GREETING

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

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

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: 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 [the Lord's] 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.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 67

Please read responsively.

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.

Amen.

SECOND READING: 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.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ACS 1062

Build a Longer Table

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 Pontious 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

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

ELW 650

In Christ There Is No East or West

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

...Together as the body of Christ,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...We await his coming,

when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,

all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

...Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,

that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

...all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,

with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW 496 & 612

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine, our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

ELW 434

Jesus Shall Reign

SENDING

Go in peace. Gather the outcasts.

Thanks be to God.

Thank you, worship leaders!

Greeter/Usher: Tim Kass

Accompanist: Pixie Balt

Reader: Mark Catton

Communion Assistant: Peg McAllister

Altar Guild: John & Peg McAllister and Sharon Utesch

Livestream: Angela Catton

Audio/Visual: Tim Kass

Bulletin Art: Angela Catton

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Be Blessed! Students of all ages, teachers, and all school personnel are invited to bring their backpacks and work bags to worship on Sunday, August 23rd for a blessing – and a gift!

Imagine More! It's time to start preparing for the next ELCA Youth Gathering, which will be June 28th – July 2nd, 2027, in Minneapolis! This event is for students who will be in high school or 8th grade this coming school year (2026-27). An informational meeting for students and parents will take place on Wednesday, August 26th at 7pm. Let Pastor Paige know if your family is interested!

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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