**Shape

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGood Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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| --- | --- |
| Pastor: Rev. Katie Anderson | Music Director: Rev. Lois Swanson |
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**16th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 8, 2024, 9:00 am**

A black and white drawing of a person and a child

Description automatically generated***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 Syrophoenician 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.

**PRELUDE The Little Brown Church**

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**WELCOME MUSIC Oh, What a Beautiful Morning**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING HYMN Shall We Gather at the River ELW 423**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who forgives all our sin,

whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us.**

A row of books in pews

Description automatically generated**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,**

**but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us**

**cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first**

**we make distinctions among ourselves.**

**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.**

**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.**

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,**

**and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,**

**our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity

and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ,

the source of eternal healing,

your sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**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.**

**CHILDREN’S MUSIC What a Friend We Have in Jesus ELW 742**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 35:4-7a**

**A close-up of hands holding a cross necklace

Description automatically generated**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;  
 7athe burning sand shall become a pool,  
  and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 146**

1Hallelujah!  
  Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 2**I 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.  
 4**When they breathe their last, they return 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;  
 6**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**  
  **who keeps promises forever;**  
 7who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.  
  The Lord sets the captive free.  
 8**The 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.  
 10**The 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken ACS 974**

**GOSPEL: 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 Syrophoenician 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy ELW 588**

**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,**

**A black and white drawing of a person holding a lamb

Description automatically generatedwho was conceived by the power of 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**

…Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

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

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERING***In addition to our normal offering, a* ***Special Benevolence in September*** *(collected in a special envelope) will be* ***Orenda Center.***

**OFFERING SONG God’s Work, Our Hands** **ACS 1000**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A book on a table

Description automatically generatedBlessed 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.

**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 our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy ELW 189**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,

you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,

but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets

to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry;

our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant

to preach good news to the afflicted,

to break bread with the outcast and despised,

and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,

we await the day when Jesus shall return

to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

**Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,

to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

**Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,

that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,

we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**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** *- Certified gluten-free crackers are in the bowl on the communion plate.*

Jesus welcomes you to this table.

Come, here is your God.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

God all mighty,

God most merciful

☩ bless you, keep you,

and give you peace.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN Do, Lord**

1. I’ve got a home in Glory Land

That outshines the sun!

I’ve got a home in Glory Land

That outshines the sun!

I’ve got a home in Glory Land

That outshines the sun!

Way be-yond the blue! (Ho-ri-zon!)

Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me.

Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me.

Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me.(Look a-)

Way be-yond the blue!

1. I took Jesus as my Savior, You take Him too.

I took Jesus as my Savior, You take Him too.

I took Jesus as my Savior, You take Him too.

Way be-yond the blue! (Ho-ri-zon!)

Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me.

Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me.

Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me. (Look a-)

Way be-yond the blu

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

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| **Coming up at GSLC** | | |
| Sunday, September 1 | 9:00 am | Worship Service   * Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost * Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23; Authentic religion |
| Monday, September 2 |  | Church Office Closed for Labor Day |
| Tuesday, September 3 | 7:00 pm | AA Meeting |
| Wednesday, September 4 | 9:00 am | Executive Committee Meeting |
| Thursday, September 5 | 11am-2pm | Purple Angels Lunch and Fellowship |
| Sunday, September 8 | 9:00 am | Worship Service   * Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost * Mark 7:24-37; Christ healing a little girl and a deaf man |

**Thanks be to God.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** | | | | | | |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | | **Deep Clean** |
| September 8 | Ron Rothfusz | Leslie Mader | Bruce & Nancy Tibbett | Pam Mundt | May Hill | September:  Julie Will  Deb Janz  Chris Tipping |
| September 15 | Rob & Leslie Mader | Kris Tarter | Bob & Laurel Peterson | Dan Mundt | Jon Hill |
| September 22 | Tim & Farrah Uphoff | Shelly Schneider | Matt & Margo Berrier | Nancy Leonard | Breanna Butler |

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SOS has provided their list of needs for this month, which includes:

Kidney Beans, Baked Beans, Sandwich Bags, Chicken Noodle Soup, Dish Soap, Oatmeal, Jelly, Gravy,Pudding, Broth, All Purpose Cleaner, Shampoo, Conditioner, Pancake Mix, Baking Items, Paper Towels, Dried Soup. **Urgently need: rice mixes, pasta sauce, dried soups, and corn.**

A group of hands with hearts

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This year, we are participating in God’s Work.

Our Hands. Sunday on September 8th. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. We’ll have some service and fellowship activities after worship. All are welcome to participate!

Due to a schedule change, Sunday School will begin on September 15th without a Rally Day on September 8th. Sunday School will continue on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month the rest of the school year.

Midweek Worship returns Wednesday, September 11th at 7:00 pm

September 8th: Confirmation introduction meeting after worship

September 11th: Confirmation begins after midweek worshipA black and white image of a logo

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The Good Shepherd T-shirts have arrived! They can be picked up in the office or after Sunday worship. Shirts are $13 each.

Bible Study is returning!

We will have an 8 week Bible study discussing Season 4 of The Chosen. Bible study begins Wednesday, September 11th at 12:00 pm. The series is available to stream for free at The Chosen’s [website](https://watch.thechosen.tv/page/season%204) or in The Chosen app.

A group of people standing in a line

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**Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program…UPDATE**

A reminder, “the purpose of the RIC Program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.”

"Aren't we already a welcoming congregation?" It's a question or similar statement we have often heard in our conversations with members. Most every church desires to be welcoming. Sadly, there are many brothers and sisters out there who have been traumatized, marginalized, and outright denied grace by their families, communities, and churches. Even though many still yearn to be part of a beloved community, without conscious efforts and clear messaging from churches that everyone is welcome and accepted, they are not going to take the risk.

In the parable of the good shepherd, every effort is made to bring the lost sheep back to the flock. The story is our church's namesake, may we make every effort to build the beloved community. Starting this fall, the RIC team will be offering some opportunities to explore and deepen our understanding of what people have gone through. Look for details to be shared here in the coming weeks. We thank the congregation for your time and consideration this far.

As always if you want to talk with any of us please reach out:   Kris Tarter: 715-207-9759, Jeff Veers: 715-316-2098, Shelly Schneider: 414-858-6026 and Rick Kopitzke: 715-570-4190. Pastor Katie would also be glad to hear any questions you may have.