

August 20, 2023

(A) Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 20  
FIRST READING. Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the Lord:  
Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come,  
and my deliverance be revealed.

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—  
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.

Thus says the Lord God,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,  
I will gather others to them  
besides those already gathered.

SECOND READING. Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

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. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

GOSPEL. Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’ He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ But she came and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’ He answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’ Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.



Sunday, August 20, 2023

“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

Welcome!


We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Although mask mandates are now lifted in most Ontario indoor settings, our Bishop encourages “all congregations to continue using masks for the time being.” For now, we strongly recommend wearing a mask.

Heat Alert

Please do not feel obligated to stand during the service if you are uncomfortable in the hot weather. Please keep well hydrated and wear cool, comfortable clothing throughout the summer months.

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God,  
who greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails,  
whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

**Merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned.  
We have hurt our community.  
We have squandered your blessings.  
We have hoarded your bounty.  
In the name of Jesus,  
forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

**Righteous God,  
we confess that we have sinned.  
We have failed to be honest.  
We have lacked the courage to speak.  
We have spoken falsely.  
In the name of Jesus,  
forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.  
God offers boundless grace when we fail.  
Claim the gift of God's mercy:  
you are freed and forgiven  
in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

God of field and forest, sea and sky,

you are the giver of all good things.  
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,  
and multiply your graciousness in us,  
that the world may be fed with your love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

**Psalm 67** – Tune: 380 Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! (Fred til Bod)

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## Prelude and Announcements

## GATHERING

**Response: Thanks be to God.**