August 20, 2023

FIRST READING, Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 20

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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Confession and Forgiveness

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All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

Offering Prayer (read in unison) From Sundays & Seasons, © 2022 Augsburg Fortress

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.
The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.

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

Reader: May God be merciful to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us.

Let all peoples join to raise Songs to you, O God, in praise.

Let the whole world know your will, all nations your salvation.

Let all nations join to sing

Praises to creation's King.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.

Let God's people praise employ To proclaim our grateful joy.

For you judge the peoples with equity and guide all nations upon earth.

Let all peoples join to raise Songs to you, O God, in praise.

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

Let all nations join to sing Praises to creation's King.

God has blessed us; may all the ends of the earth revere him.

Let God's people praise employ To proclaim our grateful joy.

Sing Psalms! By Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1999/2005 by Creative Communications for the Parish

Dates to Remember

August 27 2:00 p.m. – Golf at Freedom Oaks, dinner at 5:00 p.m. August 27 – Golf Tournament at Freedom Oaks Golf Course, Dunnville; Tee-off 2:00 p.m., Dinner 5:00 p.m.

Golf and Perch or Golf and Dinner: \$55.00 (includes 9 holes, cart and dinner) Dinner only (Perch **or** Steak): \$25.00.

Youth golf free! Burger <u>or</u> Chicken Fingers: \$10.00; Perch <u>or</u> Steak: \$25.00

Today is the last day to get tickets from Jenn R., Sylvia or Sinikka.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service of the Word– Page 210

Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgi	venessPrinted
Gathering Song	641 All Are Welcome
Greeting	Page 213
Prayer of the Day	

First ReadingIsaiah 56:1, 6-8

WORD

Psalm 67	Printed in bulletir
Second Reading	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Gospel Acclamation	Page 216
	"Glory to you, O Lord."
Gospel	Matthew 15:21-28
	"Praise to you, O Christ.
Sermon	
Hymn of the Day	759 My Faith Look
	Up to The
Prayers of Intercession	on

THANKSGIVING

Offering Prayer	Printed
Thanksgiving for the Word	Page 220
The Lord's Prayer	Page 221

Prayer Response"Your mercy is great."

(non-contact gestures)

SENDING

Peace

Blessing	Page 221
Sending Song	651 Oh, Praise the
	Gracious Power

Dismissal: Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Response: Thanks be to God.**