

The background is an abstract composition of thick, expressive brushstrokes. The top half features warm, light tones of cream, pale yellow, and soft peach. The middle section is dominated by vibrant, saturated colors including bright yellow, orange, and hints of pink and red, with a central area of light blue. The bottom half transitions into cooler tones, with deep blues, purples, and greens. The overall texture is highly tactile, suggesting the use of heavy paint application.

Be opened

MARK 7:34



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday, September 4, 2021 5:00 pm
Sunday, September 5, 2021 9:00 am

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.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our comforter,

like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in + Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Light Dawns on a Weary World" vv. 1 & 2

1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -

see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a

wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.

(Continued on the next page.)

Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951
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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

Let us pray.

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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

A reading from Isaiah.

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.

The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from James.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 "We Come to You for Healing, Lord" vv. 1&2

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

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 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 THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

We give thanks to God for the gifts that God provides, and for the gifts that you share with the church. Offerings to the church in these days may be placed in the box at the entrance or sent through the mail, through automatic withdraw, or through the Tithe.ly app on our website.

OFFERING SONG "Take My Life, That I May Be"



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

COMMUNION SONG

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
 e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion will receive a blessing.

Those worshipping with us at home may use their own bread and wine or juice for communion. On site, communion will be received at your seats. Having received the elements as you entered worship, you will take the chalice, and when directed by the pastor, you will remove the bottom cover to receive the bread. The pastor will say "Body of Christ given for you," and you will eat the bread. When directed by the pastor, you will remove the top cover to receive the wine or juice. The pastor will say, "Blood of Christ shed for you," and you will drink the wine or juice.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE "For the Bread Which You Have Broken"

1 For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured,
2 By this promise that you love us, by your gift of peace restored,
for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n above us, hal-low all our lives, O Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

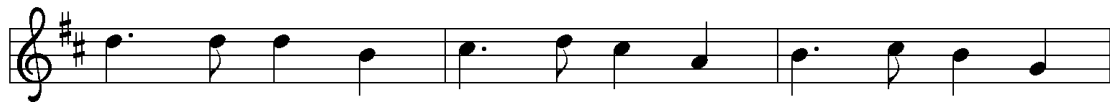
People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ☩ one God, bless you now and forever.

Amen

SENDING SONG "Healer of Our Every Ill"

Refrain
Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,
give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

(Continued on the next page.)



1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your



Refrain

peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
 ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
 way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

Thanks be to God.



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.

Arnie Lindaman
 Carol Judge
 Michelle Weltzin-
 Trainor
 Ron McFate
 Kristina Gehrls
 Nancy Meyer
 Karen Rathjen
 H.O. Nelson
 Jensen Spencer
 Tim Winter
 Norm Harvey
 Ed Stoltz

Jan Kluever
 Pat Hoffman
 June Dierks
 Ann Kuehl
 Michael Schafer
 Karen Muetzel
 Peyton Langebartles
 Sherri Westmeier
 Meyer Mixdorf
 Bob Morehead
 Joe Schwarz
 Patty Mixdorf
 Joan Nelson

Bonnie Zarske
 Melissa Alden
 Craig
 Lois
 Bob
 Algean
 Carolyn
 John
 Mary
 Bonnie
 Dorie
 Clif

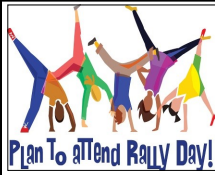
Announcements

Flowers



Flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Jerry and Enrique by Carol Marten

If you are interested in providing altar flowers, there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. You may also sign up by calling the church office, or online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-altar>



Sunday School Rally Day is September 12!

Join us at 9am for pancakes and fun!

Check the September Ambassador for more info.

