



## St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"

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20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

August 16, 2020

Welcome! Today we hear the Prophet Isaiah proclaiming 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 Reading 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 our society? In our gathering around Word and Meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.



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### GATHERING

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

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#### Prelude and Bells

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the † Holy Trinity, the Source of life, the Word of salvation, the Spirit of promise. **Amen.**

Confident of God's mercy and grace, let us confess our sins to God and one another.

*(A brief silence for personal reflection)*

God of compassion:

**We confess that we have failed to reflect your image upon us.**

**We have thought ill of those who differ from us.**

**Our love for others has not been genuine.**

**We have neglected opportunities to welcome the stranger,  
to feed the hungry, and to mend broken relationships.**

**Forgive our sins, O God, that our hearts may burn with love for you and for all in need,  
that our lives may point to your never-failing love for all the world. Amen.**

Brothers and sisters, buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, your sins are forgiven.

The death Christ died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So you also, by the power of the Holy Spirit, are dead to sin and alive to God in † Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

#### Choir

***In Christ There Is No East or West***

#### 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.**

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## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture and preaching; we respond in profession of faith and prayer*

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### First Reading

**Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

<sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

<sup>6</sup> 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—

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading

**Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

<sup>29</sup> For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### The Holy Gospel

**Matthew 15:21-28**

The good news of Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup> Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> 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." <sup>23</sup> 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." <sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." <sup>26</sup> He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup> She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Gospel of the Lord:

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Sermon

**Pastor Mel Antonio**

### Anthem

**God Be in My Head by Rutter**

## Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we confess our faith...

**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 Intercession

As a people gathered, empowered, and then sent to serve, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people who seek God's purpose and presence:

Holy God, we pray for your people the Church, that we may truly be a sign of your welcome and promise, and that we who receive here the gift of Living Bread, may indeed become living bread in the midst of our weekly worlds for all others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of both rain and sun, we pray for all who are still struggling with the impact of storms, droughts, wildfires, and other difficulties, that your hand will ease the forces of nature, and bring them the assistance they need to rebuild their lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, O Lord, for those who work for those things which make for peace, that your Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen all who seek to end conflicts, both internationally and within our own nation, and within faith communities, neighborhoods, and families. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our Father God, we continue to lift up to you the needs of your people, praying that your healing Spirit provide for them the things they most dearly need. We continue to name before you the lives and well-being of *Bob Cauble, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Janice Williams, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Kim Friesenhahn, Kenny Knippa, Bill Rickrim, Frances Franz, Alwin Schaefer, Bill Brewer, Paul Mason, Albert and Deleyce Tietze, Paul and Gloria Boenisch, Nat Castillo, Bill Witte, Beth Knox, Tom Bartholomew, Lauren Ottmers, Don Vogt, Lee and Karen Iredale, Mary Jane Schessenhagen, Dean Olson, Janet Grun* and all whom we also now name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

May the prayers we offer, O God, be a means by which you bring forth new life, not only hoped for, but worked for, through our own faithful word and deed. **Amen.**

## Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*(Please verbally greet those nearest you these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")*

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## MEAL

*We bring our "first fruit" offerings to the Table of the Lord  
where we are strengthened and nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ*

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### 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.**

Holy, Mighty, and Merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

For on 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, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await his coming in glory:

**Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.**

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and help us to pray:

**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.**

### Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: **Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: **Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: **Grant us peace. Amen.**

## Holy Communion

*We believe that Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and we welcome all who wish to receive the Holy Sacrament. During this time of pandemic, individual servings of the Eucharist will be consumed in the pews at the direction of the Pastor.*

## Communion Prayer

Our Lord Jesus,  
here at your table you regard no one as a stranger,  
and even as we have now received in this bread and wine the giving of yourself,  
open our hands to bring in others, to embrace all others,  
into this place of welcome, where you alone are Lord. **Amen.**

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## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world*

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## Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine upon you with mercy and grace,  
The Lord look upon you with favor,  
And give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Choir

***There's a Wideness in God's Mercy***

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ goes with you.  
**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Worship is central to who we are as a people of God. Every time we gather to hear and respond to the Word, to offer up our prayers for the needs of many, and to receive Christ's living presence in the consecrated bread and wine, we seek to "become what we receive", namely, the Body of Christ for the sake of the life of the world. As we are gathered, fed, and then sent back out in mission, God empowers us to be bearers of blessing and vessels of grace, commissioning us to intentionally live out the reign of God throughout the course of our weekly living.*

## **This Week at St. John's**

Today, August 16 @ 10:00am      Worship  
Wednesday, August 19 @ 12:15pm      Word, Silence, and Prayer - Online  
(Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88165909872>)

*(Please see our online calendar at [www.stjohnssa.org](http://www.stjohnssa.org) for other events.)*

## **Ministry Opportunities at CAM**

### Clothing Needs

CAM is accepting gently-used clothing items for both adult men and women. Items needed are casual wear, jeans, khakis, t-shirts, tennis shoes, and athletic shoes. Currently, CAM is not accepting any slacks, suits, heels, men's dress shoes, prom dresses, or business wear. Contact Sarah Kory at [skory@cam-sa.org](mailto:skory@cam-sa.org) or call 210-223-4099 with any questions.

### Help Feed the Hungry

Every other Tuesday, we deliver sandwiches to CAM around 11:00am. If you would like more information about this ministry and how you can lend support, please contact Bea Imken at 210-887-2217.

*For prayer requests, please contact the church office  
(210) 223-2611 or [info@StJohnsSA.org](mailto:info@StJohnsSA.org)  
The Prayer List is updated monthly (or as needed).*



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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