



“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.””

Mark 7:32-34

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 6, 2015

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Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 6, 2015

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 her or his need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

PRELUDE: *Praise the Lord! Sing Hallelujah!* – Robert J. Powell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG #519: *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

***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.

***GLORY TO GOD**



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

***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

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴ Say 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."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then 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 146

1 Praise the Lord! Sing hal - le - lu - jah! Come, our great Re - deem - er praise.
 2 Hap - py is the one who choos - es Ja - cob's God to be his aid.
 3 Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the mourn - ing pris - 'ner free.
 4 Praise the Lord! Sing hal - le - lu - jah! Come, our great Re - deem - er praise.

I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.
 They are blest whose hope of bless - ing on the Lord their God is stayed.
 rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less eyes to see.
 I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.

Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor on hu - man help de - pend.
 Heav'n and earth the Lord cre - at - ed, seas and all that they con - tain.
 God our Sav - ior loves the right - eous, and the strang - er he be - friends,
 O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er; through all a - ges he is King.

They shall die, to dust re - turn - ing; all their thoughts and plans shall end.
 He de - liv - ers from op - pres - sion; right - eous - ness he will main - tain.
 helps the or - phan and the wid - ow, judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.
 Un - to him, your God, O Zi - on, joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

SECOND READING: James 2:1-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

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?⁷ Is 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.¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.¹³ For 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?¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,¹⁶ and 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?¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***GOSPEL READING: Mark 7:24-37**

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

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,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.²⁷ He 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."²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."³⁰ So 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.³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.³⁷ They 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.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON**

HYMN OF THE DAY #617: *We Come to You for Healing, Lord

***BLESSING AND SENDING OF QUILTS**

***NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With confidence in God's compassion and generosity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

O God, we pray for the church. Give it the courage to translate faith into action. Guide the hands and feet of the faithful to answer the needs so abundant in this world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for streams, pools, springs of water, oceans, lakes, and rivers. Protect all water sources that refresh and sustain the land, animals, and human beings. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world's leaders, that they act for the good of all. We pray for all workers, those who can find no work, those who work in unsafe conditions, and those whose labor is exploited. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who lack daily food, who are fearful, and who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Ava, Denise, Frieda, Jim, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, David & Ellen, and those we remember aloud and in our hearts. Come and save them. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. Make it a place of equality, welcome, and full inclusion. Empower us to live out radical hospitality. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, we remember all who have gone before us and give thanks for their faith and their works. Give us the fortitude to carry on in the work left for us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN #686: We Give Thee but Thine Own

(Please stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward.)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.
God of mercy and grace,
the eyes of all wait upon you,
and you open your hand in blessing.
Fill us with good things at your table,
that we may come to the help of all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.
Amen.

***DIALOGUE**

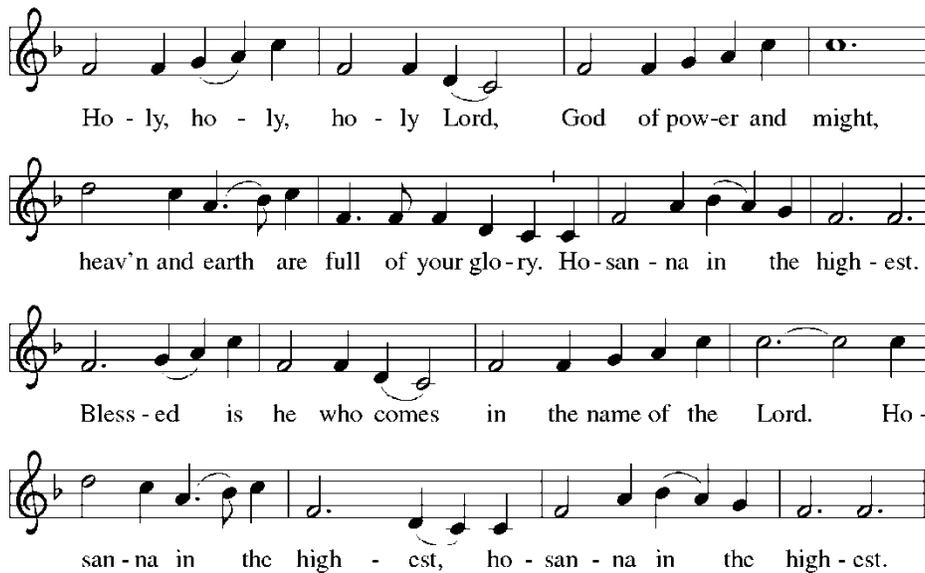
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

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:



*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen.**

***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**

Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*



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.

COMMUNION HYMN #719: *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

Amen.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.
Wise and generous God,
we thank you that at this holy table
you have fed us again with the food of everlasting life.
Send us with your blessing to seek the good of our neighbor
and call others to your feast;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

Almighty and merciful God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve, and keep you
this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG #731: *Earth and All Stars

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Earth and All Stars* – Robert J. Powell

The flowers this week are given by Cindy and Dave Knauff for the glory of God.

9:00 am

Assisting Minister: Martha Ward
Communion Assistant: Matt Claus

Acolyte:
Usher: Bill Schulz

Attendance Last Week:	64	Attendance Last Year:	25
Weekly Budgeted Need:	\$ 2,755.44	Last Week's Giving:	\$ 1,202.00
YTD Budgeted Expenses:	\$ 99,195.92	YTD Receipts:	\$90,053.53
YTD Actual Expense:	\$ 93,219.30		

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Praise the Lord! Sing Hallelujah! Text: Psalm 146, para. *Psalter, 1887*; music: BLAENWERN, by William P. Rowlands.