

L. Y. N.

Love Your Neighbor

Wear a mask, Wash your hands, Respect space!

Divine Worship

Pentecost XI

SMT Parish

August 16, 2020



Introduction and Welcome

In Isaiah we hear 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 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 society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

Prelude: Fantasia -J.S. Bach

Thanksgiving for Baptism

At Home: Use a bowl of water to make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, on the foreheads of one another.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the pastor gives thanks.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into the darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Indeed, we give you thanks,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.
When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.
You give us water for the cleansing of our hands so that we may love our
neighbor as you command.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Apostolic Greeting -II Corinthians

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.

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

*The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent
intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the
Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.*

¹Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And 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—

⁷these 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.

⁸Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Psalm: Psalm 67

Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

¹May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known | upon earth,
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the
na- | tions on earth. R**

⁵Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought | forth its increase;
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe. **R**

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹I 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. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Matthew 15:10-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

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

Meditation – *Pastor LeCroy*

Reflection

If we tell the truth, we all are among the disobedient, as Paul so clearly says. We also are rightly among the foreigners, standing with the outsider woman, begging for help. We too are the dogs, with no right to the bread. But God holds all together in mercy, the ancient covenant people of the Jews but also those of us from the many peoples who have been gathered by the Lord. From Isaiah, from Paul, and from the Gospel according to Matthew, Christians have been learning the humility of the woman: “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs.” Because of his cross and resurrection, Jesus Christ makes bread available to all the peoples, including us — the bread of the eucharist when we can gather, but always the bread of his healing word. And so we come to see our neighbor in a stunning new way: another needy person beside us, under God’s mercy.

Hymn

In Christ There Is No East or West



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com - mu - nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

Prayers of Intercession

Remember in your prayers and with acts of kindness:

- **Dena Calabrese** (friend of Irene Murray)
- **Carol and Donna** (friends of Leslie Neve)
- **Zoia “Charlie” Foster** (Pastor’s niece)
- The Family of **Sean Gustwiller** (friends of Courtney Kochuba)
- We give thanks for the life of **Arthur Jusu-Davies**, a member of St Matthew Trinity who passed away during the last week of May.
- **The Rev. Tom and Janice Kildea, and their children James and Jenny**, at the death by suicide of their oldest son and brother, **Amani**, on June 28. Along with the Kildea family, we also hold in prayer **the congregation of Redeemer, Succasunna**, where Pastor Kildea serves.
- **John Weakland** (Brian Weakland’s Father)
- **Dida Hagen** (friend of MIndy R recently diagnosed with lung cancer.
- **Joanne Krayer**, (Joel's cousin).
- **Those in our community lost to Covid19: Gilberto and Janet Diaz-Granados** (friends of pastor), **Francis Ng** (friend of Dan Stoll) **Charles Powers** (friend of the Meusel family) **Rosa Reyes** (funeral by our parish), **Richard Altomare** (friend of our neighborhood), **Barbara Wolfshorndl** (funeral by our parish), **Dawn Ennis** (sister-in-law of Pamela Pater-Ennis) and **Florence Dombrowsky** (funeral by our parish).

Confident of your care and upheld by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need, responding with the Canaanite woman to each petition “Help us, O Lord.”

We pray for the Christian church around the world,
for humility where the church is dominant,
for courage where it is oppressed,
and for faithfulness when it cannot assemble for worship:
Bless your church, faithful God:
help us, O Lord.

We pray for your bountiful earth, for cleaner air,
for the fields on which our food grows,
for the renewal of lands and waters that have suffered from disregard:
Protect your earth, creative God:
help us, O Lord.

We pray for the nations of the earth,
for the peaceful resolution of disputes around the world,

for just policies that care for the poor,
and for the upcoming political conventions in our land:
Save humankind, sovereign God:
help us, O Lord.

We pray for all in need of healing,
for the residents of Beirut and other distressed cities,
for those suffering from hurricane damage,
for those sick and dying of COVID-19,
for the unemployed,
for people without medical care,
for medical workers and researchers,
for the outcasts of our society,
and for those we name here: Heal the sick, merciful God:
help us, O Lord.

We pray for a spirit of respect the world's religions,
for wisdom concerning the many houses of prayer,
and for guidance where religion serves as an arm of the government:
Direct all people of faith, gracious God:
help us, O Lord.

We pray for schools around the globe, for educators who must plan for the
fall, and for children without the resources to access remote learning: Guide
us, compassionate God:
help us, O Lord.

We pray, finally, for ourselves,
for whenever we feel tormented by demons,
and for all our family and friends: loving God:
help us, O Lord.

We mourn the deaths of those we love,
and we praise you for the lives of all your faithful people.
At the end, gather us all into the joy of your presence.

A brief silence.

Grant us salvation, eternal God:
help us, O Lord.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer
these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

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.**

Or

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

or

Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Love your neighbor as yourself.

Thanks be to God.

Readings for the Week:

+ **Monday** Psalm 87.

+ **Tuesday** Romans 11:13-20.

+ **Wednesday** Matthew 8:1-13.

+ **Thursday** (commemoration of Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153)
Psalm 138.

+ **Friday** Ezekiel 31:15-18.

+ **Saturday** Ezekiel 36:33-38.

+ **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost** Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20.

Correction: In last week's bulletin Stanley "Spike" Enzweiler last name was misspelled. The editor/pastor regrets this mistake.

[Daily Prayer Resources](#) are available, including simple forms of Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer; Responsive Prayer; and prayers for mealtimes and other occasions.

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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