

INTRODUCTION

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P We remember our baptism,
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage 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.**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us
and, for his sake, 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.

C **Amen.**

* OPENING HYMN

"Welcome Home"

1. Come and serve the liv- ing God who dwells up- on the moun- tain. Come and
 2. Come and rest up- on the rock, the rock of our sal- va- tion, where the

Ami B7 Emi Emi C Ami

wor- ship with- out an- y fear. Come and hear the ho- ly Word, the
 Lord wipes a- way ev- 'ry tear. Come and sing the joy- ful songs and

D G Ami B7 Emi

truth a- bout for- give- ness and the love that will al- ways be here. Wel- come
 thank the God of heav- en for the love that will al- ways be - near. Wel- come

Ami D G C C/B

home, wel- come home to the place you be- long, to the

Ami B7 Emi E7 Ami D

place where you'll al- ways be free; Wel- come home, wel- come home to the

G C Ami B7 Emi

house of the Lord; come and join in the great ju- bi- lee!

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* GREETING

P Christ has called us to this place,
 gathered one and all by his Holy Spirit

C We are followers of Christ
 who seek to hear the Word,
 live the Word,
 and share the Word.

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

*** KYRIE**

Assistant: In peace, in peace,

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word... (Refrain)

Congregation:

Help, save and de - fend us, O God. A - - - men.

*** SALUTATION**

Presider: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

5:30

8:30 Edie Goodwin

11:00

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 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.

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;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

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? 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.

*** GOSPEL VERSE**

Congregation:

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e-ter-nal life: Al-le-lu - ia!

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7th chapter.

C **Speak, Lord, your servants are listening!**

*** GOSPEL: 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.

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 Syrophenician 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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON Pr. Jon

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Healer of Our Every Ill"

ELW #612



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.



- 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: Marty Haugen
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HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL
88 9 and refrain

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* THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

THE OFFERING



* THE OFFERTORY

"We Are an Offering"

ELW #692



We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our



lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our



hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing.



All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we

give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our

lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.

Text: Dwight Liles
 Music: OFFERING, Dwight Liles

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*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

*** 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**

*** BLESSING**

P Let us bless our God:

C **praise and thanks to you.**

P May God the Father bless you and keep you,
may Christ be ever light for your lives,
may the Spirit of Love be your guide and path,
for all of your days.

C **Amen.**

*** SENDING HYMN**

"I Danced in the Morning"



1. I danced in the morn - ing when the world was be - gun, And I
2. I danced for the scribe and the phar - i - see, But
3. I danced on the Sab - bath and I cured the lame: The
4. I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black; It's
5. They cut me down and I leapt up high; }



danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, And I
they would not dance, and they would - n't fol - low me; I
ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They
hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They
I am the life that - 'll nev - er, nev - er die; I'll



came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth; At
danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John; They
whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, And
bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone; But
live in you if you'll live in me: 7



Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
came with me and the dance went on.
left me there on a Cross to die.
I am the dance and I still go on.
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Dance then wher - ev - er you may be; I am the
Lord of the Dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wher -
ev - er you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

Text: Sydney Carter, b.1915. © Stainer and Bell Ltd., London, England

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*** DISMISSAL**

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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