



September 8, 2024

**16th Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Holy Communion**

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.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE *This Is My Father's World* arr. Mark Hayes

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands. *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us
and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth,
and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ,

God forgives you all your sins.
 The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness
 and keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN Listen Now for the Gospel ACS 972

Refrain

(Listen now for the gospel!) Alleluia!
 (It is God's word that changes us!) Alleluia!

- 1 Come, Holy Spirit, melt and break our hearts of stone,
 until we give our lives to God, and God alone. *Refrain*
- 2 Come, Holy Spirit, root in us God's living word,
 that we may show the faithfulness of Christ our Lord. *Refrain*
- 3 Come, Holy Spirit, bind the broken, find the lost,
 confirm in us the fire and love of Pentecost. *Refrain*

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

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE STORY TIME

Children may leave worship with the teachers for Bible Story Time. They will return during the Hymn of the Day.

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.

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 (Read responsively by verse)

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.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**ELW 124***We all sing*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Rejoice in the Lord always;* again I will say, Rejoice. *Repeat Alleluia.*

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.

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 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."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **Spirit, Open My Heart** ACS 1043

Refrain

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

- 1 God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. *Refrain*
- 2 Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. *Refrain*
- 3 May I weep with those who weep;

share the joy of friend and neighbor.
 As I live from day to day,
 love will be my finest labor. *Refrain*

APOSTLES' 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 INTERCESSION

A 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.

A Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse

backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict (especially in Ukraine and Russia, throughout the Middle East, in Sudan and in Haiti). Strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery, especially Freda, Sandy, Lori, Nancy, Charlie, Susan, Patricia, Rusty, Nancy, Jean, Terry, Lee, Denise, Larry, Patti, Bob, Joan, Ann, Pamela, Bill, Marge, Donna, Marge, Callum, Krista, Paul, Charles, Steven, Tracey, Johanna, Carole, John, Todd, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts.

(Pause for silence)

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Gracious God, we give thanks for those who have been appointed to serve on the call committee and entrusted with the work of discerning a new pastor to guide the congregation of Faith Lutheran Church. Grant them wisdom, patience, and the direction of your Holy Spirit, that they may exercise right judgment, and so serve you and the mission of your people here.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Guide and nurture the people and friends of Grace, Zion and St. Andrew Churches — the future Faith Lutheran Church — as we move ever closer to our joining together to proclaim your Good News and to build a servant community of healing, hope and new life. Open our hearts and minds to ever new and vibrant visions of your Church for a new day.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Amen.

***SHARE THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

OFFERTORY SOLO *Lamb of God (ELW 195)*
Terry Gustafson

OFFERTORY HYMN The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing ELW 531

St. 1 and 2

GATHERING

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

531

The Feast Is Ready

1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
 2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
 3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
 peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
 poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
 he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
 the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



Refrain
 Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

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THE FEAST IS READY

LM and refrain

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.

By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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**ELW p. 130**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

O God most mighty,
 O God most merciful,
 O God our rock and our salvation,
 hear us as we praise,
 call us to your table,
 grant us your life.

We praise you, O God.

When the earth was a formless void,
 you formed order and beauty.
 When Abraham and Sarah were barren,
 you sent them a child;
 When the Israelites were enslaved,
 you led them to freedom.
 Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,

and the psalmists cried out for healing,
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

We bless you, O God.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
He was born among the poor,
he lived under oppression,
he wept over the city.
With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

We thank you, O God.

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 his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen**
Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen**
Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,
O God our strength and our song,
you show us a vision of a tree of life
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.
Grant us such life,
the life of the Father to the Son,
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
life in you, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed
 be thy name; thy king - dom come; thy will be
 done on earth as it is in heav - en.
 Give us this day our dai - ly bread; and for -
 give - us our tres - pass - es as we for - give those
 who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to temp -
 ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from evil.
 For the king - dom, the pow'r, and the
 glo - ry are yours, for - ev - er and ev - er.
 A - - - - men. A - - - - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are invited to come forward to the front of the nave to receive the Meal. The bread will be distributed by the Presiding Minister. Gluten free wafers are available. Please ask. The wine, served in small glasses, can be received on either side of the front. Also in each tray you will find glasses containing white grape juice as an alternative to the wine. Return to your seats via the side aisles, placing your empty glasses in the baskets provided along the way. In returning to your seats, pause to pray and give thanks for the life-giving graces you have received in this holy meal offered us by the crucified-risen Jesus.

Come, the feast is ready! Jesus welcomes you!

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God* ELW p. 135



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray:

Holy God,

you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.

Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

LEADER

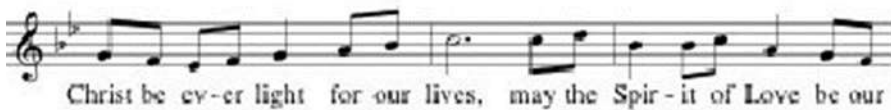


Let us bless our God: Praise and thanks to you.

ALL



May God, Cre - a - tor, bless us and keep us, may



Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the Spir - it of Love be our



guide and path for all of our days. *All*
A . men.

Amen.**SENDING HYMN For the Wholeness of the Earth ACS 1067**

- 1 We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth.
We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth.
We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth.
Can you feel it rising in you?
- 2 We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth.
We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth.
We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth.
Can you feel it spinning in you?
- 3 Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth.
Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth.

Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth.
Can you feel it rising in you?

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, September 8, 2024

Presiding Minister: Rev. Geoff Sinibaldo

Musician: Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Assisting Minister: Arlene Creswell

Lector: Connor Pratt

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Donald Millbrandt, Bill Golden, Kathy Golden

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, September 9, 2024

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

6:45 p.m. Hand Bell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

6:30 p.m. Summer Bells

Thursday, September 12, 2024

6:30 p.m. Faith Lutheran Church Steering Committee at St. Andrew

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (Youth Room)

Sunday, September 15, 2024; 17th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

Church Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

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The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor, phone: 860.857.9362

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator