

**Salem-Sauk Valley Lutheran Parish**  
**Order of Sunday Worship- 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost– September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**At Sauk Valley Lutheran Church**

**Prelude**

Emily Larson, Musician

**Welcome/Announcements**

**Invocation:**

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

**Opening Prayer:**

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray that You would open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. **C: Amen.**

**Hymn:**

*“When All Thy Mercies”*

Praise #14

**Confession of Sin:**

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

**C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Kyrie:**

*C: O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us!*

*O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us!*

*O God the Holy Spirit, true Comforter, have mercy upon us!*

**Absolution:**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake God forgives all our sins. To those who believe in his name he gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this Lord unto us all.

**C: Amen.**

**Gloria:**

P: Glory be to God in the highest.

*C: And on earth peace, good will toward men.*

P: The Lord be with you.

*C: And also with you.*

**Prayer of the Day:**

P: Let us pray together.

**C: 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**

**Psalm 146**

**First Reading- Isaiah 35:4-7a**

**Second Reading- James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17**

**Gospel Reading- Mark 7:24-37**

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: God be praised for his glad tidings!**

**Apostles Creed**

**C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty from whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

**Children's Message – "Jesus Loves Me"**

**Offering and Offertory: *We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift might be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust O Lord from Thee.***

**Hymn: "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place"**

Praise #277

**Sermon**

**Pastor Lexy Carson**

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

As you are finishing up your summer maybe you are reflecting on some of your vacation travels, the scenery, the people, the chance to relax and be somewhere different. A place to simply be at rest and peace away from the busyness of your daily life.

Well, our Gospel for today finds Jesus setting out for a change of scenery, looking for a break. He heads from the region of Tyre, away from the Jewish people who he had been dealing with for some time now and found his way to the land of the Gentiles. The Gospel explicitly says "he entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there." Jesus was looking for a break, clearly not wanting to be disturbed. He was looking for a bit of much needed vacation time.

Except, this is Jesus after all and he cannot escape notice. There is no vacation or Labor Day weekend getaway for the Son of Man. Who finds him but a Syrophenician woman, a Gentile whose daughter has an unclean spirit. This woman is desperate and longing for someone to help her daughter. She had heard of Jesus Christ and what amazes me is that she finds him and knows it is him. Have you ever had to meet someone in a cafe or coffee shop and you've never met them before so you're awkwardly looking around wondering if this is the person you're supposed to be meeting? Not with this woman, she had no idea what he looked like, there was no Facebook for her to creep on his page to see what he looked like. Yet somehow she comes and finds him. She comes bowing down at his feet, begging for Jesus to help.

So how does Jesus react to her begging? Jesus responds with, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." Jesus is literally calling this woman a dog, the actual translation from Greek is a "small house dog" but that doesn't really

soften the blow. Jesus calls this woman a dog. Jesus says you are not one of the chosen, you are not a Jew. You are a gentile woman, you have no right to ask this of me. Why would I heal your daughter? I did not come for you.

Now when I hear the language of “let the children be fed first, it is not fair to take the child’s food and throw it to the dog” I’m taken back to a moment from this last week where I met a friend with her one year old daughter and I had both the boys with me and we were eating a picnic at the park. I give my little guys their plate of a sandwich, cheese stick, some Chex mix and cucumbers and they graze a bit and then start handing me pieces saying they’re done with it so pretty soon I’m eating a slobbery half chewed cheese stick, partially chomped on cucumbers and then I see my friend eating the oranges of the bench that her daughter had been tossing. I never felt more like a dog in my life. And Jesus says, let the children be fed first. As the child scatters the food away from them, thrashing it all over the floor, tossing it to someone else, wasting it.

This is exactly what the Jewish people had been doing to Jesus. Jesus came to feed the Jewish children and they threw his words to the side, we do not need you. Last week we read the Gospel of the Pharisees and Scribes questioning Jesus for not washing his hands before eating. Raising questions and accusing is what they had done to Jesus. They did not get on their knees and beg Jesus for food; they attacked him and took the word, the promise, the food that he freely gave them and they tossed it to the side. They did not want him.

The Syrophenician woman, whom Jesus calls a dog, recognizes and admits that Jesus' word is true. She doesn't try to justify herself, she doesn't say I am not a dog or how could you address me like that. No. The woman says “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” This mom knew that she wasn't one of the chosen and as a woman she knew she was even more of an outsider. She had no right according to the law to ask anything of Jesus. Yet, here she was in all of her unworthiness, her uncleanness and in desperation asking Jesus to heal her daughter. She comes looking for the scraps that the Pharisees and Scribes had just thrown away.

So what does Jesus do with this woman? He gives her far more than scraps. He gives her everything. “For saying that you may go- the demon has left your daughter.” Jesus draws this confession out of the woman. It is faith that makes her bold and sets her free. It is faith that frees her from being a gentile woman, that makes her bold to come and ask Jesus for help. It was faith that he could help. So you might be asking yourself where does this faith come from? How can I have faith like the Syrophenician woman? How do I ensure that I'm not the Pharisee and scribe tossing Jesus aside?

Jesus points us right to where faith comes from in the second half of our Gospel the story of the deaf and mute man. Jesus puts his fingers in the man's ear and looks to the heavens saying “Ephphatha” which is Aramic, Jesus's native tongue which you can only find three times in the Gospel, when he tells the little girl to get up and on the cross when he speaks to his father. This time he says, “be opened.”

What Jesus says, always happens. When he says “Ephphatha” the man's ears are opened and the man can hear and he can speak without an impediment. Just as when he said to the woman, your daughter is healed, she was. Jesus doesn't need to touch or even be in the same room as the individual, what Jesus says happens. It is his word, by hearing you receive faith. It is through the ear that Christ speaks faith into you.

It is only through Christ speaking his word to you that you receive faith. It is this faith alone where we actually find a true vacation. It isn't in peace of discovering somewhere new, it isn't the vitamin D of the beach, it is in hearing the Word that Christ forgives you of all your sins. That is the ultimate vacation, the real peace that comforts in all times. This free gift of faith. So through the storms, rain or lack thereof, hail, whatever may come our way. Your peace, your rest is found in Christ alone. Christ is here and Christ is the only one who can do anything about all of this. His will be done and he comes today to say "Ephphatha" to open your ears to hear this promise, he has come for you.

Now may the peace of Christ which surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

**Hymn:**

*"The Healer"*

Praise #200

**Prayer of the Church:** Each prayer will end: Lord, in your mercy. *C: Hear our prayer.*

### **Holy Communion**

P: The Lord be with you.

*C: And also with you.*

P: Lift up your hearts to the Lord.

*C: We lift up our hearts unto the Lord.*

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*C: It is meet and right so to do.* P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and all places give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father Through Jesus Christ, your dear son, our Lord and Savior who ascending above the heavens and sitting at your hand, poured out the Holy Spirit as he had promised upon the chosen disciples, causing the whole earth to rejoice.

Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company in heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

*C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Invitation/Distribution

Thanksgiving-

P: The Lord be with you. *C: And also with you.*

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you Lord God almighty that you have refreshed us with these gifts; and we ask you, in your mercy, to strengthen us through these same gifts in faith toward you and in fervent love for one another; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*C: Amen.*

### **Benediction**

P: Now may the Lord bless us and keep us. May the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. May the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us and give us his peace.

*C: Amen, Amen, Amen.*

### **Doxology**

*C: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Dismissal:** P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God! Postlude**