

Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Sunday, August 20, 2023  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



**Thought:** The word “dogs” used by Jesus may seem too harsh. But the Greek word used is “*kunarium*” which translates to a “house dog” or “puppy”; and not the word “*kuon*” which refers to a scavenging canine. This is a harmless metaphor used by Matthew to refer to the usual household scene where food that fell from the table was eaten by the house dog. God knows no boundaries of race, sex, or religion; but looks at the faith in our hearts.

**Prelude – Lillian Pinkston**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prayer Concerns**

**Sharing of the Peace**

**P:** In living faith, we share the peace. The Peace of the Lord be with you!

**C:** And also with you.

## Call to Worship

A: Grant us perfect faith, O God –

**C: Faith which overcomes all doubts.**

A: For yours is a kingdom of faith –

**C: it is our BELIEF that makes us one.**

A: For, as your Son, rejecting the Canaanite woman from Tyre...

...recognized in her a sturdy faith...

**C: “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”**

A: ...so, too, recognize our faith,

**C: and gather us, at last, into your eternal presence.**

A: Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now...

**C: and forever. Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn** – “In Christ There Is No East or West” ELW #650

<https://youtu.be/GG8hzY1OoM4>

by Chris Brunelle

## Invocation

P: Blessed by the holy Trinity, + one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**C: Amen.**

## Confession and forgiveness

P: Merciful God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have hurt our community.**

**We have squandered your blessings.**

**We have hoarded your bounty.**

**In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Righteous God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned.  
We have failed to be honest.  
We have lacked the courage to speak.  
We have spoken falsely.  
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise** – "O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come" ELW #610

<https://youtu.be/1O5vdLNE-Gw>  
by First – Plymouth Church

### **Prayer of the Day**

A: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you.

**C: 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.**

### **The Word**

#### **Old Testament reading – Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

*Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to a faith community – not race, nationality, or any other category.*

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.<sup>6</sup>And 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—these 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.<sup>8</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 67

*Let all the peoples praise you, O God*

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

<sup>2</sup>**Let your way be known <sup>1</sup> upon earth, your saving health among all  
nations.**

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples  
with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup>**The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has  
blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup>May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

## Epistle reading – Romans 11:1-2, 29-32

*God has mercy upon all*

[Paul writes:] <sup>1</sup>I 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. <sup>2a</sup>God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. <sup>29</sup>For the  
gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup>Just as you were once  
disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their  
disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the  
mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup>For God has  
imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel – Matthew 15: 10-28

<https://youtu.be/F6wkS7Uedls>

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you O Lord.**

*Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart*

[<sup>10</sup>[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:<sup>11</sup>it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” <sup>12</sup>Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” <sup>13</sup>He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup>Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” <sup>15</sup>But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” <sup>16</sup>Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup>Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

<sup>21</sup>Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

### Children of God Time

[https://youtu.be/gilSs\\_y-T0E](https://youtu.be/gilSs_y-T0E)

**Message** - “Getting To The Heart of the Matter”

<https://youtu.be/TjY5fbykoXI>

**Hymn of the Day** – “There Is a Balm in Gilead” ELW #614

<https://youtu.be/NjW0VleQFk>

by The Tabernacle Choir

## **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**

P: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry (*especially name/s of specific ministries*). Safeguard those who travel. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors (*especially Bernard of Clairvaux, whom the church commemorates today*). Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **Offering**

**Offertory Music** – “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly” ELW #461

## **Offertory Prayer**

A: You have called all people to your holy mountain.

**C: And we are joyful in your house of prayer.**

A: Accept these offerings – sacrifices of praise,

**C: and signs of our thankfulness.**

A: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: 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**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

### **Consecration**

#### **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.



## **Distribution**

**Communion Music** – Lillian Pinkston

**Post Communion Blessing** – Pastor

## **Post Communion Prayer**

A: Your table is open to all, O Christ,

**C: for you have come to gather both the lost sheep and the faithful dogs.**

A: For, “Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel,

**C: “I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.”**

A: We bless you now and evermore.

**C: Amen.**

## **The Benediction from Numbers 6**

**Sending Hymn** – “I Love To Tell the Story” ELW #661

<https://youtu.be/OPtzKT-JLw0>

A Cappella by Chris Rupp

## **Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** – Lillian Pinkston

WHO DOES JESUS  
THINK *HE IS*, CALLING  
THIS WOMAN *A DOG!*?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

*SHE* KNOWS WHO HE IS. *SHE*  
CALLS HIM *BY NAME* AND *SHE*  
KNOWS HE HAS SOMETHING *FOR*  
*HER*. THAT'S *GREAT FAITH!*



I GUESS THE ONLY  
THING TO SAY TO  
THAT IS... "*WOOF!*"



MATTHEW 15:21-28