

**Southwest California Synod Digital Service**  
**Sunday, August 16, 2020 | 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Lectionary 20, Year A**

**Welcome – Interim Bishop Murray Finck**

Welcome to the digital worship from the Southwest California Synod for the 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost. I am Interim Bishop Murray Finck. I will be offering today's service.

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.

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray:

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.**

**Gathering Hymn | “Blessed Be” – Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences**  
(Lyrics on screen)

**First Reading | Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 – Samantha Henderson**

<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—

<sup>7</sup>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.

## **Children's Chat | Nathan Maxwell-Doherty**

### **Gospel | Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[<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.

This is the gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you, O Christ.

### **Sermon | Interim Bishop Murray Finck**

**Special Music | "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" arr by Mark Hayes,  
played by Todd Kolberg**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

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."

*A brief silence.*

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:

*A brief silence.*

Bless your church, faithful 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:

*A brief silence.*

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:

*A brief silence.*

Heal the sick, merciful 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:

*A brief silence.*

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:

*A longer period of silence.*

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.**

**Sending Song | “Gospel Light” – Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences**

(Lyrics on screen)

## **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. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

Prayers from Worship in the Home, August 16, 2020

<https://blogs.elca.org/worship/2671/>