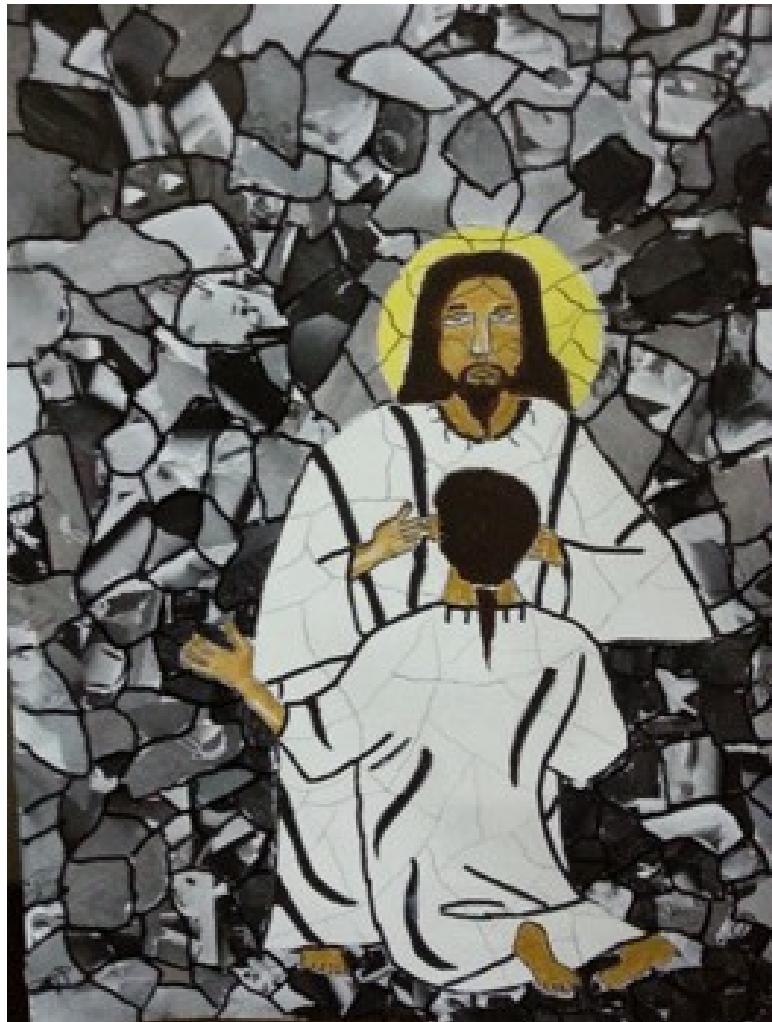


Sunday, September 5, 2021

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



St. Mark Lutheran Church
One North Road
Circle Pines, MN 55014

Sunday September 5, 2021
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30am

PRELUDE

MEDITATION

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

+CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God, our provider,

C: like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

L: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C: Amen.

+OPENING HYMN

"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

+GREETING

L: 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.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Day By Day"

FIRST READING

James 2: 1-10, 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. 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.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

+GOSPEL

Mark 7:24-37

L: The holy gospel according to Mark C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician 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 Syrophoenician 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,

(Continued on next page)

“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.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Mollie Dvorak

+HYMN OF DAY

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

+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 power of 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, 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.

+PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

After each portion of the prayers: L: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

L: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. C: **Amen.**

+PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: **And also with you.**

The congregation may share a social distance sign of peace with one another.

OFFERING

An offering basket is in the back of the sanctuary for you to drop off your offering. At this time we will not be passing the plates but we continue to be grateful for your generosity.

+OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray. God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

+GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

The sacrament of Holy Communion is offered as part of our worship. If you did not grab an individual cup of Communion, please let an usher know and they will get you one. We will take communion together in our seats and Pastor Mollie will instruct us.

All are welcome to receive the bread and the grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

+POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

L: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

+BENEDICTION

L: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, one God, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

+SENDING HYMN

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Festival is next weekend!

Invite your friends and family! You won't want to miss this! We'll worship together at 9:30, then head outside for fun, games, and food! They'll be a bouncy house for all the kids too!

Can you spare a six pack of beer/seltzers, or a bottle of wine? We're looking for all kinds - cheap, expensive, IPA's, light and all flavors. If you can, please drop them off at church by September 8th.

Register for Fall

Sunday School and Confirmation both start the week of the 19th - that means it's time to register them! All registration can be found online. Confirmation parents - mark your calendar for our parent meeting on Sept. 15th at 6:30pm.

Sunday School Update

Sunday School is going to look a little different this year and we need your help! Each week will be treated like a mini VBS - because who doesn't love VBS! We will interact with a Bible Story to really engage and learn with all of our senses. We'll start with music, the Bible story and then break into different rotations. One week these could be art and cooking or science and games - the options are endless! In order for this to be successful - we need people to lead these rotations. If you love art projects, sign up for an art rotation or all of them! Or if you love science, sign up for those. It's a commitment, but a commitment on your terms and schedules. This is a way to fulfill your promises that you made while each of these little ones were baptized. We will be having a short meeting after worship today and next week to answer any questions and to invite people to sign up.

There are supplies that we need for the year as well - an Amazon wish list has been created! You can find this link on our digital announcements and on our website (<https://a.co/1OA0pMO>). Thank you!

The Markings

The fall addition of The Markings is ready for you! An email was sent out with a link to the newsletter, but we have printed some for pick up. If you would like yours mailed, please let Jenny know.

September It's the Little Things Experiment

September's experiment is ready for pick up! Prayer is an important part of our faith and this month we're giving you some resources to say some prayers for our neighbors. Enjoy a walk around our community while praying. If you have missed any experiments, we have some extras!

Red Cross Blood Drive - Sept. 13

Our next blood drive is almost full! If you give blood in the month of September, you'll get a limited addition college football t-shirt! You'll also receive a coupon for a free haircut at Sport Clips! The need is great right now - sign up to help!

Tanzania Scholarship Quilt

Tickets will go on sale next week for this year's quilt - don't miss your opportunity! Tickets are \$10.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector: Nancy Richter

Prayers: Linda Madsen

Ushers: Tim Klinkhammer and Linda Madsen

Greeters: Paula Foerster and Harry

PRAYER AND CONCERN

Robbin Sonnenberg, in her new diagnosis of colon cancer and perforated bowel.

Yvonne Guptill

Lisa Hutchinson's sister-in-law, Susan Bushey (and family) who's being treated for cancer.

We also pray for: Verna, Sherry, Sue Friburg, Wendy, Kelly, Sandy, Mashell, Shannon, Larry, Leslie, Dave, Sandie, and Mark.

Please contact the office with any updates to this prayer and concern list—thank you!

Celebration of Life for Dennis Johnson will take place on
September 11th from 1-5pm
69 West Road
Circle Pines, MN 55014

St. Mark Giving

August 23rd through August 29th giving totaled: \$3,884

Needed to cover Plan for Ministry: \$5,490

Worship Attendance

August 22:156

August 15: 164

August 8: 139

August 1: 134

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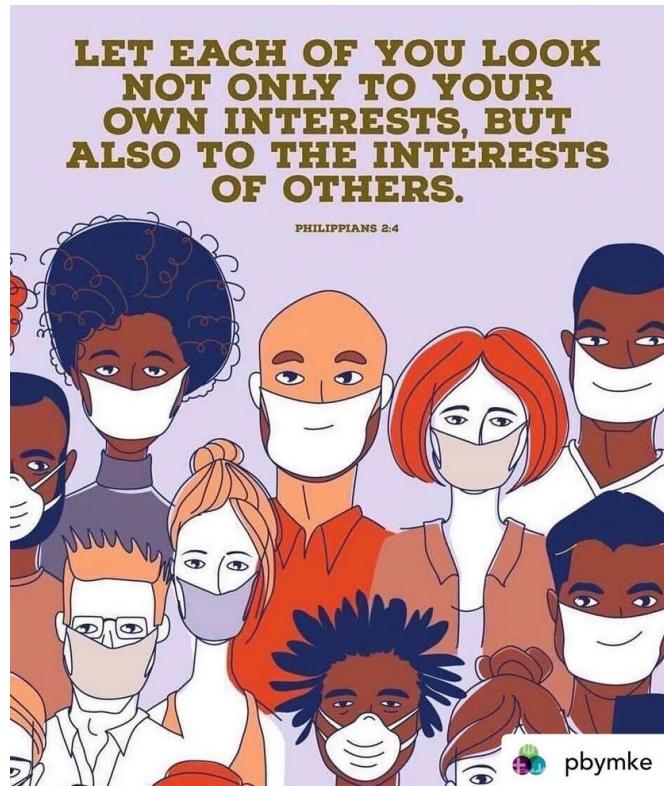
Church Website:

www.stmarkcp.org

***Growing
Together in
God's Love to
Serve Others***



SAINT MARK
Evangelical Lutheran Church



This week at St. Mark

Monday 9/6	Office Closed - Labor Day Men Who Love Donuts: 9:30am
Tuesday 9/7	Office hours: 10-3pm Staff Meeting: 10:30am Social Ministry Meeting: 2pm
Wednesday 9/8	Office hours: 10-3pm
Thursday 9/9	Stitchin' In the Dark: 6pm
Saturday 9/11	AA: 10:30am Fall Festival Set Up
Sunday 9/12	Worship at 9:30am Fall Festival: 11-2pm

Front cover art: *Jesus Heals Deaf Man* By: Ganesh Kelagina Shenoy