

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

9:30 a.m. Worship



Como Park Lutheran Church, ELCA, RIC

Reaching out in Christ to a changing world.

1376 Hoyt Ave W | Saint Paul, MN 55108

(651) 646-7127

www.ComoParkLutheran.org



We welcome all to worship here: those who are strong in faith and those who are seeking, those who are hurting and those who give comfort; all who are drawn to worship, community, and faith.

We acknowledge and celebrate the rich diversity within and around us. As a community rooted in the body of Christ, we commit ourselves to creating a space where people of all races, ages, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions are not only included but deeply valued and seen as essential to our shared journey.

Together, we value human diversity as a divine gift and blessing—a reflection of God’s boundless creativity and love. Because of this, we commit ourselves in ministry to fully embracing all people and advancing racial equity in our ministry.

We recognize that we hold a variety of beliefs, perspectives, and lived experiences; and yet we gather in Christ to worship God together. If you have questions, feedback, or needs for assistance, please ask. We seek to grow together in ministry, community and faith, and we are glad that you are here with us today.

~ The People of Como Park Lutheran Church

**Coffee hour will take place immediately after the service.
Join us in the Narthex for coffee and light snacks.**

Upcoming events and announcements can be found at the back of the bulletin.

This service is broadcast live on YouTube and recorded for later viewing:
www.youtube.com/c/ComoParkLutheranChurch



Regular - Liturgist
Bold - Congregation
✠ - Stand as able



ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude on “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

David Cherwien

WELCOME, GREETING, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠CONFESSIOIN AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

~ 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

✠OPENING HYMN

Gather Us In

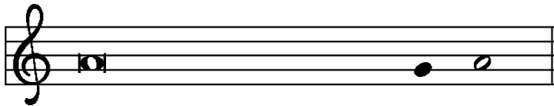
ELW 532

✠THE APOSTOLIC GREETING (2 Corinthians 13:14)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

✠KYRIE

ELW pg. 147-148



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



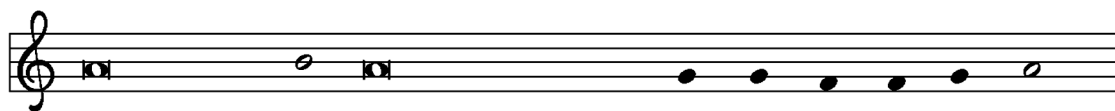
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

✠THIS IS THE FEAST

ELW pg. 149-150

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

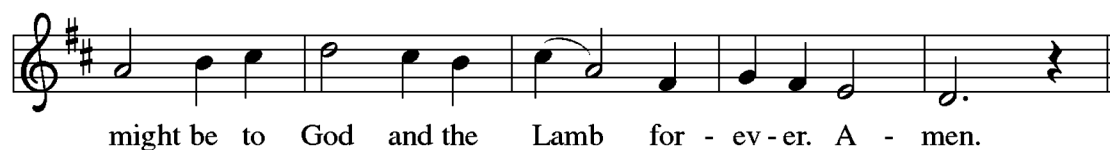
Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8

¹ Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ 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—

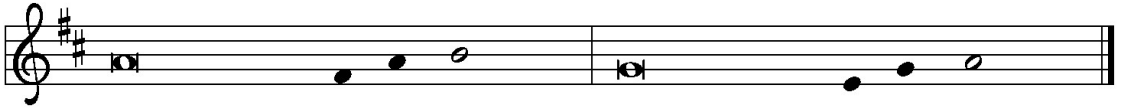
⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ 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



- ¹ May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.
- ² **Let your way be known | upon earth,**
your saving health a- | mong all nations.
- ³ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.
- ⁴ **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,**
**for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na-
| tions on earth.**
- ⁵ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.
- ⁶ **The earth has brought | forth its increase;**
God, our own | God, has blessed us.
- ⁷ May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

¹ 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.

² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their



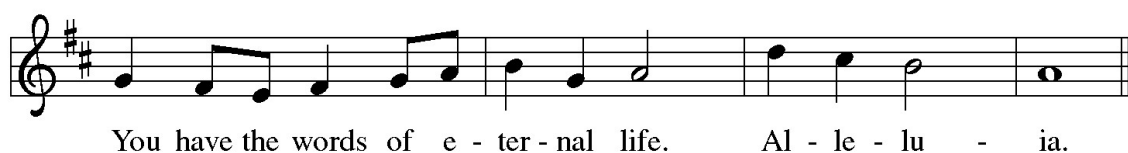
disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✠ **GOSPEL VERSE**

ELW pg. 151



✠ **GOSPEL: Matthew 15: 21-28**

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mathew the Fifteenth Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² 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." ²³ 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." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Mary Ann Schmidt

(Jesus Loves Me! ELW 595)

SERMON

Pastor Peter Coen-Tuff

✠HYMN OF THE DAY

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

ELW 588

✠APOSTLES' CREED

Standing together, let us confess our faith...

**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

... Lord, in your mercy,
... **hear our prayer.**

✠THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

(In sharing God's Peace we share with each other our hope for God's blessing by shaking hands, or turning to one another and nodding, or bumping fists and saying "God's peace be with you.")

THE MEAL

OFFERING

Play on Your Harp, Little David

arr. Rollo Dilworth

Aaron and Ken Purdham

Electronic offerings can be made using smart phones and tablet devices by going to www.ComoParkLutheran.org and clicking on the “donate” button.



✠OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠WORDS OF INSTITUTION (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

In the night in which he was betrayed...

... Do this for the remembrance of me.

✠THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13; Revelation 11:15)

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

**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.

DISTRIBUTION

All who believe Christ is truly present in the sacrament are invited to receive communion. At the server, hold out the flat of your palm to receive the wafer. If you desire gluten-free wafers, simply say to the first server "gluten-free." Then, step to the second server and take the wine in the small cup. The cups hold red wine and grape juice. If you are allergic to grapes, you are free to receive only the bread, knowing that Christ is fully present within each element. Children who do not yet commune will receive a blessing from pastor or first server.

LAMB OF GOD (John 1:29)

ELW pg. 154

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

ELW 610

✠POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

✠POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal. Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE SENDING

✠BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

✠CLOSING HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign

ELW 434

✠DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata in b

Eugene Gigout

Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703921. All rights reserved.

Play on Your Harp, Little David arr. Rollo Dilworth © 2009 Hal Leonard Corp.
Gather Us In Text and Music: Marty Haugen © 1982 GIA Publications
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy Text: Frederick W. Faber, public domain
LORD, REVIVE US Music: North American, 19th cent., public domain
O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come Text: Fred Pratt Green © 1969 Hope Publishing Co.
DISTRESS Music: W.Walker, Southern Harmony, public domain
Jesus Shall Reign Text: Isaac Watts, public domain
DUKE STREET music: attr. John Hatton, public domain
Duke Street setting by Noel Rawsthorn © 1990 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.
Duke Street setting by Michael Burkhardt ©2001 Birnamwood Publications
Toccata in b by Eugene Gigout, public domain
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy by David Cherwien © 2017 Augsburg Fortress

Please pray for...

Anders N.	Tyler F. (brother-in-law of Ginger F.)
Kathy H.	J.J. K. (great grandson of Bill H.)
Ann L.	Joe (friend of Sandra H.)
Ruth R.	Cheryl & Jim (quilter & husband)
Gina K.	Nichole (friend of Como Connects)
Gary (friend of Deb S.)	Mary C.
Heidi G.	Ginger F.
Betty H	Duane B.
Charlie	... and all in need of prayers

We welcome names of members, family, and friends on our prayer list.

✠ ✠ ✠

Serving in the Military

Dane Beecham, Jonathan Lund, Kristian Nelson
... and all others who serve

✠ ✠ ✠

We pray regularly for all members and friends of our congregation.

This week in worship, we pray for:

Carter & Sara Cahill, Remi
Julie & Phillip Cain
Craig Canada
George & Barb Carley
Joel & Diedra Carlson, Samuel, Noa
Sydney Carlson-Polovenko & Nikita Polovenko
Jeffrey Carnes

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Pastor: Peter Coen-Tuff

Director of Music Ministry: Tom Ferry

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Date	August 16, 2026
Time	9:30 AM
Acolyte	Kyle Bergstrom
Communion Prep	Rosemary Johnson & Zarida Young
Assisting Minister	Craig Canada
Communion Asst 1	Darrell Anderson
Communion Asst 2	Tom Spivey
Greeter	Heidi Banitt
Coffee Servers	David & Nahoko Person
Children's Message	Mary Ann Schmidt
Reader	Craig Canada
Liturgist	Alex Leone
Ushers	Family Team Bergstrom
Welcome Desk	Sue Brogger
Bus Driver	Tom Spivey
Video Tech	Ken Purdham

USHER TEAM

Family Team Bergstrom: Suzy & Drew, Evan and Kyle

COMO PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

PRE-FAIR

Neighborhood Block Party

BRING YOUR CHAIR TO THE
CORNER OF **HAMLIN & HOYT**

★ **AUGUST 25TH | 6-8 PM** ★

STATE FAIR TICKET DRAWING

**SWEET FRUCI'S ICE CREAM TRUCK (FREE FOR KIDS
UNDER 12) - SNACKS - BEVERAGES
LAWN GAMES**

☀ **FREE ENTRY** ☀

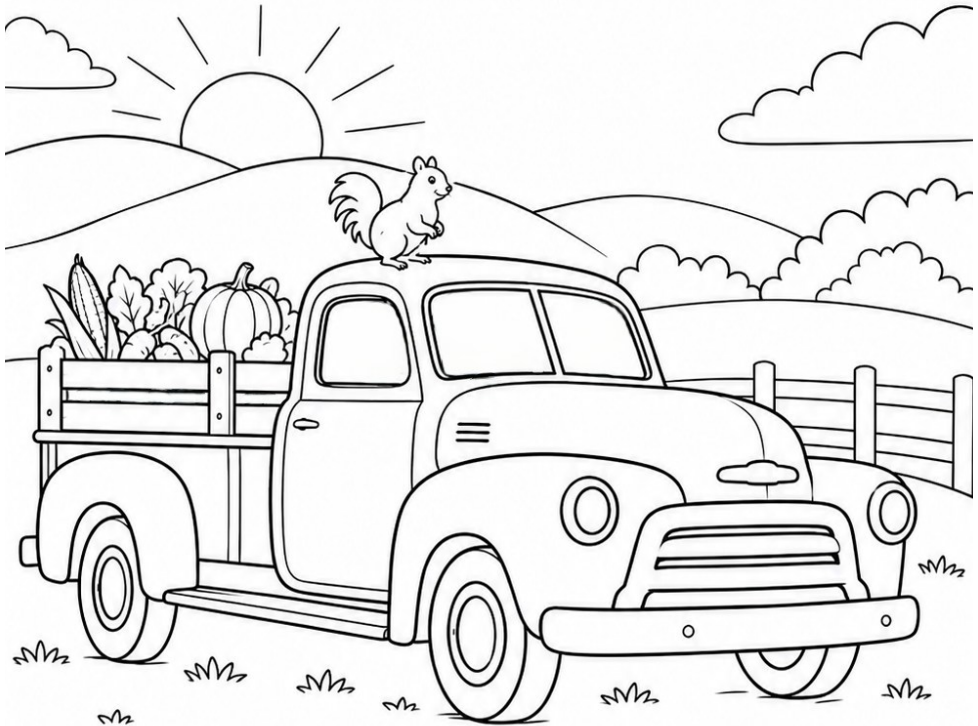
EVERYONE WELCOME



thrivent



COMO PARK FARMERS' MARKET



May 14 – Oct. 29

Thurs: 2 PM – 6 PM

1545 Hamline Ave, St. Paul

No market Aug. 27, Sept. 3



CELEBRATING TOM FERRY

Director of Music Ministries since 1998, Tom will be retiring on September 7th. The article below was previously posted as part of our “100 Years of Belonging” series to celebrate the CPLC Centennial.

For more than 25 years, Director of Music Ministries Tom Ferry has helped shape one of the most recognizable parts of worship at Como Park Lutheran Church, the music. For Tom, music is not a performance for the congregation, it is the congregation’s voice lifted together.

In the Lutheran tradition, the long-standing title for a Director of Music Ministries is cantor, literally a leader of congregational song, and that idea sits at the center of how Tom understands his role. “My goal always is to facilitate the voice of the congregation in worship,” he says. Music is not something performed for a congregation, it is something the whole community offers together. “Choirs are not singing for the congregation,” Tom explains. “We are singing for God on behalf of the congregation.” Worship music, in Tom’s view, is not entertainment, it is part of the congregation’s shared prayer. “Music can be prayer, it can be praise, it can be adoration,” he says. “It can also be teaching. It speaks in ways that words cannot.”

That philosophy shapes not only what music is sung, it shapes who feels invited to sing it. Tom emphasizes that while preparation and care matter, worship is not about perfection. “The thing I’ve always told anyone who participates in music here is that we are called to give our best to God,” he says. “That doesn’t mean you’re expected to be Liberace or Celine Dion.” What someone’s “best” looks like can change from week to week. Illness, sleepless nights with children, difficult weeks at work, life inevitably finds its way into Sunday morning. Worship makes room for that reality. “All we’re called to do is give our best at that moment,” Tom says, “not to compare it to some other person or some other time.”

In many ways, that approach reflects something deeper about the spirit of Como Park Lutheran Church itself, a community marked not just by musical excellence, but by humor, humility, and a shared willingness to show up as we are. That spirit of participation is something many members



notice right away. In last month's centennial story, member Lori Purdham described feeling invited into worship through music, not because of skill, but because everyone's voice mattered. Tom first arrived at Como Park in 1998, drawn by two things he noticed right away, the congregation's long history of valuing music and its strong commitment to mission and generosity beyond its own walls. It did not take long for the community itself to make an impression.

At the time, Tom's son Ethan was just six months old, curious and energetic. During a service not long after the family arrived, Ethan managed to crawl away from the pews and make his way all the way to the front of the sanctuary. The pastor, standing on the floor during announcements, simply scooped him up, set him on his hip, and continued without missing a beat.

Tom still laughs when he remembers it. "It was like, yeah," he recalls. "This is home."

Moments like that confirmed what Tom had begun to sense, Como Park was a place where both music and community mattered deeply. Over the years, the congregation's love of music has taken many forms. From Bach and large choral works to contemporary praise music, mission concerts, and an annual Messiah sing-along that once filled the sanctuary with more than 200 voices, Como Park has embraced a wide range of musical expression. "It's been a good place to speak in many musical languages," Tom says.

Music may be the most visible part of Tom's ministry, yet what has kept him at Como Park for more than two decades reaches beyond music itself. "The community," Tom says simply. Within the congregation, friendships grow naturally, and a quiet culture of care surrounds those relationships. When someone faces illness or hardship, support often appears without much fanfare. "Somebody might have cancer, and unless you're aware of what's going on you might completely miss the fact that people just step up," he explains. Meals are delivered, rides are arranged, and help appears where it is needed. "It isn't always the same people," Tom says. "It just happens."

Looking ahead, Tom hopes that spirit continues long into the future. "I hope that when someone walks through these doors, they feel welcome," he says. "I hope worship is a place where people can both be accepted and have a voice, a way to speak to God in prayer and in praise and supplication and adoration. All of those things are part of worship."

After more than two decades of music at Como Park Lutheran Church, that vision remains the same, a community where every voice matters and worship, offered together, continues to shape the next hundred years of Como Park Lutheran Church.

**AUGUST 16, 2026
TWELFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**



Jesus' ministry is for all nations.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 15:21-28	A woman's faith
Monday	Isaiah 56:1-8	God's saving power is everywhere
Tuesday	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	God saves Jews and Gentiles
Wednesday	Genesis 45:1-15	Joseph and his brothers
Thursday	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Instructions concerning prayer
Friday	Matthew 28:16-20	The Great Commission
Saturday	Psalms 67	Tell the nations to praise God
Sunday	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of Christ

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:12 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of the nations, we thank you for your mercy and grace that is meant not only for those we know and love but for all people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Gracious God, we thank you for this food and for all those who have planted, harvested, transported, and prepared it for us this day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God be gracious to you and bless you. (Psalm 67:1)



© 2025 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

AUGUST 16, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

All Are Welcome



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What have you learned from someone who speaks another language or comes from a different culture?
- It is easy to overlook how God's grace and mercy is not just for us but for all people. How can you extend kindness to someone of a culture that is foreign to you?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 15:21-28.

The Canaanite woman is central to this story for many reasons. She is a woman, and she is a foreigner, both good reasons for Jesus not to talk to her. He is especially not to address her plea before addressing the needs of the Jewish people, "*the lost sheep of the house of Israel*" (v. 24). This woman is also a critical figure because her plea for help changes Jesus' response to her. It is not easy to understand how this woman seems to teach and change Jesus, but she does. The result, however, is clear: Jesus' ministry, like that of the God of the Old Testament (Psalm 67) is for all the nations, not just the sons and daughters of Abraham. This story lifts up the essential mission of Jesus and the church of all generations. As Jesus directed us in Matthew 28:16-20 (the Great Commission), we are to make disciples of all nations, not just our ethnic group, not just "our people," and not just our own nation.

Discuss: What opportunities do you have in your community to show God's love to a foreigner or a stranger?

Pray: **Generous God, help us to see the breadth and depth of your love for all people in the world through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you reach out to someone who needs to hear kind and loving words?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The prophet Isaiah declared God's intention to make God's house (the temple in Jerusalem) a "*house of prayer for all peoples*" (Isaiah 56:7). Think or talk about where, when, and how you pray in your home. In what ways do you feel your own home is a "house of prayer"?

Pray: **Lord Jesus, we come to you in prayer. Help us to show faith in you today and every day. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

**Please visit the Welcome Desk in the narthex
if you have any questions about our facility or upcoming events.**

Interim Pastor

Peter Coen-Tuff—651-646-7127 Ext 2202
218-230-8059 (c)
pastor@comoparklutheran.org

Youth Director

David Osterhouse—651-646-7127 Ext. 2204
osterhouse@comoparklutheran.org

Director of Music Ministries

Tom Ferry—651-646-7127 Ext. 2209
ferry@comoparklutheran.org

Sunday School Superintendent

Kelly Whitstone—651-646-7127
sundayschool@comoparklutheran.org

Nursery

Jessica Vargas—651-646-7127 Ext. 2219

Senior Ministry Coordinator

Pam Ballis—(651) 426-3690
pmbalice@gmail.com

Volunteer Engagement Coordinator

Alex Leone—alex@leonesoftware.com

Social Ministries

Sue Brogger - 651-646-7127 Ext 2203
sue@comoparklutheran.org

Prayer Chain

Mary Ann Schmidt - 720-357-3558 (c)
schmidt.m795@gmail.com
prayerrequest@comoparklutheran.org

Church Office:

Angela Lennes—651-646-7127 Ext 2200
office@comoparklutheran.org

**Hunger Ministries, Kitchen & Events
Coordinator**

Sue Brogger - 651-646-7127 Ext 2203
sue@comoparklutheran.org

**Finance Comptroller & Trust Fund
Donations**

David Laden - 651-646-7127 Ext 2211
laden@comoparklutheran.org

Como Connects

Lisa Kane - 651-642-1127
director@comobnp.org

Heidi Schultz - 651-642-1127
office@comobnp.org

Living At Home, Inc.

Kristin Rigg—651-649-0315
kristin@lahnetwork.org

**Senior Services Consortium of Ramsey
County (Meals on Wheels Ramsey County)**

Denise Wickiser—651-343-6875 (c)
denise@mealsonwheels-rc.org

Sunday Custodian

Evan Bergstrom—651-646-7127

Custodian & Groundskeeper

Marcus Pierce - 651-646-7127
custodian@comoparklutheran.org