



THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 16, 2026

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.

GATHERING SONG

"May the Peoples Praise You"

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of, or as an invitation to, Holy Baptism.

P: ... in the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

OPENING SONG

"House Of The Lord"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

This prayer is prayed in Christian churches throughout the world today. We pray it as a sign of unity and hope, shared with all God's children.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

We offer the peace of Christ as a way of preparing to break bread together as family and friends. It's a sign that we live in community as believers.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 (p. 599)

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community – not race, nationality, or any other category.

SECOND READING

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 (p. 921)

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

“The Box”

Aven Reed

*“The Box” is our way of welcoming children – and the Spirit of God through children – in worship. Each week a child brings “The Box” with a surprise for us to share. We never know what is inside, but we trust God always has something to teach us through the gifts that children bring. **The child who brings The Box to worship, is also invited to help hold the basket for empty cups during communion, so please send them forward right after the Lord’s Prayer, with the other Communion Assistants.***

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

While children are welcome to stay in worship, they are also welcome to join other kids and adult leaders in the Fellowship Room for a time of learning and fun, just for them, so parents can focus on the sermon in a way most kids don’t care to. Kids return during the Congregational Song.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 15:21-28 (p. 797)

SERMON

Pastor Mark

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

“His Mercy Is More”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (P: Lord, in your mercy... C: Hear our prayer.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

OFFERING

Sharing our gifts is a significant act of worship for Christians. At Cross of Grace our offering is a practice in gratitude, sacrifice and joy. If you are with us as a guest, we hope we’ve been able to offer something to you this morning. If you choose to share an offering in the name of Jesus Christ, we thank you for your generosity and trust you’ll be blessed by your giving. Use the QR code here if you’d like to give via our website.



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We give thanks for the meal and hear the “Words of Institution” – the same words Jesus shared with his disciples when he prayed at the Last Supper.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING OF THE MEAL

The meal of Holy Communion – like God’s abundant grace – is a gift to be shared with all who will receive it. If you’re a guest with us, please accept an invitation to the meal we share. It’s an invitation that comes from us because it comes first from the God we worship. Welcome to the table.

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: Now may God bless you and keep you. May the Lord’s face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“May the Peoples Praise You”

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

If you’re a guest with us this morning, thanks for being part of our worship. We’re blessed by and better because of your presence. Please let Pastor Mark, Pastor Cogan, or one of our Partners in Mission know you are here and join us again, soon. Also, take a minute to fill out the Grace Notes insert so we’ll know who was with us, even if we miss the chance to welcome you in person.



SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

Greeter: Jordan Reid

Ushers: Corey Lecher & Brent Smith

Acolyte: Ellie Oakes

Lay Reader: Kim Forehand

Comm. Assistants: C. Havel & S. Havel

Children’s Church: Kim Forehand

Altar Setup: Zina Compton

Altar Clean Up: Tonya Reid

Bread Baker: Donna Kuffner

Counters: Lynn Galligan & Betsy Goers

Cleaning Crew: Schwartz & Seigert

Lawn Mower: Wes Hildebrandt

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GRACE

Sunday, August 16

- Traditional Worship – 8:30 a.m.
- Contemporary Worship – 10:00 a.m.
- CrossRoads Class – 11:15 a.m.

Monday, August 17

- Men's Bible Study – 12:00 p.m.
- Agape – 6:00 p.m.
- Giving the Sense – 7:00 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anon. – 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 18

- 25th Anniversary Team – 6:00 p.m.
- Church Council – 7:00 p.m.
- Racial Justice Movie Night – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 19

- Food Pantry – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 20

- Cycling Club – 6:30 p.m.
- Praise Band – 7:00 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anon. – 7:30 p.m.

Friday, August 21

- Craft Night – 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 266

GENERAL FUND

Avg. Weekly Expenses:	\$11,218.91
Offering Last Week:	\$21,021.45
August Total:	\$30,160.41
Fiscal YTD Income (7/31/26)	\$38,627.41
Fiscal YTD Expense (7/31/26)	\$44,875.63

Our General Fund supports our everyday ministry. 10% of it goes to the ELCA and its mission to start new congregations, fund worldwide missionaries, disaster relief, & more.

(Our fiscal year runs July 1 – June 30.)

BUILDING AND OUTREACH FUND

Three Year Commitment:	\$1,379,966.39
Offering Last Week:	\$12,744.55
Given To Date:	\$760,472.49

Our Building and Outreach Fund commitments began anew in January. 10% of these offerings will help Project Rouj build homes in Fondwa, Haiti, even as we grow our own home at Cross of Grace.

(Please be praying about the building project as we wait to break ground and get to work!)

Mark Havel, *Lead Pastor* • Cogan Blackmon, *Pastor*
Jeannie Ellenberger, *Music Minister* • Sheri Bradley, *Contemporary Music Minister*
Amanda Terrell, *Administrative Assistant*

www.crossofgrace.org • Find us on Facebook and Instagram • churchoffice@crossofgrace.org