

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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M A R K 7 : 2 4

"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

September 5, 2021
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

God, our provider,
help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.

Amen.

Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG (*verses 1&5*)

All People That on Earth Do Dwell



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy
5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
aid he did us make. We are his folk, he
joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times
heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the



praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.
an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

GREETING

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

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 148)

We Rejoice in the Grace of God

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are: "We re-joice in the grace of God poured up-on our lives; lov-ing-kind-ness has come to us be-cause of Je-sus Christ. We re-joice in the grace of God, our hearts o-ver-flow. What a joy to know the grace of God!"

Text: Steve Cook and Vicki Cook

Music: WE REJOICE IN THE GRACE, Steve Cook and Vicki Cook

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

A reading from Isaiah.

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146

(Read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)

¹Hal- | lelujah!
Praise the LORD, | O my soul!
²**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;**
I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.
³Put not your | trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there | is no help.
⁴**When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,**
and in that day | their thoughts perish.
⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;
⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**
who keeps promis- | es forever;
⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.
The LORD sets the | captive free.
⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed**
down;
the LORD | loves the righteous.
⁹The LORD cares | for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.
¹⁰**The LORD shall | reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

A reading from James.

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?

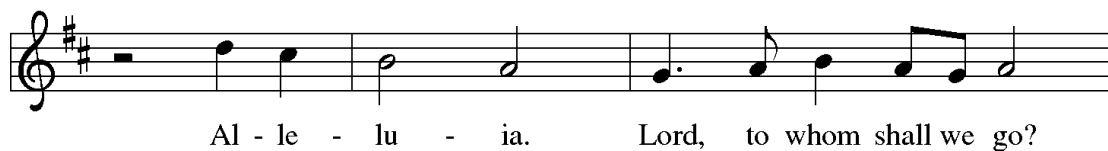
⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)



GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician 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,²⁵ but 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 Syrophenician 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, "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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR BILL

HYMN OF THE DAY (*verses 1&4*)

Healer of Our Every Ill

Refrain

Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,

give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain

peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen
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Please stand if you are able.

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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 THE CHURCH *(Please respond.)*

P: Lord, in your mercy. C: Hear our prayer.

PEACE

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

OFFERATORY *We Are an Offering* (ELW 692)

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957
Music: Dwight Liles
Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

OFFERING
PM

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

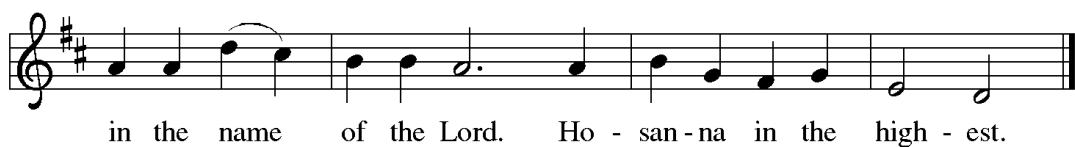
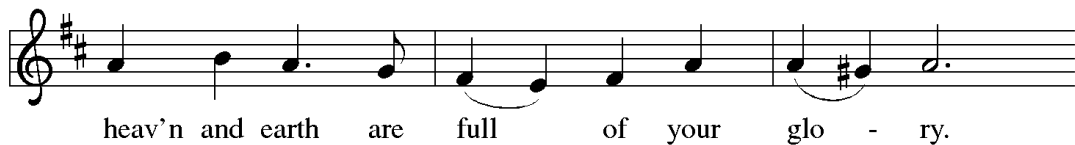
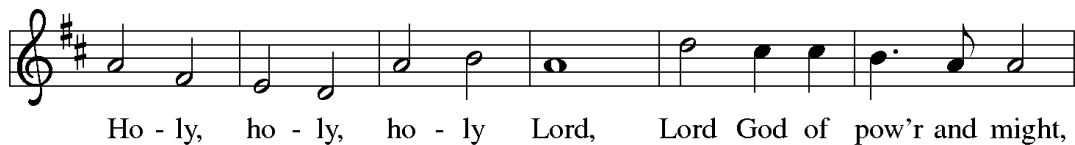
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher, maintaining your distance. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Return to your seat.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ Strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.
Amen.

BLESSING

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.

SENDING SONG (*verses 1&6*)

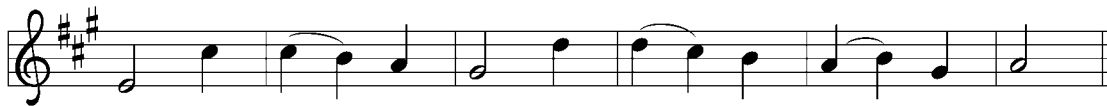
Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed
3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
4 The cup of wa - ter giv'n for you still holds the



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of
thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the
grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from
fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.
tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.

- 5 O Master, from the mountainside
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide;
oh, tread the city's streets again;
- 6 Till all the world shall learn your love,
and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heav'n above
shall come the city of our God.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850–1935, alt.

Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, Sacred Melodies, 1815

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

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Organist	Doug Mummert
Head Usher	Linda Berberich
Acolyte	Katy Nienstedt
Lector.....	Sam Mull
Securing Offering.....	Becky Mull & Zoe Mummert
Communion Set-Up.....	Peggy Craven & Richard Graven
Communion Clean-Up	Peggy Craven & Richard Graven
Bread Cubes	Frances Reichard
Communion Assist	Janice McEntire
Attendance last Sunday	52

Sept. 5, 2021 (15th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B) **James 2:15** – If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and 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? For many of us who have more than we need, it's very hard to follow Jesus' command to love our neighbor as ourselves. The questions steward/disciples have to ask prayerfully are, "How generous am I, really? Is God calling me to be more generous?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in memory of the Garvin Twins – Hazel McKenzie and Edna Biesecker given by Wayne and Marjorie Dale.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

2021 Altar Flowers Chart—Kimberly will not be posting the new altar flowers chart as usual. INSTEAD, please call her to reserve your special Sunday! **Flowers will now be purchased from Royer's Florist in Chambersburg. Please note the price will change to \$35.** For the price of two flower arrangements, you can give glory to God with the beauty of His creation on the altar; commemorate a loved one; and if you choose, have your flowers given to someone who is homebound or recovering from surgery or illness.

Prayer requests for the following *Kaitlyn Dovey, Linda Wepking, Raelynn Tarman, Susie Alleman, Rev. Peter Emig, Clif Rau, David Riggleman, Thelma Briggs, Patricia Yetter, Joe Mock, Darrell Veilleux, Bud Armstrong, Gertie Reichard, Manny Negron, Barbara Socks, Denise Bowen, Anne English, Millie Kulkusky, Bonnie Hudson*. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.

Christian Ed. Committee meeting September 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Conference Room.

Finance Committee meeting September 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the Church Conference Room.

Needed: 8oz. canning jars for Apple Butter. If you have any you would like to donate we would appreciate your help. Please see Zoe Mummer or Frances Reichard.

Apple Butter: ½ pint - \$4.00 & pints \$7.00. Orders due - Sunday, October 10, 2021. Order forms in Sunday School room.

Candy Making: ½ lb. bag \$7.00 & 1 lb. bag \$12.00. Orders due - Sunday October 10, 2021. Sign-up to help make candy on Thursday, October 28 & October 29, 2021. Set up: Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm. Order sheets and sign-up sheets in the Sunday School room.

Relay for Life: Our team is putting together a raffle basket for the Relay event on Friday, September 17 and we are looking for donations of scratch off lottery tickets in any denomination. Please give your tickets to Becky Mull by September 12th. Thank you for your support!

Choir Practice begins on Thursday, September 9th at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Youth Family Campfire-Picnic: Saturday Evening, September 18, 2021 at 6:00pm in the Picnic Woods. Hot Dogs, Mac & Cheese, Chips and S'mores. Bring your lawn chairs.

We will have an outdoor worship service in the Woods on September 19 at 10:15 a.m., weather permitting. Following the service, we will gather in the picnic shelter for a potluck lunch. Beverages, plates, napkins, and cutlery will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and a camp chair. If it rains, we will worship in the church and eat in the Fellowship Center.

- Last name beginning with A-G bring a dessert
- Last name beginning with H-N bring a main dish
- Last name beginning with O-Z bring a side dish

Bible Study Begins September 8. Join Pastor Bill in the conference room on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. for an informal Bible Study. Starting September 8, we will be studying the Gospel of Luke. Luke will be featured in the lectionary readings for Year B, beginning in Advent. No experience is necessary, and all are welcome.

Adult Sunday School Begins September 26. Pastor Bill will lead a discussion of the Sunday lectionary texts at 9:00 a.m., in the Sunday School Room. All are welcome. You can prepare by reading the Old Testament lesson, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel texts appointed for the day.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is September 12. Solomon's is participating with thousands of other congregations across the country to serve our communities on *God's Work Our Hands Sunday*. Join Social Ministry in the Fellowship Center immediately following worship to assemble personal care kits for those in need. In the meantime, consider donating items needed for the kits. A board listing items requested, and a collection box are located next to the piano in the sanctuary.

Norm Kuykendall is selling tickets to a **Smith's Chicken BBQ** (1/2 chicken, baked potato, baked beans, and choice of coleslaw or applesauce) for \$12 on September 25th. See Norm if interested.

No Sunday School classes during the summer months. Classes will resume on September 26.

The **September edition of the LivingLuthern** is available in the pamphlet rack.

Bulletin Announcement Forms are located in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

God's love breaks down boundaries.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 7:24-37	Jesus heals the Gentiles
Monday	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Return of the exiled
Tuesday	James 2:1-17	Faith without works is dead
Wednesday	Hebrews 13:1-9	Service that pleases God
Thursday	Leviticus 19:33-37	Living a holy life
Friday	Ephesians 2:11-22	One in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[I]f 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," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? **James 2:3-4 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you that your mercy triumphs over judgment and your love leads us to care for all people through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For the food that we eat and the food that we share, give us, O Lord, thankful hearts that show care. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord God bless you with an open heart to receive and to give love through Christ Jesus our Savior.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What does it feel like to be left out of a group or not selected for a team?
- How do you react when you see someone being excluded from a group?
- Jesus showed love even to strangers. How would you describe the way you treat strangers?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love



DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 7:24-37.

Jesus shows uncharacteristic rejection of someone in need. The Syrophenician woman asks for help, but she is not Jewish. She is a foreigner, and Jesus suggests he came for the children of Israel, not those outside of Judea and Galilee. However, perhaps he is speaking the voice of the early church that is likewise wondering what are the proper boundaries for the mission field of the church. The answer: Gentiles—therefore, all people—are part of God’s arena of care and redemption through Christ. It is time for all ears, tongues, and hearts to be opened. God’s power of love and forgiveness is so awesome that it knows no boundaries. Thanks be to God! God’s compassion is present for all of us, stranger and friend alike. When have you reached out to a stranger with the love of God?

Pray: **Loving God, just as you reach out to us with your grace and forgiveness, give us hearts to reach out to others that all may know your care through Christ Jesus. Amen.**

SERVICE

James 2 warns against worshipping communities showing partiality. Many congregations look very homogeneous. They attract people who look, act, and think like one another. Some of this is due to local contexts, but some of it is due to a lack of warmth and initiative taken toward new people. Who is someone who could use your warmth and care to help them feel welcome in your congregation?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Welcoming others with the peace of Christ has been part of the Christian tradition for two thousand years. Look up the sign language for peace. Teach it to others. As a way to practice reaching out to others with hope and love, you can greet others in your home, neighborhood, school, and work with these words: “The peace of the Lord be with you.”