



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI  
16th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 18 2024  
**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family  
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*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 Syrochenaean 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.*

***\*(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)***  
*Announcements*

### **Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,  
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**



## CALENDAR

Wed., Sept. 11	Confirmation	5:30 PM
Sat., Sept. 14	Sugar Creek Annual Quilt Auction	
Sun., Sept. 15	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Noisy Offering	
	Birthday and Anniversary Fellowship	

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### JANITOR POSITION

With Ayawyn leaving for college, we are in need of a janitor. If you are interested in the position, please contact Nalani or Karen.

### CHOIR

We are wondering if there is any interest in starting a choir this fall. Please let Nalani know if you'd be willing to participate.

### SUGAR CREEK ANNUAL QUILT AUCTION

A full day of excitement at Sugar Creek on Saturday, September 14. 5K Trail Run-Walk, County Store, Quilt & Antique Auction, Family Friendly Activities. Food galore! Please see the poster on the bulletin board for details.

### MISSION FEST MEATBALL DINNER

Nalani has tickets for you to sell. PLEASE help in selling tickets. A schedule for workers with regard to preparation, distribution, and clean-up is located in the narthex.

### Florence Dougherty

Florence is now at the Morrow Home in Sparta for rehabilitation. Her room number is 104.

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### First Reading

*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.*

### A reading from Isaiah 35:4-7a

<sup>4</sup>Say 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."  
<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then 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;  
<sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!  
Praise the LORD, O my soul!  
<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers,  
in mortals in whom there is no help.  
<sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,  
and in that day their thoughts perish.**  
<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;  
<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**  
<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who  
hunger.  
The LORD sets the captive free.  
<sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those  
who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**  
<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of  
the wicked.  
<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## Second Reading

*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.*

### A reading from James 2:1-10, 14-17

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For 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, <sup>3</sup>and 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," <sup>4</sup>have you not

## Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## Blessing

God all mighty,  
God most merciful ☩ bless you,  
keep you, and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

\*Hymn "O God of Mercy, God of Light" ELW#714

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, Laurie Switz Johnson, Heidi Stenerson, Dan Paulson, Richie Vlasak, Kristy Gwin Solovey, Bud Speicher, Kathy Von Ruden, Lyle Schindler, Ken Von Ruden, Florence Dougherty, Connie Summerfield, Gordie O'Rourke, Lynn Evans, Marilyn O'Rourke

## IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Allen Roscovious, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton,

## THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Synod Authorized Minister: Karen Sparling;  
Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Barb Bever; Altar: Nalani & Greg Bever

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

### \*LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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

P: Jesus welcomes you to this table.  
Come, here is your God.

***Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.***

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.191

Distribution

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, 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? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

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

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>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? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

**"Alleluia"**

**ELW p. 188**

## GOSPEL READING

*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.*

**The Holy Gospel according to Mark 7:24-37**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>[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, <sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He 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.” <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They 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**

Karen Sparling  
Synod Authorized Minister

**Hymn**

“Listen Now for the Gospel ”

**Last Page**

**\*Apostle’s 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 INTERCESSION** (Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great**)

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**\*Offertory Hymn**

**ELW #884**

**“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Blessed are you, O God,  
source of every gift of your creation.  
By these gifts and with our lives,  
help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

**Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

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**\*Holy, Holy, Holy**

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