

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Belleville, PA



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2020

GATHERING

WELCOME

Welcome on this 11th Sunday after Pentecost. May the joy of joining together whether in God's house or your house sustain us through the coming weeks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Several people from both churches are working together to mount recorded services on the church Facebook pages and the church websites. Check on Sunday or during the week for additions. West Kish: www.westkish.com St. John's Lutheran: <https://stjohnsbelleville.org>.

SILENT PRAYER

Almighty God, whose compassion embraces everyone, gather the outcast and the lost, heal the wounds of fear and distrust, help us to respect our differences. Make us a community of reconciliation that we may embody your merciful love and rejoice in your astounding grace in Jesus Christ. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isa. 56:7, Psalm 67)

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God;

ALL: This house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples,

L: Let all the peoples praise you,

ALL: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.

L: Thanks be to God

HYMN of PRAISE – *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

page 7

CALL to CONFESSION

God declares: Maintain justice, and do what is right. Confident in our deliverance, let us confess before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Holy God, we confess we have not been obedient to your will for us. We have sought justice for ourselves but neglected justice for others. We have insisted on our rights but have not lived rightly in our relationships.

We have desired mercy for our sins, but we have not offered mercy to those who have sinned against us. By the power of your Holy Spirit free us from the prison of our disobedience. Help us to love as you have loved us that our lives may testify to your abounding grace through Jesus Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Receive the gift of forgiveness and share that gift with others, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PEACE

Leader: Please extend the peace of Christ beyond the walls of our homes and sanctuary into the world.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

GLORIA

Glory Be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost as it was in the beginning, it is now and ever will be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, by the power of your Spirit give us your words of life that our faith may increase and our hearts be made whole. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS ~see Celebrate at end of bulletin

Isaiah 45:1, 6-8

Psalms 67

Romans 11:1-2, 29-32

Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28

MESSAGE ~ *What a Prayer Creates*

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We lift to you all of those on our prayer list, those mentioned as we share our joys and concerns and all prayers shared with our pastor this week.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

(please pray the prayers in the celebrate, pray for yourself, family, church, community and world. Especially today for the those having lost lives, homes, infrastructure and food supplies - in Lebanon.)

LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING/SHARING OUR GIFTS ~ If worshipping from home you may mail your offering or drop it off at the church office (wear your mask) or make your gifts through your bank online.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION

All encompassing God, we thank you for all you give to nourish us, to give us hope, to keep us well, to raise our spirits, to help us understand others. We share our gifts with you embracing your love for all peoples. Amen.

Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

SENDING

HYMN ~ *Count Your Blessings*

pages 8-9

CHARGE: Step out in faith, trusting that the God who has called you is able to keep you from falling and holds you in love.

BLESSING: May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the spirit of the Lord be within you, shine upon you and be seen in all you meet. Amen.

Portions of the liturgy are drawn from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2: Trinity Sunday through Reign of Christ by Kimberly Bracken Long and from the Celebrate for August 2nd from Augsburg Fortress.

Pastor: Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

Church Office: 935-2032 **Email us at** stjohnco@embarqmail.com

St. John's Christian Day Care: 935-2959

Please remember in prayer ~ Dorie Remensnyder (recovering from fall), Kim Aumiller, Ev Young, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Betty Harmon (Elmcroft), Carol Yoder, Diddy Cleck, Betty Smith; Memory Lane ~ Nancy Aumiller and sister, Sally Shingler.

After closing the church for several weeks, our in church worship will resume our worship, **beginning next Sunday, August 23**, with safety measures in place. As before, please wear your mask when entering /leaving the building and continue to practice social distancing. If you are not comfortable attending, or are not feeling well, please stay at home. We will mail a bulletin to you, if requested, and are working on having CD's of the service available.

St. John's has Meals on Wheels the last week of this month and first week in September. **The following food donations are still needed. Please contact the church office (2032) or Sue Lynch (935-2013) if you can help in this way.**

Tuesday, August 25 ~ 1 seedless watermelon (**Please have the watermelon cut into large pieces**)

Thursday, August 27 ~ Money to purchase pies (mail/drop off at church)

Tuesday, September 1 ~ 5 9x13 pans of Cherry (any flavor) Delight or Lemon Lush

Thursday, September 3 ~ 5 dozen Whoopie Pies (purchased locally or homemade)

Applesauce (either fresh or canned/frozen from last year)

After closing the church for several weeks, council has agreed to resume our worship, **beginning next Sunday, August 23** with safety measures in place. As before, please wear your mask when entering /leaving the building and continue to practice social distancing. If you are not comfortable attending, or are not feeling well, please stay at home. We will mail a bulletin to you, if requested, and are working on having CD's of the service available.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the worship survey and vote on the parking lot/boiler repair proposals. Concern was expressed on voting by mail. While our Constitution and Bylaws are there to give direction, we have found ourselves in a time of uncertainty, which we have never experienced before. Through these last 5 months, we have all learned that life as we know it one day, can change the next. Adapting to our circumstances and making allowances for those things we cannot control is vital to moving forward with our lives and the life of our church. Detailed information concerning the boiler and parking lot projects was included in the letter mailed out in mid-July to all active members. Council made the decision to send out ballots, so repair to the boiler can begin as soon as possible.

Results of the Boiler/Parking Lot ballot

- Boiler repair - 33 yes, 1 no and 1 not marked
- Parking Lot - 26 yes, 6 no and 3 not marked.

Results of Worship service survey (in the event of another closure)

- 28 voted for Radio Service
- 3 voted for Parking Lot service
- 2 also marking Parking Lot service with the option of going into the sanctuary
- 1 voted for viewing service on Facebook
- 1 marked each option with a number in the order they prefer worship to be done

There were also several comments and questions included which the council will address and share with the congregation, after they meet and have time to review/discuss them. We look forward to worshipping together again as a church family and thank you for your continued understanding, support and prayers.

Yours in Christ,
Carol Fultz
Council President

The Raystown Country Gospel Music Celebration Concert is being held on Saturday, August 29 at the Allensville Fire Co. building. The program featuring *The Detty Sisters* and *Kevin Spencer* begins at 6:00pm; food will be served at 5:00pm. Admission is free. Bring a lawn chair. There will also be a free will offering.

Notes from the Pastor:

This week Pastor Robertson is preparing, presenting and participating in a day for Rostered leaders at Camp Mt. Luther on Thursday, August 13, and will be offering music and prayer for the opening Service of Lament. She is also meeting with Presbytery and Synod leaders to discuss the joint church ministry beyond the church walls during the pandemic. This Sunday will be one of her contracted days off for denominational service and training.

Audio of the messages for Aug 2 and 9 are posted on Soundcloud to be accessed on the church Facebook and Internet. Print versions are also being made available.

Progress on the technical and team aspects of options for outreach ministry is being made with Denise Chester, Lisa Maclay, Jean Ecklund, Ed Bilich and Joy Byler along with pastor's husband, Bill all working on this. We pray for this technical work to meld with God's desires as we continue to adapt as the church in this time.

The Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg has provided a short scripture based video message from the President that they are sharing with other churches. We will have the opportunity to view or hear this soon. Council has discussed sharing CD's of services as well.

Reach out to those in our church who have been dealing with Covid or others you know who have been at home with a caring call or card.

Remember as the Upper Susquehanna Synod motto says:
United as Christ's Disciples we
Support One Another and
Serve God in the World.

Pastor Ela is primarily working from home. If you need to speak to Pastor Ela, you may call her at 740-338-7123.

There will be an informational presentation on Human Trafficking at 9AM on August 22 at Allensville Mennonite Church. All are invited. The church is also hosting a *Better Way Designs Freedom Party* from 9 to 11:30 a.m. *Better Way Designs* seeks to bring dignity and hope to those who has become victims to the sex trafficking industry through the purchasing of Reselling of products made by those who have been freed through the vessel of Freedom Parties. (Prayers, education, testimonies, music, awareness, food & shopping) Our goal is to connect the "us" with the "them" in order to create a "we". Our emphasis is on dignity rather than charity.(Info@betterway designs.org). If you would like more information, please call Kimberly Jacko at 814-810-7246.

Prayer: During the month of August I continue to focus on prayer "For, With, and To" and also on messages in our favorite hymns. I encourage everyone to pray to God in thanksgiving for the life and creation we are able to enjoy, to pray for compassion beyond boundaries for all who are suffering and to pray with the light of Christ and the comfort of the Holy Spirit with you.

Home Blessings: For those of us choosing to stay home rather than go out on Sundays our home has become our sanctuary. *Home blessings will be postponed for now. However, as soon as feasible, Pastor Ela hopes to offer a curbside visit and a short service for a Blessing of a Home for all who request it.*

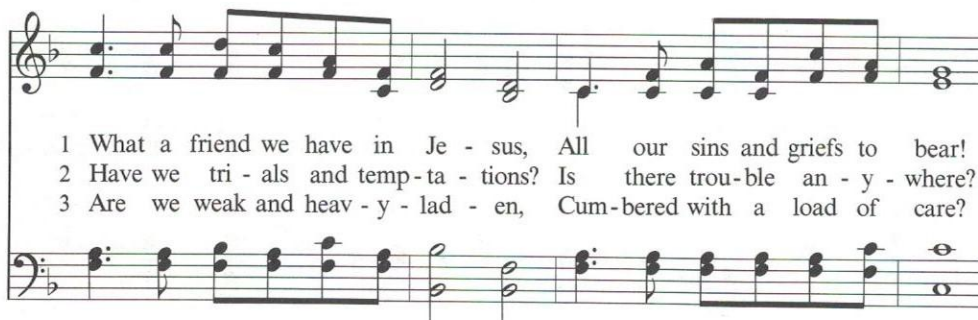
Challenges, Controversies & Encouragement: We are a church that embraces differences - in everything from opinions to hair styles and beard lengths. When we feel uncomfortable with what we hear in church, particular words, songs or messages. we are being challenged to explore differences and hear beyond our present circumstances to the heart of God's message for us and beyond us. When, as some of you do, you let the pastor know how you are feeling we can explore this further together and be encouraged in unity in Christ.

Cards: Cards, candy, flowers and food continue to be a great uplift to those home bound and a visible reminder of the prayers and encouragement we offer. Thank you to those who are reaching out in that way. I know those at Valley View especially have been uplifted by this. Care workers at Lewistown Hospital have also expressed their appreciation. If you would like to volunteer to help with making this a more ongoing outreach while the flowers are blooming and we are unable to personally deliver bulletins, please let the office or Pastor Ela know.

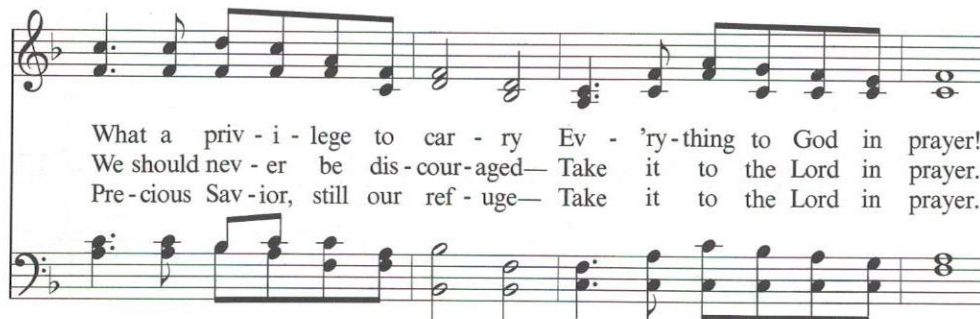
St. John's ~ January thru August 13
Income \$ 151,922.76 Expense \$ 128,105.04
Net Income \$ 23,817.72

Parking Lot Donations YTD ~ \$ 15,228.72
Boiler Donations ~ \$1,500.00
Daycare ~ January thru August 13
YTD Income ~ \$ 118,319.25 YTD Expense ~ \$ 109,849.39
Net Income \$ 8,469.86

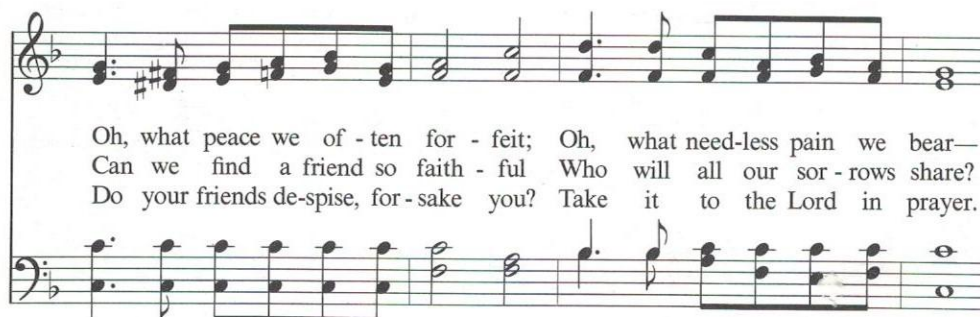
What a Friend We Have in Jesus



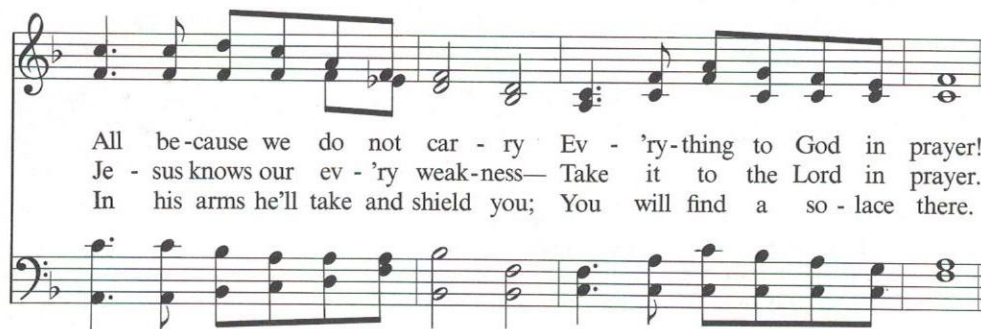
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a so - lace there.

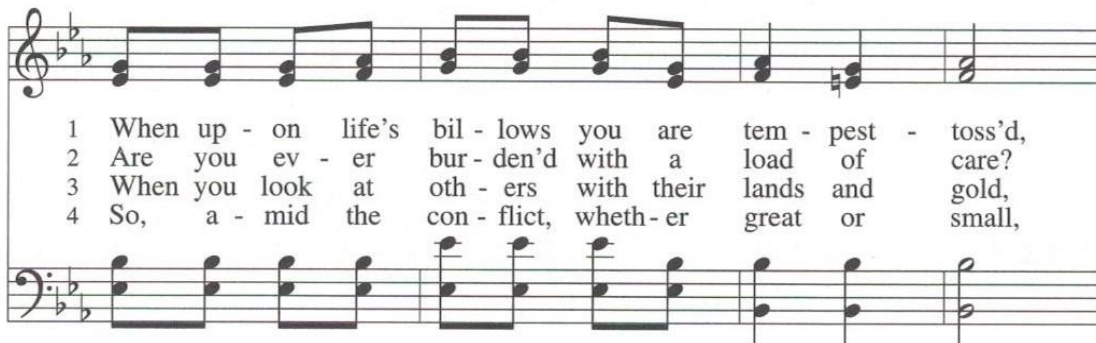
Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886
 Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

CONVERSE
 87 87 D

When upon Life's Billows

Count Your Blessings

173



1 When up - on life's bil - lows you are tem - pest - toss'd,
 2 Are you ev - er bur - den'd with a load of care?
 3 When you look at oth - ers with their lands and gold,
 4 So, a - mid the con - flict, wheth - er great or small,



when you are dis - cour - aged, think - ing all is lost,
 Does the cross seem heav - y you are called to bear?
 think that Christ has prom - ised you his wealth un - told;
 do not be dis - heart - en'd, God is o - ver all;



count your man - y bless - ings, name them one by one,
 Count your man - y bless - ings, ev - 'ry doubt will fly,
 count your man - y bless - ings, wealth can nev - er buy
 count your man - y bless - ings, an - gels will at - tend,



and it will sur - prise you what the Lord has done.
 and you will keep sing - ing as the days go by.
 your re - ward in heav - en, nor your home on high.
 help and com - fort give you to your jour - ney's end.

Continued on next page

Refrain

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Bass, in a key of B-flat major (two flats). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal staff and a corresponding line of lyrics. The first system is marked 'Refrain'. The lyrics are: 'Count your bless-ings, name them one by one;'. The second system has lyrics: 'Count your man - y bless - ings, name them one by one;'. The third system has lyrics: 'count your man - y bless - ings, see what God has done!'. The fourth system has lyrics: 'Count your man - y bless - ings, name them one by one;'. The fifth system has lyrics: 'Count your man - y bless - ings, name them one by one;'. The sixth system has lyrics: 'and it will sur - prise you what the Lord has done.'.

Count your bless-ings, name them one by one;

Count your man - y bless - ings, name them one by one;

count your man - y bless - ings, see what God has done!

Count your man - y bless - ings, name them one by one;

Count your man - y bless - ings, name them one by one;

and it will sur - prise you what the Lord has done.

Text: Johnson Oatman Jr., 1856-1922
 Music: Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921



Celebrate

Sunday, August 16, 2020

11th Sunday after Pentecost

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.

Prayer of the Day

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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

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.

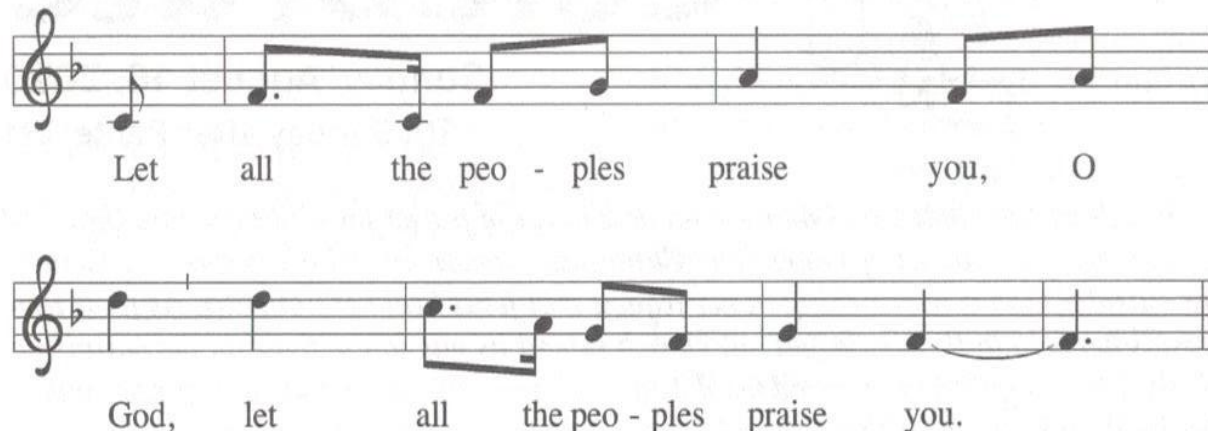
Thus says the LORD:

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

⁶And 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—

⁷these 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.

⁸Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.



May God be merciful to ¹ us and bless us;
may the light of God's face ¹ shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known ¹ upon earth,**
your saving health a- ¹ mong all nations.

³Let the peoples praise ¹ you, O God;
let all the ¹ peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and ¹ sing for joy,**
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the na- ¹ tions on earth. R

⁵Let the peoples praise ¹ you, O God;
let all the ¹ peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought ¹ forth its increase;**
God, our own ¹ God, has blessed us.

⁷May God ¹ give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth ¹ stand in awe. **R**

Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

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.

[Paul writes:] 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. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you

were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Gospel

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

[[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false wit-

ness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just 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." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Lord, you gather the church to be part of your mission as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. As Jesus acknowledged the great faith of a woman from outside his people, help your church discover and find blessing in the faith of people we might reject. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have blessed us with the bounty of the earth. Grant your grace to all your creatures, that the earth will flourish. Relieve waters choked by garbage, renew soils stripped of nutrients, and refresh the air all creatures need to live. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call the nations to be glad and sing for joy. Let your way be known among all the nations of the world, now divided by competing interests, contending alliances, and consumed by enormous worry. Bless us and make your face shine upon all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You show unexpected mercy, kindness, and generosity. We pray for those who do not have enough, for outcasts in our villages, cities, and town, and for those who need your healing (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In you we live and move and have our being. Grant our congregation (*name*) grace to find our life refreshed in you. Accompany us in the rhythms of late summer. Give us rest and renewal, and strengthen us for mission in your name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your eternal promises are more than we could ever imagine. As you gather all the saints (*especially*), join us also with them on the great day of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 87. **Tuesday** Romans 11:13-29. **Wednesday** Matthew 8:1-13. **Thursday** (commemoration of Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153) Psalm 138. **Friday** Ezekiel 31:15-18. **Saturday** Ezekiel 36:33-38. **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost** Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20.

CELEBRATE August 16, 2020 (Lectionary 20)

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Tracks 1 and 2