

Service of Holy Communion

August 16, 2020

WELCOME

PRELUDE

One Voice

"Healing is in Your Hands"

Chris Tomlin, D Carson, C Nockels, N Nockels, & M Redman

OPENING

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Amen.

THE 23RD PSALM

We're going to take a few weeks to open worship with a word of trust and confidence in God. Please join me in the words of the 23rd Psalm...

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in right pathways for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil. For you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

GATHERING SONG *"Step By Step"*

Chorus

O God You are my God

And I will ever praise You

O God You are my God

And I will ever praise You

I will seek You in the morning

And I will learn to walk in Your ways

And step by step You'll lead me

And I will follow You all of my days

Repeat 3x

CCLI Song # 696994
 David (Beaker) Strasser
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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.

HYMN OF PRAISE *"I Sing Praises"*

Verse 1

I sing praises to Your name O Lord
 Praises to Your name O Lord
 For Your name is great
 And greatly to be praised
 I sing praises to Your name O Lord
 Praises to Your name O Lord
 For Your name is great
 And greatly to be praised

Verse 2

I give glory to Your name O Lord
 Glory to Your name O Lord
 For Your name is great
 And greatly to be praised
 I give glory to Your name O Lord
 Glory to Your name O Lord
 For Your name is great
 And greatly to be praised

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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.

THE WORD

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.

¹Thus 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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 67*

¹May 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 among all nations.**

³Let 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 nations on
earth.**

⁵Let 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.**

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

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:] ¹I 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. ^{2a}God 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.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”*
 Halle, halle, hallelujah.
 Halle, halle, hallelujah.
 Halle, halle, hallelujah.
 Hallelujah. Hallelujah.
 (repeat 2x)

GOSPEL *Matthew 15:10-28*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifteenth chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

¹⁰[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 witness, 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.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

I have never had the police knock loudly on my door, scaring me and everyone else inside with the noise. I’ve never considered that it might happen. Why would the police bang on my door? Don and I haven’t done anything wrong. I do speed sometimes, and maybe there are other violations we’ve made that I’m not aware of or don’t think about. But nothing to make the police come and pound on my door, or break it open. The thought has never, ever crossed my mind.

So I do not know what it is like to have dark skin, or to be poor, and live in this country. I don’t know what it is like to have people eye me suspiciously because of how I dress, or fix my hair, or what neighborhood I live in. Because of that, it’s hard for me to believe a person would get harassed, *regularly*, by authorities when she’s done nothing wrong. That’s just never happened to me.

But I keep thinking about Breonna Taylor and that horrible night, that terrible, tragic mistake when police went to the wrong door and kicked it in, frightening her boyfriend who thought burglars or gang-members had bust in, so he shot at them; they shot back and killed Breonna Taylor while she slept. Neither she, nor her boyfriend, had done anything to warrant police banging on their door. It was a horrible, deadly mistake. And I cannot image that happening to me, or my friends, or my family. I can’t imagine being in Breonna Taylor’s skin.

Jesus talked to his disciples about what makes a person clean or unclean, acceptable or unacceptable. He said, ‘It’s not anything on the outside. It’s not what someone eats that makes them defiled – not hotdogs and apple pie, not enchiladas and frijoles, not jerk chicken and rice-n-peas, not falafel and baba ghanoush, not ogbono soup or adobo. Whatever your culture or background, whether you eat with chopsticks, or a tortilla, or a fork, or your hands, it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles, but what comes out of the mouth. That is what defiles.’”

A person is dirtied, not by food or culture or dress, but by things that come from the heart – evil intent, hatred, selfishness, lies, greed, jealousy – these are what make a person unclean, unrighteous. Jesus’ teaching is well-stated and clear; it’s one we all agree on. A person is not guilty or offensive based on their race, or their religion, or their country of origin, or what shape their body is, or whether they have a speech impediment. Those things do not define who is worthy and who is not. It is what comes from each person’s heart that shows who they really are.

What puzzles me in today's gospel reading is the dissonance between what Jesus says and what he does. Right after he explained about the things that do or do not defile a person, he and his disciples entered Canaanite territory, the cities of Tyre and Sidon. As they walked, a Canaanite woman approached Jesus, crying out for him to help her daughter. First, he ignored her altogether. But she kept asking, and that aggravated the disciples who said, "Jesus, send her away!" He turned to her and said, "Listen, I was sent here for my people, the Jews." She pressed her case, kneeling at his feet and saying, "Lord, help me."

Now, remember... it is not the outside that defiles a person, but what comes from the inside... Jesus answered the woman, saying, "I can't take the children's food and toss it to the dogs." That's what he said. "I can't give you what is reserved for other, worthier, more preferred people." The woman was not deterred. She said, "But even the dogs get the crumbs from under the table." And that remark changed Jesus' response. He switched from refusing her pleas, to granting them and commending her faith.

What happened here? Why did Jesus call a foreign woman a "dog"? Some like to say the word in Greek means "puppy" so it wasn't very degrading, but I don't think so. That seems to be explaining away the obvious. He called her a dog. He said she was not worthy of his attention, his care, and his healing ministry.

When this happened, Jesus (30 or 31 years old) had been a Jew living under Roman rule his whole life – and it was a difficult life. But he had no idea what it felt like to be a Canaanite, a differently-brown-skinned person with her brown-skinned child. He had never been a woman. He had never walked in her sandals. He didn't know.

Canaanites and Jews had separate cultures and separate religions. It was normal for Jesus to distinguish between his people, the Jews, and non-Jews. Maybe he wasn't saying Canaanite people were inferior, but that certain promises, certain benefits belonged to Jewish people and not to others. He might not have meant to be harsh; he was simply living according to the perspective and norms of his world.

People do that without realizing it. I assume police don't ever bang on someone's door unless they've done something questionable, because it's never happened to me. But I am not dark-skinned, or Mexican-American, or Filipino, or poor. My family was lower-middle-class when I was a kid and, through education and steady effort, I now make a decent living, own a house, and have some retirement savings. But I had every opportunity to get an education, parents who urged me to study, and because of my white skin, bank officials have not been leery of lending me money for a house or a car. Without thinking, I assume everyone has the same opportunities, but they do not. Some people, because of their race or nationality or religion or neighborhood, get pushed aside, left out, called "dogs." It shouldn't be like that.

Does the fact that Jesus called the Canaanite woman a dog make him a bad person? No. It does not make him a bad person, it makes him human. Like you and me. He responded automatically to an outsider. She was not from his culture, race, or social circle. He said what most anyone would have said in his position. Her refusal to give up, her insistence that he help her child, got through to him and changed his perspective, changed his mind.

Life is like that. Sometimes a Canaanite woman – or man, or child – walks into your life and you walk right past. There's no malice in it, it's just that there are always foreign-looking women pushing a child down the street in a stroller. There are always people of various races waiting for the bus. There are always neighborhoods we'd rather not drive through; always people not like us. And we go about our business, like Jesus did.

Until he didn't. Something in the woman's voice, or posture, or courage touched him. Something made Jesus stop and truly see this woman, truly hear her. It made him ask himself, were the blessings and benefits of life *really* only for the Jews, people like him, or could this Canaanite woman and her daughter have a share? We see what he concluded. He gave the woman, not just crumbs, but real bread – healing for her child, life and encouragement for herself.

Jesus is calling to me – to all of us – through this story. He's saying, "I understand. I have been blind to other people's suffering, unable to relate to their lives, or see why I should bother with them. I thought the gifts I brought were only for some people, my people. But they're not. They are for all people: all ages, all races, all genders, all sizes and shapes, all cultures."

And so, I wonder who the Canaanite woman is in my life, in your life? When have we walked past her assuming she has no claim on us? Maybe next time we'll be reminded of this gospel story, how Jesus almost walked away, but then believed the woman and gave the best he had. Surely God is at work in us, even as we sit and listen to this gospel reading today. God is present, slowing us down, opening our understanding, adjusting our vision, until we see what the other sees, until we believe what she tells us, until Jesus – alive in us – gives her the best we have. amen

HYMN OF THE DAY *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
 all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry
 ev'rything to God in prayer!
 Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
 oh, what needless pain we bear--
 all because we do not carry
 ev'rything to God in prayer!

- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole Church 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 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 PEOPLE

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.**

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

Receive the petitions of this worshiping community...

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.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

THE DOXOLGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 praise him, all creatures here below;
 praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
 praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love

in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

Amen.

(Please have the bread and wine/juice ready for Holy Communion)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

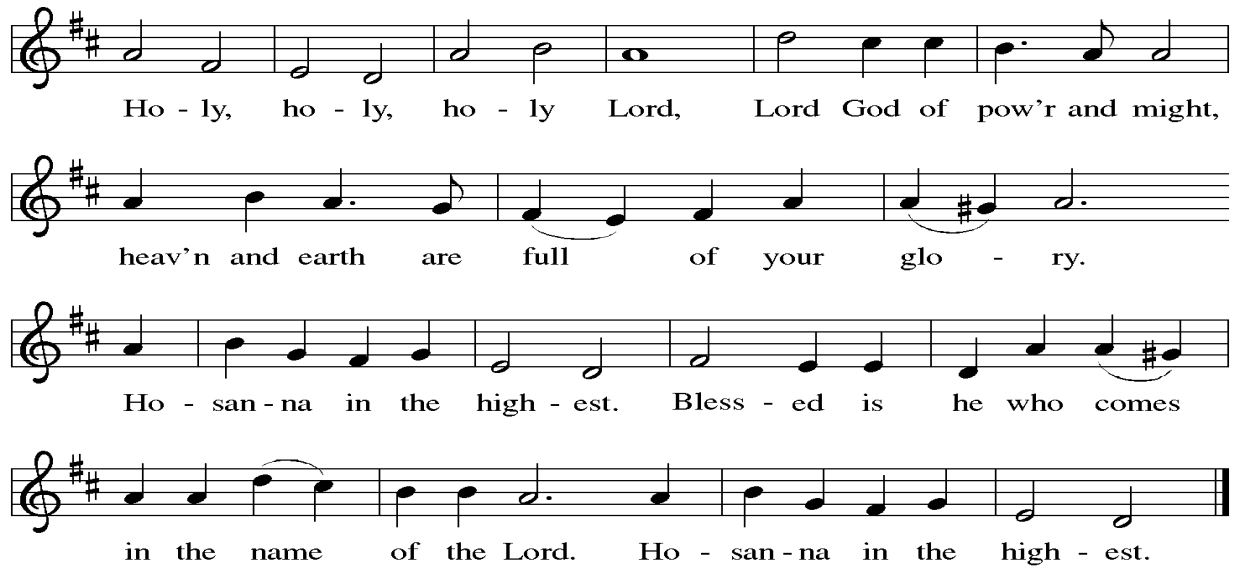
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST

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”



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

God of marvel and might, from chaos and disorder, you created the heavens and the earth. You formed humans from dust and gave them the breath of life. You brought a weary, abused people out of slavery into the freedom of the Promised Land. And when the time had come, you sent your Son, not to condemn, but so that the world might be saved through him. We celebrate his life, death, and resurrection, as we remember...

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 in remembrance of me.

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

Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

Take the bread and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you. (*please consume the bread*)

Take the cup and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you. (*please drink from the cup*)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Church needs new roof – it was damaged in a recent hail storm. Our insurance has given us a check to cover all but the \$10,000 deductible. We'll get bids and council will decide who to go with.

You have been so good about sending in your offering. We've been able to meet payroll and pay our bills. But with a roof to replace – including the \$10,000 deductible – and other expenses, we continue to rely on your faithful contributions. Thank you for your generous giving of money, time, and self.

BLESSINGsung by **One Voice**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 Make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.

Chorus

Amen, Amen, Amen
 Amen, Amen, Amen
 (repeat all)

CCLI Song # 7147007

Chris Brown | Cody Carnes | Kari Jobe | Steven Furtick

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CLOSING HYMN *“There's Something About That Name”*

Chorus

Jesus Jesus Jesus
 There's just something about that name
 Master Savior Jesus
 Like a fragrance after the rain
 Jesus Jesus Jesus
 Let all heaven and earth proclaim
 Kings and kingdoms may all pass away
 But there's something about that name

Repeat 2x

CCLI Song # 14064

Gloria Gaither | William J. Gaither

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DISMISSAL

Go about your day in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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