

persons. This too, is an example of looking at another person, and generalizing what we have heard about a few persons, to all persons of similar color, ethnicity, etc...

Our second reading of last Sunday from James 1:17-27, includes the words, "If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (verses 26-27). May we take this message to heart. Thanks be to God.

Peace,
Pastor Cathy

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever, To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani (608-387-2311)
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St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 5, 2021
**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 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.

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

Announcements

Gathering

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

Prelude....A time for silent reflection

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,
whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

God our comforter:

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray.
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.
We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.
Free us from our sin, gracious God.
Listen when we call out to you for help.
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
By the gift of grace in + Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.
Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" **ELW #634**
(Verses 1,3,5,6)

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.

***KYRIE**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Like many of you, I have heard of the rumors circulating about the Afghan refugees living at Fort McCoy. While I do not want to repeat these rumors, I do want people to be aware that if you hear a rumor, it is important not to spread it! As I mentioned in a recent sermon in reference to the Coronavirus, we can cause great harm when we take rumor as truth, rather than learning the facts.

Chief Scott Holum, on the Tomah Police Department facebook page, provided the following facts--

...refugees from Afghanistan are lawfully in our country and free to travel as they please. You may very well see them in our local communities while they are going through a processing system at Fort McCoy until they reach the final destination of their choice.

As many of you are aware, there have been several reports through social media regarding activities or sightings of refugees. In an effort to provide accurate information, I will inform you that the Tomah Police Department has not received any reports of criminal activity related to refugees from Afghanistan.

As I stated last week in my sermon, we need to look at what is in our hearts. Are we too harboring hatred for people unlike ourselves? Are we speaking untruths regarding persons, or groups of people, such as the Afghan refugees, because of their skin color or country of origin? I hope not, but if any of us are sinning in this way, it is time for a heart checkup and tuneup! It is time to make sure that our tongues are not spreading rumors and untruths thereby causing us to sin!

Next Saturday is the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Many of us remember where we were on September 11, 2001, when we heard about the great loss of life from the destruction of the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York, City. We also recall the attempted attacks on the Pentagon, and the U. S. Capitol (or White House). In the aftermath, people of Middle Eastern heritage were at times treated terribly by persons in the United States, because of prejudicial attitudes by some

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nalani will be away September 8-16. The emergency contact numbers are on the last page of the bulletin.

Please contact Louise Buchholz if you wish to initiate the prayer chain, 608-435-6435.

A sign-up sheet for adult Bible study is located in the narthex. We will be studying Manna and Mercy by Daniel Erlander. The church will be providing the material, however, should you wish to have a personal copy, the cost will be \$10.00. Please indicate the same in the area specified on the sign-up sheet.

Sugar Creek's 'Quilt Auction & Fall Festival' will be held on Saturday, September 11. Please see the poster on the narthex bulletin board for more information.

Afghanistan Refugee Assistance

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse are the lead agency in providing information with regard to the needs of the refugees at Ft. McCoy. We will collect items each Sunday and deliver them to Ft. McCoy during the following week.

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" (Luke 12:48)

- Underwear (women & children)
- Socks (women & children)
- Sweatpants (men, women, & children)
- Prayer mats (can be yoga mats)
- Ponchos
- Clothespins
- Diapers
- Backpacks for Children
- Flashlights
- Baby onesies and sleepers

P: For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C: **Amen.**

***Canticle of Praise** "This is the Feast" ELW p. 149

***Prayer of the Day**

**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

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.

Word

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

Isaiah 35:4-7a

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 146

¹Hallelujah!
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 return 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 promises 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!**

Sending

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

*Benediction

Sending Hymn "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" **ELW #545**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People, Pastor: Cathleen Morris; Organist; Nalani Bever; Reader: Kirstin Arndt; Communion Servers: Barb and John Ornes

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Judy Bever, Darlene and Paul Babbitt, Alrita Ornes, Tessa Klipstein, Jim Finer, Jerry Nading, Rhett Flaten, Bob Schendel, Richard Zitlow, Jeff DuCharme, Louie Voltz, Etta Mae Henze, Gary Von Ruden, Judy Nofsinger, Larry Voltz, David Berg, Sue Ann Degenhardt, Julie Schreier, Steve Zirk

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Robert Cale, Danelle Dougherty

CALENDAR

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Wed., Sept. 8 | Confirmation Class | 6:30-8:00 pm |
| Sat., Sept. 11 | Sugar Creek Quilt Auction & Fall Festival | 8:00 am |
| Sun., Sept. 12 | Sunday School | 9:00 am |
| | Worship | 10:15 am |

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 152

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 153

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

P: 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.

P: All who hunger and thirst, come.
The table is ready.

Distribution

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

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.154

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life,
**in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

SECOND READING

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.

James 2:1-10, 14-17

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

*Gospel Acclamation

ELW p.151

*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.

Mark 7:24-37

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Hymn of the Day "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

ELW #588

Apostles' 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** (Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**)

OFFERING

Offering plates are located in the Narthex as you enter and exit the church.

Offering Prayer

God of abundance,
**you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.
Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**