

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church  
*Putting Jesus' Way of Life into Practice by...*  
Encountering God, Loving One Another,  
& Reaching the World.

*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
*September 8, 2024 - 9:00 AM*



Figure opening curtains in the morning by Tara Moore. ©2022 Getty Images Plus. Used by permission.

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.

# *Welcome to Christ the Servant Lutheran Church*

(Congregational responses are in bold print.)

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen**

## **GATHERING SONG**

**“LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH”**

## **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.**

## 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

<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>7</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: 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: JAMES 2:1-10 [11-13] 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 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>11</sup>For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

<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: MARK 7:24-37**

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**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**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“LORD, I NEED YOU”**

## **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**

Response: Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OUR OFFERINGS**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

**"OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART, LORD"**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your  
love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth  
and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we  
might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **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 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**

## **COMMUNION**

### **HYMN DURING COMMUNION**

**"HOLY SPIRIT"**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this  
feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit  
strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves  
away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our  
Lord.**

**Amen**

## **COMMUNITY LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING OF THE QUILTS**

#### **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**

**"MIGHTY IS OUR GOD"**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Altar Flowers in celebration of Steve and Leila's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary



### Worship Assistants

Greeter: Katie  
Welcome Desk: Extravagant Generosity  
Ushers:  
Reader: Linda  
Sound Booth: Tom, Peter  
Communion Assistants: Grace  
Musicians: Revelation  
Coffee Servers: Leila & Loretta

### PRAYER REQUESTS...

We pray for those in need of healing and mercy:



Brian, Tony, Tim, Don, Paul, Gary, Rainia, Carol, Kayla, Gary, Sarah, Carol, Salomie, Roberta, Dorothy, Patty, and Anna.

(Please call the church office with any prayer concerns or updates.)

♪♪♪ *THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO THE LORD!* ♪♪♪

**Thank you** for giving to support the ministries at Christ the Servant. You may donate online on our website: [www.cslcvh.org/tithe](http://www.cslcvh.org/tithe). Offering envelopes are available at the Welcome Desk.





# *Cross & Cradle News*

## *Community Life*

### **THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK AT CHRIST THE SERVANT**

#### **Today: September 8 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

- 8:00 AM - CSLC Bible Study
- 9:00 AM - CSLC Worship - Blessing of the Quilts
- 10:00 AM - CSLC Fellowship Time (FH)
- 11:30 AM - EFLC Worship

#### **Monday, September 9**

- 9:00 AM - Package bread & deliver
- 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM - Piecemakers (FH)
- 5:00 PM - Mission & Service Meeting

#### **Tuesday, September 10**

- 7:00 AM - Bread Preparation (Fellowship)
- 8:30 AM - Bread Distribution + Coffee Get-Together (FH)
- 6:30 PM - AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

#### **Wednesday, September 11**

- 9:00 AM - Extravagant Generosity Meeting
- 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM - Bible Study (FH)
- 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM - Senior HiLites (FH)
- 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM - Youth
- 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM - AA (Class A)

#### **Thursday, September 12**

- 3:45 PM - YogaDevotion (S) (Tentative Start Date)
- 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM - Revelation Rehearsal (S)

#### **Friday, September 13**

- 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM - EFLC Choir Practice (Class A)

#### **Saturday, September 14**

#### **Sunday, September 15 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

- 9:30 AM** - Service at Christ the King in New Brighton with EFLC  
1900 7th Street NW., New Brighton, MN 55112
- 11:30 AM - NO EFLC Worship



### Service Next Sunday

The worship service next Sunday, September 15, will be at Christ the King with Eternal Flame Lutheran Church. The service starts at 9:30 AM. **(NOTE TIME!)**

Location: 1900 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW.,  
New Brighton, MN 55112.

### Italian Pasta Dinner - Saturday, September 28, 2024

The Pasta Dinner is scheduled this year for **Saturday, September 28. A signup sheet is** in the Welcome Area. We need at least 12 or more to help;  
6 in AM to help prepare and 6 in PM with serving, etc.



### *Pasta Dinner*



### Blood Drive at CSLC

The next blood drive at Christ the Servant is scheduled for Friday, October 4, 2024, from 11 AM to 5 PM.

[Sign up online at https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Christ%20the%20Servant](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Christ%20the%20Servant)

### Yogadevotion

The new Chair Yoga class will tentatively start on Thursday, September 12 from 3:45 PM to 4:45 PM. See Lois if interested.



# THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!

Saturday, October 12  
2 PM



## Men's Breakfast

Saturday, October 12 at 8 AM. More details to come.



## Bible Studies



### Sunday Bible Study

Every Sunday at 8:00 AM.

### Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesdays 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

### Women's Saturday Bible Study

Every other Saturday from 9:30 AM to 11 AM. Dates: Sept. 7, 21

## A Table-scrap Feast

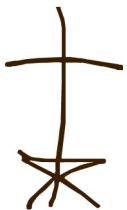
The story of the Syrophenician woman is one of the most puzzling in all the gospels. It raises more questions than answers: Why did Jesus turn her down? Was he testing her? Was the human side of him mistaken? Perhaps Jesus was just grumpy? Unfortunately, the gospel writer did not record what Jesus was thinking, only what he said, and those words remain troubling.



But we do know that Jesus was moved by the Syrophenician woman's persistence and faith. She bravely crossed multiple barriers—gender, ethnicity, class, religion—to get the help her daughter needed. In the end, Jesus grants her the mercy she seeks: he heals her daughter and restores their family. The woman had come begging for crumbs and instead received an abundant feast.

Who is the Syrophenician woman today? Maybe she is one of the millions who face daily violence and abuse, or perhaps the countless many who live with addiction or mental illness. She may be an asylum-seeker or refugee, reluctantly fleeing home because it's no longer safe for her family. The woman in today's gospel represents all who are outcast and ignored. This story is a powerful reminder of the inclusivity and compassion at the heart of Jesus' teachings and deeds. It is also a call to action, urging us to open our hearts and extend love and mercy to those who are marginalized or in need, just as Jesus did.

God has this amazing ability to bring about change in astonishing ways, through the most unexpected people. God's work in our lives is always surprising us, shaking up our worldview, and making abundance out of scarcity. Even when all we expect for ourselves or others are scraps, God has a larger vision: a banquet to which we are all invited.



### **CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3676 Centerville Road, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Phone 651-429-6595

Email: [office@cslcvh.org](mailto:office@cslcvh.org) Website: [www.cslcvh.org](http://www.cslcvh.org)

Pastor Jon Yurk

Phone: 612-231-2111 Email: [Pastor@cslcvh.org](mailto:Pastor@cslcvh.org)