



**+ Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 5, 2021**

**St. Andrew Lutheran Church  
304 Morewood Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213**

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**+ Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Order for Worship**

*The book of James tells God's people to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Even Jesus seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel.*

*Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles do not deserve the goods meant for God's children?*

*Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but moved past those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply?*

*Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality.*

*A deaf man then comes to Jesus and is healed. Today's readings remind us that all who bring a need to Jesus will be received with honor as a child and heir.*

***A few notes on precautions and protocols, which apply to everyone regardless of vaccination status, as St. Andrew returns to worship in the sanctuary:***

- Face masks that fully cover both your mouth and nose are required at all times for everyone over the age of two (2) – the only exception being the brief moment of moving mask aside to partake in Holy Communion.
- Outside food and drink are thus not permissible during worship.
- Physical distancing of at least six (6) feet will be observed at all times for people not from your household.
- We invite the congregation to voice responses and prayers during worship. A cantor will sing the hymns with a mask on, and the rest of the congregation is encouraged to follow along silently.
- We ask that everyone use hand sanitizer, either your own or from the bottles throughout the sanctuary, especially prior to Holy Communion.

***Worship Services are live streamed to multiple online platforms. By attending worship, you agree your image and voice be broadcast.***

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Gathering

*Please rise as you are able.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God our comforter:

**C: 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.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

*We ask that those present in the church sanctuary refrain from singing the hymns aloud.*

*The assembly gathered from afar is encouraged to sing!*

- 1 Light dawns on a weary world  
when eyes begin to see  
all people's dignity.  
Light dawns on a weary world:  
the promised day of justice comes.**

*Refrain*

**The trees shall clap their hands;  
the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy,  
and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.**

- 2 Love grows in a weary world  
when hungry hearts find bread  
and children's dreams are fed.  
Love grows in a weary world:  
the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain***

- 3 Hope blooms in a weary world  
when creatures, once forlorn,  
find wilderness reborn.  
Hope blooms in a weary world:  
the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain***

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953. Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951. Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358. Music © 2000 William P. Rowan, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

## Greeting

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

**P:** 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.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Word**

### **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.  
God will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
God 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading – James 2: 1-10, 14-17**

<sup>1</sup>My kindred, 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 siblings. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that God has promised to those who love God? <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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise as you are able.*

### **Gospel Acclamation** (*Spoken*)

P: Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice. Alleluia.

### **Gospel – Mark 7: 24-37**

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

**C: 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

### **Sermon**

*Please rise as you are able.*

*Refrain*

Healer of our ev'ry ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.

**1** You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with your peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*

**2** In the pain and joy beholding  
how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*

**4** You who know each thought and feeling,  
teach us all your way of healing;  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen. Text and music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

**Prayers of the People**

P: As children of God and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church,  
the world, and for all who are in need.

*After each petition*

P: God of mercy,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those of our hearts known only to you;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated while the table is being prepared.  
We offer ourselves, our gifts, and our faithful service to God.*

*An offering plate is available at the back of the sanctuary  
for those who would like to offer gifts as you leave worship today.*

## **Meal**

*Please rise as you are able.*

### **Offertory Prayer**

P: Let us pray.

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.

**C: Amen.**

### **Dialogue**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **Preface**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...

... and join their unending hymn.

### **Sanctus**

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**



## **Eucharistic Prayer**

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord ...  
... be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **Fraction and Invitation**

### ***Agnus Dei* / Lamb of God**

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Holy Communion**

- *For Holy Communion, we will not be kneeling at the altar rail due to the need for physical distancing.*
- *At the invitation of the usher, worshipers from the pulpit side will proceed forward first, followed by the center section, and then the lectern side.*
- *The Communion bread/wafer is in small cups on the left side of the altar table as you come forward. Cups of wine (lighter liquid) and grape juice (darker liquid) are on your right.*
- *A blessing will be provided for anyone who does not yet receive the sacrament, following physical distancing guidelines.*

- *Everyone is asked to wait until you return to your place to consume the wafer and wine/grape juice, and then promptly replace your mask.*
- *Worshipers can place the paper cups in the receptacle by the door at the back of the sanctuary as they leave through the Centre and Morewood Ave. vestibule.*

## **Hymn during Holy Communion**

### **Wait for the Lord**

***ELW 262***

*Wait for the Lord is sung in the Taizé style, in which a simple verse is repeated numerous times to facilitate contemplation and reflection.*

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.**

**Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

Text: Taizé Community. Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994. Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

*When all have returned to their places, please rise as you are able.*

## **Blessing**

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

**C: Amen.**

## **Prayer**

P: Let us pray.

Gracious God, 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **Sending**

## **Benediction**

P: People of God, you are Christ's body,  
bringing new life to a suffering world.

The holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### *Abbreviations*

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister

L: Lector

**C: Congregation**

***ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal***

### *Those serving in worship today*

Prelude and Hymnody

Cantor

Lector

Audiovisual Minister

Director of Faith Formation

Presiding Minister

Lily Cai, Piano

Jimmi and Timothy Kocher-Hillmer

Karen Shaffer

Christopher Atwood

Christopher Atwood

Pastor Ross Carmichael

### *Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements*

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