



**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Pontiac, IL
August 16, 2020
11th Sunday after Pentecost**

We gather to worship, reach out, and serve the Lord.

Welcome

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Whether you have worshipped with us many times, or this is your first time, there is a place for you here. Your presence among us is a gift.

God's Peace be with you,

Pastor Mathew

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Friday is Pastor Mathew's day off.

Introduction to the day

Introduction

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.

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

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.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
we have not trusted your abundance in our lives.
we rely on our own efforts.

Forgive us, O God.

we fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
we abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

Forgive us, O God.

we fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.

Forgive us, O God.

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace,

Forgive us, O God.

Beloved God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven.
Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit. Let the church say amen.

Amen.

Greeting

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

A: **And also with you.**

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

Reading – Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8

L: A reading from Isaiah.

The LORD says:

Act justly and do what is righteous, because my salvation is coming soon, and my righteousness will be revealed. ⁶ The immigrants who have joined me,^[a] serving me and loving my name,^[b] becoming my servants,^[c] everyone who keeps the Sabbath without making it impure, and those who hold fast to my covenant: ⁷ I will bring them to my holy mountain, and bring them joy in my house of prayer. I will accept their entirely burned offerings and sacrifices on my altar. My house will be known as a house of prayer for all peoples, ⁸ says the LORD God, who gathers Israel's outcasts. I will gather still others to those I have already gathered.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise as you are able for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

Gospel—Matthew 15: [10-20] 21-28

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

10 Jesus called the crowd near and said to them, "Listen and understand. 11 It's not what goes into the mouth that contaminates a person in God's sight. It's what comes out of the mouth that contaminates the person."

12 Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended by what you just said?"

13 Jesus replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father didn't plant will be pulled up. 14 Leave the Pharisees alone. They are blind people who are guides to blind people. But if a blind person leads another blind person, they will both fall into a ditch."

15 Then Peter spoke up, "Explain this riddle to us."

16 Jesus said, "Don't you understand yet? 17 Don't you know that everything that goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? 18 But what goes out of the mouth comes from the heart. And that's what contaminates a person in God's sight. 19 Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adultery, sexual sins, thefts, false testimonies, and insults. 20 These contaminate a person in God's sight. But eating without washing hands doesn't contaminate in God's sight."

21 From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. 22 A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, "Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession." 23 But he didn't respond to her at all. His disciples came and urged him, "Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us." 24 Jesus replied, "I've been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel." 25 But she knelt before him and said, "Lord, help me." 26 He replied, "It is not good to take the children's bread and toss it to dogs." 27 She said, "Yes, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters' table." 28 Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish." And right then her daughter was healed.

L: The gospel of the Lord.
A: **Praise to you, O, Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Mathew Berger

Special Music

"Healer of Our Every Ill"

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends "Lord, in your mercy." The congregation is invited to respond, "**hear our prayer**".

Sharing the Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.
A: **And also with you.**

You are invited to share a sign of God's peace with your neighbors by saying or typing, "Peace be with you."

Offerings can be given by mail or online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764. You can give online at <http://www.stpaulpontiac.org/>

"Red bag offering" for 8/9/20 - \$40.00

Offering Prayer

L: 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.

A: **Amen.**

Words of Institution

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 for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,
A: **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

L: Friends of Jesus, share in this meal. Receive nourishment for your journey.

Special Music during Communion

Prayer after Communion

L: 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.

A: Amen.

Announcements

SENDING

Benediction

L: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

A: Amen.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

A: Thanks be to God.

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Thank you to all those who contributed to today's service: Worship Slides: Julie
Mehlberg, Lector: Carrie Delheimer Ushers: The Delheimer's.