



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

L: Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving to you, God, our loving Creator. In the beginning you reached your hands into the earth and formed humanity in your own image. You breathed into us your own breath of love and gave us hearts and hands and voices to live your loving purpose in the world.

Seeing the lonely creature of earth, you created a partner that we would know the joy of community. Throughout the history of your people, you never abandoned us, but brought us into community with one another and with you, and guided us through your prophets.

With endless patience and love, you called to us time and again to return to life with you. In the fulfillment of all things, you came to us in Jesus, born into a human family, raised in a hometown, who gathered around himself a community formed by your love, and yearned to gather all people under the loving wings of a mother hen.

Sitting at dinner with friends and knowing one among them would break the bonds of love, our Lord Jesus took break 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.

In the same way 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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

A: Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Trusting in his promise to be among us whenever we gather in his name, 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: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

COMMUNION MUSIC VIDEO

"Reckless Love" By Corey Asbury

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and

strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others.

A: Amen.

Celebration of Vocation and Blessing of Hands

L: We are called to proclaim the good news:

A: God is at work!

L: This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

A: God is at work in the world still today!

L: In us and through us, God is glorified in our work. When we offer a helping hand, God is praised. When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world.

A: God is at work in us!

L: In our service today, and in our daily lives, let us live out what God has called us to in baptism.

A: God is at work through our hands!

L: God bless your hands and your work, that through you God's love may be known.

A: Amen.

BLESSING

L: God who sets forth the law of love, Jesus who fulfills the law for you, and the Spirit through whom you are called to love, + bless you this day, that you may be God's hands and heart and voice at work in the world.

A: Amen.

SENDING HYMN-

"God's Work, Our Hands" (Vs. 3 & 4) (Words on Screen)

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the world!

A: Thanks be to God!

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Presiding Minister: Pastor Christine McNeal

Worship Steward: Greg Putnam

Greeters: Mark Mackinson

Ushers: Marty & Shelly Heller

Lector: Becky Edinger

Communion Prep: Ginger Bauknecht

Comm. Asst: Nathan Joerndt & Marvin Miller

Hospitality: No Hospitality

Musician: Julie Mehlberg

SS Teacher: Michelle Harms

Counters: Marty Heller & Mark Mackinson

Livestream: Louis Kehinde

Introduction: 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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMNS

"Awesome God" (Words on Screen)

"Holy Ground" (Words on Screen)

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

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

A: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Gracious God,

A: have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

L: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

A: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Holy One, you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading- Isaiah 35:4-7a

L: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; 7athe burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

L: Word of God, word of life.

A: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146

L: A reading from Psalm

1 Hallelujah! 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.

3 Put 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.

5 Happy 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;

7 who 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.

9 The 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!

L: Holy wisdom; Holy Word.

A: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – James 2L1-10-17

L: A Reading from James

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. [11For 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. 12So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. 13For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.] 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.

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 ACCLAMATION

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" (Words on Screen)

Gospel - Mark 7:24-37

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark

A: 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, 25but 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.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY :

"God's Work, Our Hands (Vs. 1 & 2) (Words on Screen)

APOSTLE'S CREED

L: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

A: 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

Each petition will end "God we Pray." and the congregation will respond "Open our Hands in Love".

SHARING OF 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 turning to the people near you saying, "Peace be with you."

OFFERING "Special Music"

Offerings can also be sent by mail or given online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764 or give online at stpaulpontiac.org

Offering Prayer

L: Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world.

A: Amen.

MEAL

All are welcome at Christ's table. Communion is distributed in front of the altar by intinction. Please dip the wafer into the lighter colored liquid which is grape juice or the darker liquid which is wine. If you prefer not to receive communion you may come forward with your hands crossed over your chest to receive a blessing or you may remain in your seat.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

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

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.