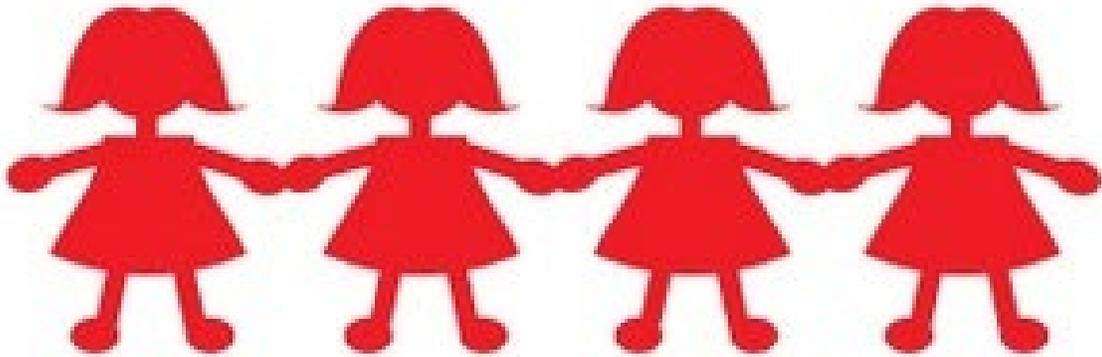


Without Distinction



**Worship Bulletin: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
Wednesday, September 8, 2021
(6:30 PM)**

GREETING

P: 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.

GATHERING SONG

“O Christ, Our Hope” (ELW 604)



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som
4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us
5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might-y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.
all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

A: Amen.

FIRST READING: PROVERBS 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

The sayings in the book of Proverbs impart the collective wisdom of centuries. Speaking of wealth and poverty, these particular verses teach that those who are blessed by God should honor the poor, for they are within God's special care.

¹A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. ²The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all. ⁸Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. ⁹Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

²²Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; ²³for the LORD pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

R: The word of the Lord,

A: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 125

P: Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but stands fast forever.

A: The mountains surround Jerusalem; so you surround your people, O LORD, from this time forth forevermore.

P: The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just, so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

A: Show your goodness, O LORD, to those who are good and to those who are true of heart.

P: As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, the LORD will lead them away with the evildoers; but peace be upon Israel.

SECOND READING: JAMES 2:1-10-17

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.

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.

R: The word of the Lord,

A: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *"Word of God, Come Down on Earth"*
(ELW 510 verse 1)

Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

GOSPEL: MARK 7:24-37

P: The holy Gospel according to Mark,

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

²⁴Jesus 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."

P: The gospel of the Lord,

A: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Jesus, Jesus, Fill Us with Your Love”

(ELW 708)

Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

P: Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. (*Especially as we celebrate Labor/Labour Day,*) unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

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

A: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all Places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(ELW 413 verse 2)

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: 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.

P: 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

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

“Just As I am, without One Plea”
(ELW 592, Verse 3)

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

BLESSING

P: The blessing of the living God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. **A: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN:

“Gather at the River”
by Point of Grace

Sometimes we don't see eye to eye
We don't agree, we don't know why
But Jesus prayed that we'd be one
So for the sake of God's own Son
Can we put away our differences
Lay down our pride
I think it's time we start turning the tide
Shall we gather at the river of forgiveness
Come together at the waters of love
Flowing like a fountain from the mercy giver
Shall we gather at the river

We have all made enemies of
The ones we're call by Christ to love
But there's redemption at the riverside

The water's deep, the water's wide
It can wash away our bitterness
The current is strong
I think we've been out in the desert too long

Shall we gather at the river of forgiveness
Come together at the waters of love
Flowing like a fountain from the mercy giver
Shall we gather at the river

We can wade into the middle
Where the healing waters flow
It only takes a little

To heal a wounded soul
It will only bring us closer
Than we've ever been before
This is just what Jesus was praying for

Shall we gather at the river of forgiveness
Come together at the waters of love
Flowing like a fountain from the mercy giver
Shall we gather at the river

DISMISSAL

P: With faith renewed, hope restored, and love revived, we go,

A: to invite every generation on a shared journey to Christian growth.