

**Worship at Home, September 05, 2021**  
**The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, **who made heaven and earth.**

I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord. **And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Almighty God, merciful Father: **I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being, forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*EvLW # 401 Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading*  
*Njoo kwetu, Roho mwema*

Njoo kwetu, Roho mwema, Mfariji wetu.  
Tufundishe ya mbinguni, tuwe watu wapya.

Refrain

Njoo, njoo, njoo, Roho mwema.  
Njoo, njoo, njoo, Roho mwema.

*Refrain*

Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.  
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

1. Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading, fashion us all anew.  
It's your leading that we're needing, help us to follow you. *Refrain*

2. Come to teach us, come to nourish those who believe in Christ.  
Bless the faithful, may they flourish, strengthened by grace unpriced. *Refrain*
3. Guide our thinking and our speaking done in your holy name.  
Motivate all in their seeking, freeing from guilt and shame. *Refrain*
4. Not mere knowledge, but discernment, nor rootless liberty;  
turn disquiet to contentment, doubt into certainty. *Refrain*
5. Keep us fervent in our witness; unswayed by earth's allure.  
Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure. *Refrain*

## **GREETING**

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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**

### **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 honour the poor, for they are within God's special care.*

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favour is better than silver or gold. The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

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

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 125**

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but stands fast forever. The hills stand about Jerusalem; so does the Lord stand round about his people, from this time forth forevermore. The sceptre 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. Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good and to those who are true of heart. As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, the Lord will lead them away with the evildoers; but peace be upon Israel.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL

### Mark 7: 24-37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **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.*

[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, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 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." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

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. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. 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.**

## REFLECTION

*Having read these readings and hear God's Word proclaimed you are invited to think on this and have conversations with your family and friends. What caught your attention? What bothered you? What does this say to the congregation of St James?*

In our world, with widespread violence and sickness, with our own and our children's illnesses, with our inability to hear each other and to speak clearly, it is hard to say truthfully, "Here is your God!" Rather, here is your need of God! God seems as hidden as Jesus sought to be in that house, as hidden as Jesus finally was on the cross. But Christ is risen and present with us in the church or in our own homes when we read the scriptures with the church. His resurrection is openly proclaimed among us. In faith, we may come with the woman, praying for all in need and insisting that God's no become a yes, God's hiddenness become God's healing presence. Empowered by the Spirit, the word of the gospel and the water of baptism open our ears to hear and our mouths to speak in love. In the holy communion, when we are able to gather, the crumbs from the Lord's table fall to us. Here indeed is your God! We are then called to let the church and our own homes show forth the gracious presence of this triune God by offering free welcome to all and by sending not just words but concrete help to people in need.

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**SERMON** *We thank Rev Kathy Martin, Assistant to the Bishop, B.C. Synod for her message today.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

EvLW # 614 *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

### *Refrain*

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

1. Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *Refrain*
2. If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." *Refrain*
3. Don't ever be discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;  
and if you lack for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend. *Refrain*

## CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. Holy One, you bring your people together in worship wherever we are. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, missionaries and members who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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 approach a national election later this month, unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

You bring hope and healing into our hurt, grief, fear, illness, all our needs. Be with all people tired of the isolation and restrictions of the pandemic. Make your presence known and bring comfort to Beryl, Daryl, Elethia, Ferolyn, Hans, Jordon, Pat, and those we name quietly in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership, members and ministries of this congregation as together we discern your plans for St James' future. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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

### **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.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

*EvLW # 708 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

#### *Refrain*

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neighbours we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,  
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain*
2. Neighbours are wealthy and poor, varied in colour and race,  
neighbours are near us and far away. *Refrain*
3. These are the ones we will serve; these are the ones we will love;  
all these are neighbours to us and you. *Refrain*
4. Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet:  
this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain*

### **CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE**

Go out into the world in peace. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself.

## **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

*While the current plan is to meet in person, next Sunday Sept 12 at 10:00 A.M., the Church Council is meeting this week to again consider covid health restrictions. Please note all required covid protocols including sign-in, sanitizing, masks and social distancing will be in place.*

*Please enter by the Wyatt Street door and proceed to the sign in table. More details can be found in the September issue of Reflections.*

*Current plans are to record the live service on Sunday, starting at 10 am and post it on Facebook immediately after the service. At this time live streaming is problematic due to the lack of hard wiring and Wi-Fi where we expect the camera to be set up in the choir loft.*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon	Sep 06	Joshua 6:1-21	Hebrews 11:29	12:2	Isaiah 38:10-20
Tue	Sep 07	Joshua 8:1-23	Hebrews 12:3-13	Isaiah 38:10-20	
Wed	Sep 08	Judges 15:9-20	Matthew 17:14-21	Isaiah 38:10-20	
Thu	Sep 09	Joshua 2:1-14	Hebrews 11:17-22	Psalm 116:1-9	
Fri	Sep 10	Joshua 2:15-24	James 2:17-26	Psalm 116:1-9	
Sat	Sep 11	Joshua 6:22-27	Matthew 21:23-32	Psalm 116:1-9	
Sun	Sep 12	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 116:1-9 (9)	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38

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