

“Be opened.”  
And immediately his  
ears were opened,  
his tongue was released ...  
Mark 7:34-35, NRSV



**September 5, 2021**  
**Outdoor Worship Service**

# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4515 Dobie Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-349-0620

## **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .  
..we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,  
study and fellowship  
..we **Equip** the people of God with a faith  
that works in real life  
..we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf  
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams  
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love  
Youth & Education Director .....Pam Williams  
Pastor's email:.....[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
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Facebook Page:.....[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

## **Introduction to the day**

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.

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy.

**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

God, our provider,  
**help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways  
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

Beloved people of God:  
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.  
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
there is always more than enough.  
Through Jesus, † the bread of life,  
you are shown God's mercy:  
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

## **GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

**Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a**

*These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>4</sup>Say 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.”

<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.

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

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17**

*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.*

A reading from James.

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, 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 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? <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. [<sup>11</sup>For 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. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and 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? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

## **GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37**

*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.*

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**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.”

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

**SERMON**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed.*

*To each petition, the assembly responds:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:*

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

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

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## **PREFACE**

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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. **Amen**



## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

***Communion** – Communion is shared among us.*

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

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life,  
we have received from your table  
more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,  
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✝ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

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### Year to Date                                      January – June 30, 2021

Income	\$ 133,403
Expenses	<u>\$ 141,547</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (8,144)

If you have the ability to support the church's work during this time, please do so as you normally would. You can mail your check to Faith Lutheran, 4515 Dobie Road, Okemos MI 48864 or consider signing up for "**Simply Giving**", our online offering tool. Contact [jon.harrison@comcast.net](mailto:jon.harrison@comcast.net) for more information on how to sign up.

### 8/22/21

Loose Cash	\$ 40.00
General Fund	\$ 870.00
Capital Repairs	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 960.00
Simply Giving	
General	\$3,530.00
Building	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,515.00</b>

### 8/29/21

Loose Cash	\$ 20.00
General Fund	\$ 870.00
Facility Rental	\$ 50.00
Memorial	\$ 25.00
Parish House	\$ 100.00
World Hunger	<u>\$ 5.00</u>
Subtotal	\$1,070.00
Simply Giving	
General	<u>\$ 425.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,495.00</b>

**Please note that "Simply Giving" now has the option to donate to the Pantry Fund and the Roof Fund.**

# Sunday, September 12!!



## Anniversary Celebration

Join us as we kick off the 2021-2022 programming year and celebrate Faith's 65 anniversary!

Sunday, September 12

Rally Day / Community Picnic / 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Plans for the day include:

- First kick-off day of Sunday School
- 10:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary
- A catered outdoor meal following worship
- Pulled pork sandwiches, chips, cookies and beverages
- Games and activities for kids & adults
- Volunteers are needed please sign up in the Narthex.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



## God's Work our Hands

Sunday, September 12th, 3-5 P.M.

Meridian Marketplace

(Located at north side of mall)

Help Plant Mum and Perennials

Please bring gloves, small shovels or any other tool that might be useful for planting. Please sign up using the link below so we can plan how many flowers to get for planting.

Signing up is not necessary to attend but is helpful for planning.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CA4A62FA3F49-gods>