

**“Be opened.”
And immediately his
ears were opened,
his tongue was released ...**

Mark 7:34-35, NRSV



September 5, 2021

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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Fremont, CA 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

September 5, 2021
15th Sunday after Pentecost
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

[Click here for a video of the service.](#)

PRELUDE . . . *“Healer of Our Every Ill”* vs. 1,4

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

INVOCATION

P: Holy God, you are mystery greater than our minds can comprehend.

All: And yet, you have come to us in Jesus and he invites us to stay with him;

P: to follow where he leads

All: so that we may find you whom our hearts seek.

P: We come but we bring with us

All: our doubts

P: our questions

All: our frailties

P: our inability to love one another well.

All: We come, drawn by your haunting love.

P: Immerse us in the waters of your grace. Pour your Holy Spirit upon us.

All: Teach us to love one another with the love of Christ.

P: For we ask it in the many names of Jesus, our Lord,

All: the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,

P: The Anointed One,

All: Teacher,

P: Savior,

All: the One whose love surrounds us all our days. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: From our busy lives, God calls us together to worship and to pray.

All: We are here, Holy One!

L: From different places, Christ calls us to gather, to love, and to live.

All: We are here, blessed Jesus!

L: From unexpected journeys, the Spirit calls us into unity to serve and to grow.

All: We are here, Holy Spirit! Come! Let us worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross.

P: On this Labor Day Sunday let us lift up all people who labor,

All: either for pay or as volunteers,

P: in jobs or at school, at home or in the workplace,

All: here at home and all around the world.

P: We are workers, God, just like you.

All: But we confess that our actions do not always affirm and honor each other.

P: Our work is not always done in a spirit that is pleasing to you.

All: We confess that, on some occasions, we have blindly bought goods made by people who are paid too little or work in unsafe conditions.

P: We admit that we have failed to end an unjust system in which some workers have jobs that provide good wages and benefits while others may have no job,

All: or one that pays little and provides few benefits.

P: Creator God, help us to be your people,

All: working for a world where all workers are valued.

P: A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in.

All: A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill.

P: And one where those who serve and care for others – in stores, schools, hotels, restaurants, nursing homes, and many other places – are, themselves, also served and cared for.

All: A world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us.

Silence for Reflection

P: Our God is a God of grace and transformation.

All: When we ask, God gives us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary.

A LABOR DAY LITANY

L: For all who have work to do that creates and sustains life,

All: We give God thanks.

L: For volunteers and mentors, for leaders and followers,

All: We give God thanks.

L: For those who are unemployed,

All: We ask for jobs.

L: For those who are underemployed,

All: We ask for work that satisfies.

L: For those who work in oppressive systems,

All: We ask relief.

L: For those whose work is demeaning,

All: We ask for respect.

L: Where you need us, O God, to make work available, or joyful, or respectful, or fair,

All: Direct us in your ways.

L: Guide the leaders of our communities to make work a reasonable part of our lives,

All: Direct us in your ways.

L: When it is time, O God, to rest as you did after creation, in safety and honor,

All: Direct us in your ways.

L: For this opportunity to hold up our work in your presence, Holy God,

All: We give you thanks and praise.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life.

**All: 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.**

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: Abiding Spirit, may our hearts be opened to the mystery of the gospel,

**All: that the Creator of life may be made known to all.
Amen.**

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

[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.”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: Our God is the source of wisdom and understanding.

All: Bless us with your gifts, O God.

Reader: Our God feeds us with the bread of life and the wellspring of our salvation.

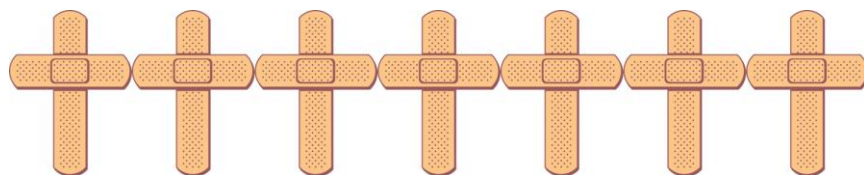
All: Bless us with your grace, Christ Jesus.

Reader: Our God is the foundation of mercy and compassion.

All: Bless us with your gifts, Mighty Spirit.

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . *Pastor Tim*

HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tim*



INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: When the Spirit flows through us, we are people of honesty and justice.

All: When Christ works within us, we are disciples of mercy and compassion. Let us be agents of God's overflowing grace as we collect today's offering.

OFFERING



OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of wisdom and understanding, send these gifts into the world,

All: that they may become instruments of your grace;

L: send this offering to your people,

All: that it may become a source of your mercy.

L: May these gifts be bread and blessing

All: for a world in need of your mighty Spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. 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. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: 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. Unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: 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. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation we choose:

All: 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.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: As you leave this place, remember to walk in God's ways. Remember to dwell in the goodness of God. Remember to be faithful.

All: May peace be upon us this day and always. Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE . . . *"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"* vs. 1,5

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

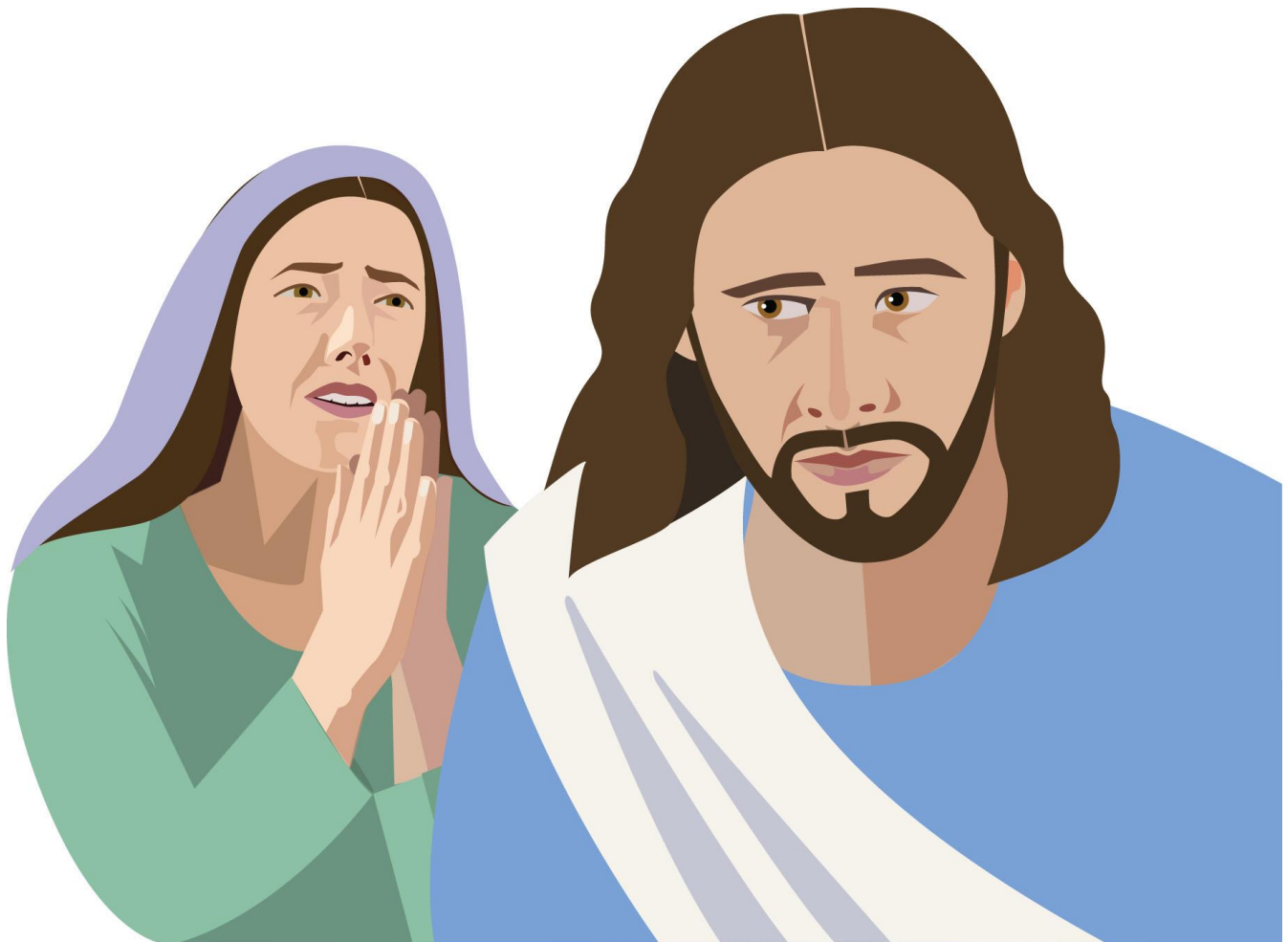
Lay Liturgist: Terri MacFarlane

Reader: Carmen Blair

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema



The Faith of a Canaanite Woman