



# APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

**THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN**

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061

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## TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter (Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28)*

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026 | 10:00 AM**

Our Mission is to be a Caring Inclusive Christian Community responding to God's grace through  
Worship, Service, and Sharing the Gospel.



**RECONCILING *in* CHRIST**



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# WELCOME TO APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH!

It is an honor to worship God with you this morning. We pray you experience the Spirit's loving presence as we share our words, our actions, and the Holy Meal.

**If this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a card in the pew rack with your contact info.** A restroom can be found by exiting the rear door of the worship space. It is directly in front of you to the right. Additional restrooms can be found in the back corner of the fellowship area, near the Pastor's office.

## RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

We, the people of Apostles Lutheran Church, follow Paul's message to the Galatians (3:28): "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Believing that because we are all one in Christ, and created in God's image, all are welcome as beloved children of God. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. **Rejoicing in God's amazing diversity, we welcome people of all ages, races, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities.** Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to racial equity, breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

## FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Reverend Jay Serafin is our pastor. Pastor Jay's **schedule is noted in the calendar on the back of this bulletin.** Call Pastor Jay at 570-205-7506 or email him at [j80j84@msn.com](mailto:j80j84@msn.com) (preferred) or [pastor.apostles@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.apostles@gmail.com). Messages can also be left on the Apostles answering machine 804-693-9098.

## PRAYGROUND

Welcome to our youngest members! The area in the front of our sanctuary is for families and young children. There are quiet toys, books and drawing materials. **We ask two things: 1) sit in the front pews near your children and 2) please sit with your children in the pews during the sermon.** They may return immediately after. Thank you and welcome!

## NAME TAGS

**Please wear your nametag!** Guests: please fill out and put on a name tag before worship today. Blank nametags are in the baskets located in the pews.

# GATHERING

*In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.*

## PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER

*Martin Luther said of music: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Please take a moment to **silence all cell phones.***

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please rise in body or in spirit. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,

**we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

ELW #886

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

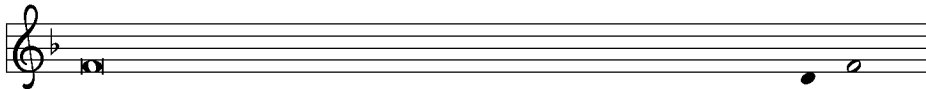
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## KYRIE



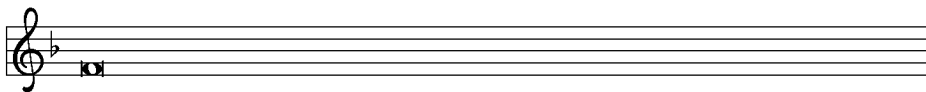
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



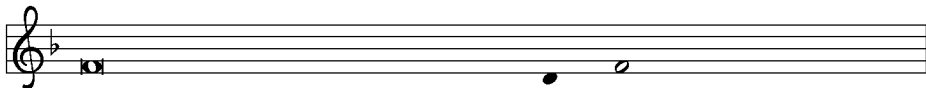
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



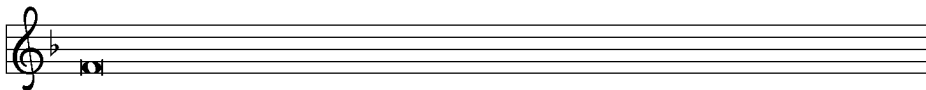
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



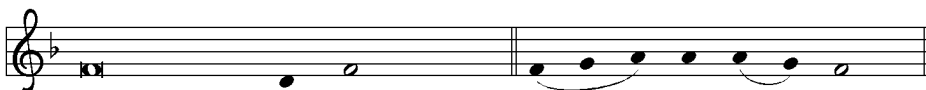
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



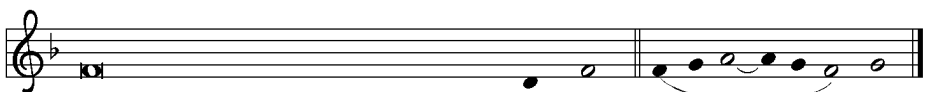
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

*Sit*

## FIRST READING

## ISAIAH 56:1, 6-8

*The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.*

<sup>1</sup> Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come  
and my deliverance be revealed.

<sup>6</sup> And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,  
and to be his servants,  
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it  
and hold fast my covenant—

<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar,  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples.

<sup>8</sup> Thus says the Lord God,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:  
I will gather others to them  
besides those already gathered.

*Response after the First Reading*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## PSALM

## PSALM 67

- <sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to | us and bless us;  
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.
- <sup>2</sup> **Let your way be known | upon earth,  
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**
- <sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise | you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.
- <sup>4</sup> **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth. R**
- <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise | you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.
- <sup>6</sup> **The earth has brought | forth its increase;  
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**
- <sup>7</sup> May God | give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe. **R**

## SECOND READING

## ROMANS 11:1-2A, 29-32

*God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>1</sup> I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2a</sup> God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

<sup>29</sup> For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

*Response after the Second Reading*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



*The gospel is announced.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*All are invited to make a small cross over your forehead, lips, and chest, inviting Jesus the Word into your heart, mind, and speech.*

## **GOSPEL**

## **MATTHEW 15:[10-20] 21-28**

*Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.*

[<sup>10</sup> [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:<sup>11</sup> it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." <sup>12</sup> Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" <sup>13</sup> He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup> Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." <sup>15</sup> But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." <sup>16</sup> Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup> Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup> But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."] ]

<sup>21</sup> Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." <sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." <sup>26</sup> He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup> She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

*The gospel concludes:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

**PASTOR JAY SERAFIN**

*Silence is kept after the reflection.*



*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**ELW #588**

### "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"



- 1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
- 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
- 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.  
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

## **APOSTLES CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed.

**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  
power of 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**

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:*

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We share a sign of Peace with our neighbors saying **Peace be with you** to which we respond **And also with you.** Please know that it is fine if you do not want to shake hands but would rather just share a sign of peace.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*Sit*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

*To give online:*

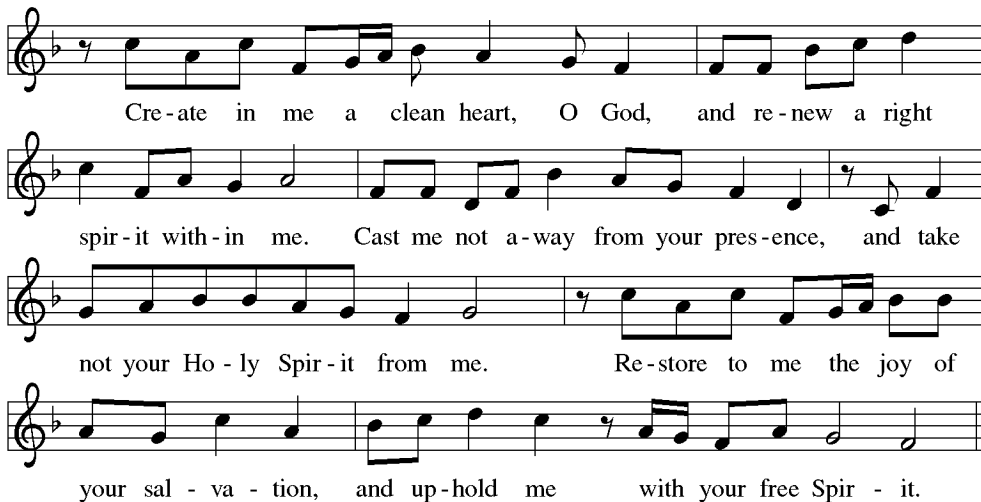
✦ Visit [apostles-elca.org/contributions](https://apostles-elca.org/contributions)

✦ From your mobile phone, text the word GIVE to 844-215-5453

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

**ELW #186**



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

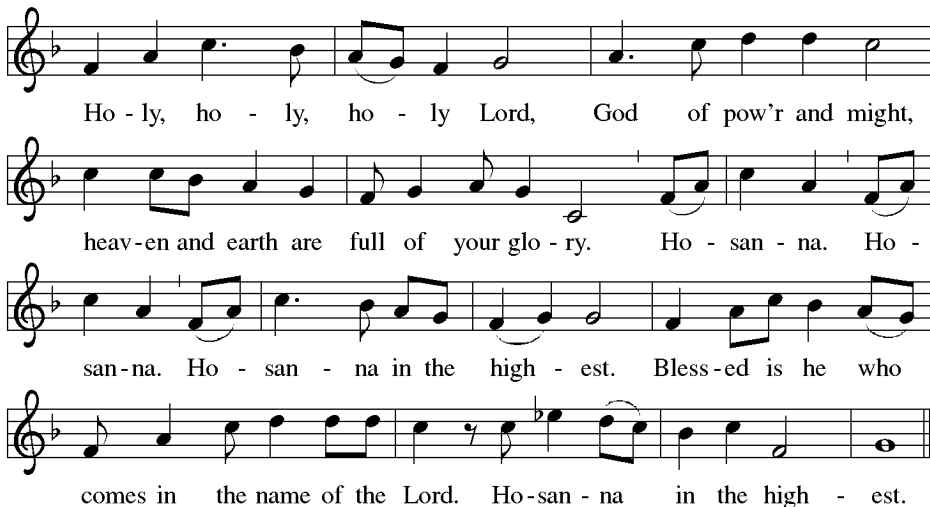
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The great thanksgiving concludes.*

... Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,  
in your church, without end.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

*Sit*

## COMMUNION

*All are invited to join us at the Lord's table to receive the presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. Jesus himself invites you and Jesus turns no one away.*

*You will be invited to come forward either to receive the elements or to receive a blessing. For those receiving the elements, after receiving the bread, please take a glass from the tray held by the acolyte. There are pre-filled glasses of grape juice in the tray for those who do not drink wine. Gluten free wafers are also available upon request.*

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## HYMN DURING COMMUNION

ELW #610

### "O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come"



- 1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
- 2 From ev - 'ry ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed;
- 3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;
- 4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find



How can we fail to be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?  
yet in our hearts we would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.  
our com - mon life de - clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?  
the whole - ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Text © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*After all have returned to their places, all rise in body or in spirit.*

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

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

**Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission back into the world.*

## BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

**ELW #759**

**“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”**



- 1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
- 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
- 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's  
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

**DISMISSAL**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!  
Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

\*\*\*\*\*

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

|                               | Serving Today            | Serving Next Week  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Worship Leader/Preacher ..... | Pastor Jay Serafin ..... | Pastor Jay Serafin |
| Lay Assisting Minister .....  | Chase Ambrose .....      | Pete Liljeberg     |
| Lector .....                  | Judy Wright .....        | Chase Ambrose      |
| Acolyte .....                 | David Muse .....         | Chase Ambrose      |
| Accompanist .....             | Janet Gomez .....        | Janet Gomez        |
| Altar Care .....              | Judy Wright .....        | Betsy Liljeberg    |
| Communion Bread .....         | Donna Ambrose .....      | Betsy Liljeberg    |
| Flowers .....                 | Betsy Liljeberg .....    | Irene Albert       |
| Greeter/Usher .....           | Judy Wright .....        | Betsy Liljeberg    |
| Technology .....              | Doug Dalager .....       | Chris Hawkins      |

**SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK**

|                           | Serving This Week                | Serving Next Week          |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cleaning Team .....       | Liljebergs .....                 | Bonnie Hanson              |
| Tellers .....             | Betsy Liljeberg/Linda Hodges ... | Daniel Gomez/Nate Peterson |
| Fellowship Set Up .....   | Jennie Hawkins .....             | Caring Community           |
| Fellowship Food .....     | Judy Wright/Ellen Quirk .....    | Janet Gomez                |
| Fellowship Clean Up ..... | Alberts .....                    | Alberts                    |

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**  
**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6**  
*The enduring foundation of God's salvation*

**Psalm 138**  
*O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever.*

**Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8**  
*One body in Christ, with gifts that differ*

**Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20**  
*The profession of Peter's faith*

## **WE ARE BEGGARS, THIS IS TRUE**

"We are beggars; this is true." These are reported to be Martin Luther's last written words. Christians are "beggars" for God's grace, undeserving but graced nonetheless. A beggar's faith focuses not on what is given or accomplished or believed, but on what is *received*: the healing and sustenance desperately longed for and needed.

In today's gospel, the Canaanite woman is such a "beggar" for Jesus' healing for her daughter. She is denied a place at the table at first, but she will accept even "crumbs" in the faith that Jesus' healing power and love are intended even for her. As a gentile, she inhabits the margins of Jesus' mission "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt. 15:24). Jesus' eventual response to her beggar's faith reveals that the love of God even encompasses the margins.

Marginalized or not, we are *all* beggars before God, as Paul reminds the Romans—all "imprisoned . . . in disobedience" (Rom. 11:32) and dependent on God. Thus, our sense of "insider" and "outsider" crumbles in the face of our common need and God's abundant mercy to all. Instead of dividing those who have a place at the table and those who get crumbs, we have an opportunity to share hospitality with our fellow beggars.

It can be challenging to see ourselves as beggars. Today the Canaanite woman becomes our model, as she persists with both humility and audacity. As disciples of Jesus and "beggars" for God's grace, we live the same paradox of humility and audacity, boldly coming to Jesus and humbly acknowledging our need. Even though crumbs from God's table would be enough for us, we are offered instead the abundance of Jesus' own self in bread and wine and invited to share this abundance with insider and outsider alike.

## **PASTA WITH A PURPOSE**

The Competition is On! The Virginia Synod Hunger Team is challenging all congregations to a pasta meal collection contest. Each congregation is asked to collect food offerings related to pasta meals. Summers are often a time when food pantries receive fewer donations which makes this an opportune time to collect food. Apostles is hoping to get in the running for one of the grand prizes which is a \$250 grant to be given to the food ministry of our choice. Here is a list of suggested items:

Dried or ready to eat pasta (gluten free options as well)

Cans or jars of spaghetti sauce (with and without meat)

Canned pasta meals such as ravioli or spaghetti with meatballs

Boxed macaroni and cheese

Parmesan cheese in a shaker

Food offerings can be brought in throughout August. All food items will be weighed and brought to Bread for Life food pantry. The congregation collecting the most pounds per worshipping adult wins.....and so do the people of their communities! Let's go Apostles! We can do it!

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We will be receiving new members in the near future – if you are interested in becoming a member, please talk with Pastor Jay.

## **ELCA WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY – TODAY!!**

We receive a special offering for ELCA World Hunger every third Sunday – please remember your offering today.

## **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**Rich Bitting, Manning Freeman, Don Garfield, Heidi Henderson, Ellen Kendzierski, Doug Leip, Cyndi Lowe, Ellen Quirk, Michael Schlemmer, Ray Scholz, Keith & Juanita Sturdy, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, Lena Woodlief and Judy Wright**

## **OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**Natalie Abu Dayyeh, Patricia Armentor** (mother of Arlene, Executive Director of Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic), **Paul Bauer, Karen Bell** (Pam Moore's sister), **Bob & Dixie, Calli Bonfey, Patricia Boyd & Brad Zelmer, Amanda Brown, David Brown, Dennis & Dorothy Brown, Sally Burkholder, Juan Carlos, Amy Carter, Laura Clodfelter, Jackie Collier, Ben Davis** (friend of Donna Ambrose), **Tommy & Kathie Davis, Jenny DeSha, Linda Edwards, Colton Elliot** (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), **Teresa Floersheim-Miller** (Ingrid Peterson's mother), **Suzanne & Frank Gibson, Steven Godwin** (Juanita Sturdy's grandson), **Jimmy & Fay Gray** (Chris Hawkins' family), **Carl Greene, Karen Guire, Melvin Hawkins** (Chris Hawkins' father), **Chaneice & Daniel Hayden, Rosie Heins, Carl & Kaleb Hess, Aris Hibbs** (friend of Ray Scholz), **Ray Hughes, Scott Jeffery, Suzanne Kinkade** (friend of Ellen Quirk), **Terri Larsen, Marion Lucier, Wayne Mathews, Wayne McCormick, Sylvia Midgette** (Krystle McMahan's grandmother), **Debbie Minteins, Keith Morgan, Gary Mowery, Jamie Mullaney, Carol Pascale** (Lynn Jaeger's mother), **Chastity Perkins** (co-worker and friend of Donna Ambrose), **Brad Person** (Lilly Frost's uncle), **Dick Peterson & his brother, the Prusa Family, Joan Ritter, Glen Robertson, Pastor Wendy Roundy, Carol Schlemmer, Daniel Schmidt, Michael Scholz** (Ray Scholz's nephew), **Joseph Serafin** (Pastor Jay's father), **Kathy Shackelford, Elana Sierson, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Jean Sterling, Skye Sulton, Marier Upshrie, Keegan Walls, Williams Walters, Chuck Webb** (Tina Britt's father), **Makenzie Webb** (Tina Britt's niece), **Elizabeth & Steven White, Vicki Williams, Cory Woodlief, Jim Wright** (Judy Wright's husband), **Logan & Shannon Wymer, Derek Zwiers** (friend of CK Ambrose)

## **OUR SPONSORED CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA**

**Amayra, Hugolino, Manuela, and Pablo**

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

There is a book located at the rear of the worship space for you to write any prayer requests you have for today. Fill out a "Prayer Request" (on the back of each pew) and place it in the offering plate to add a prayer request to the "Prayer List" included in the bulletin and the newsletter. **Please print legibly!**

# **THIS WEEK AT APOSTLES**

## **AUGUST 16, 2026 – AUGUST 23, 2026**

|                  |                           |                                                      |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>TODAY</b>     | <b>10:00 AM</b>           | <b>Worship Service &amp;<br/>World Hunger Sunday</b> |
|                  | 11:00 AM                  | Coffee Fellowship                                    |
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | <b>1:00 PM – 4:00 PM</b>  | <b>Pastor Jay in the Office</b>                      |
|                  | 2:30 PM                   | Worship Team                                         |
|                  | 6:00 PM                   | AA                                                   |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   | 6:00 PM                   | Al-Anon/AA                                           |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | <b>10:00 AM – 1:00 PM</b> | <b>Pastor Jay in the Office</b>                      |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  |                           |                                                      |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    |                           | Girl Scouts                                          |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>  | 5:30 PM                   | Young and Sober                                      |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | <b>10:00 AM</b>           | <b>Worship Service</b>                               |
|                  | 11:00 AM                  | Coffee Fellowship                                    |

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...**  
**Benjamin Slider, IV – Wed, Aug 19**

