



St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church

Rev. Ronald C. Szep, pastor

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

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All of today's hymns are found in the pew hymnal
"Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal" (CW). © 1993 NPH

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We Thank God with Our Offerings:

No plates will be passed; please place your offering in the basket by the sanctuary doors. This offering is taken to support our congregation's work of spreading the message of Jesus Christ, within the congregation, at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran School, and by supporting mission work.

EVENING DEVOTION

The Church is meant for all people.

The Prayer of the Day reminds us that it is only by God's gift of grace that we come into his presence to offer true and faithful service. Today's lessons teach that the gift of grace given to Israel, God also intended to give through Israel to the world. The Church is meant for all people: a display of God's mercy and a result of the living and active Word of God.

Greeting by the minister

Please Stand

OPENING DIALOGUE:

Minister: Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world,

Congregation: The light no darkness can overcome.

M: Stay with us, for it is evening,

C: **And the day is almost over.**

M: Let your light scatter the darkness.

C: Let it shine in our hearts and lives. Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

M: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father,

I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.

In what I have done and left undone,

I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.

I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.

For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

I am truly sorry for my sins.

I repent of them.

I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

Silence for meditation.

M: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

C: Cleanse me from my sins.

Release me from my guilt.

Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all.

For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE:

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you.

Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 15:21-28

Note the context of chapter 15. The children of Israel-and especially their religious leaders-found nothing but fault in Jesus of Nazareth. The chosen people of God to whom belonged the patriarchs, the promises, the covenant and the temple, could see nothing in Christ but a breaker of man-made traditions. Jesus' words to them could not be harsher. They were the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophesy: their outward rites and rituals belied an inward spiritual emptiness. The very people who should have been closest to Christ were most distant.

So Jesus distances himself from them and goes to the Gentile land of ancient paganism, Tyre and Sidon. There he finds a most inexplicable thing: after leaving the land of God's chosen people, Jesus finds a Canaanite woman who received the Word of God and trusted in God's promises in a way that shamed every one of the religious teachers. The male leaders of God's people failed to recognize him, but behold! A woman, a Canaanite woman, cries out, "Kyrie eleison!" And to whom does she cry? She called him "Lord, Son of David," with all of its messianic implications. How amazing is the grace of God that chooses the weak and lowly things of the world to shame the wise and proud. Only twice are we told that Jesus called someone's faith great. Both were Gentiles, and both exhibited a God-given trust in the Word and promises of God made man.

²¹ *Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.*

²² *A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out,*

"Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me!

My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

²³ *Jesus did not answer a word.*

So his disciples came to him and urged him,

"Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

²⁴ *He answered,*

"I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

²⁵ *The woman came and knelt before him.*

"Lord, help me!" she said.

²⁶ *He replied,*

"It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

²⁷ *"Yes it is, Lord," she said.*

"Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

²⁸ *Then Jesus said to her,*

"Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted."

And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Please Be Seated

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW Hymn 413

"When in the Hour of Utmost Need"

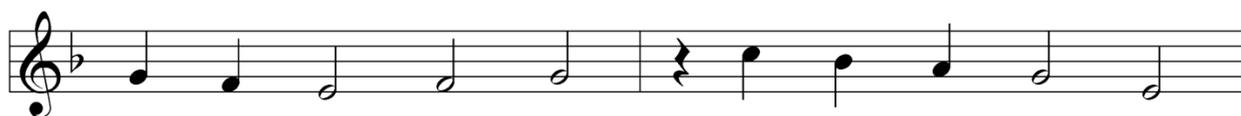
PRAYER

413

When in the Hour of Utmost Need



1 When in the hour of ut - most need We know not
 2 Then is our com - fort this a - lone That we may
 3 For you have prom - ised, Lord, to heed Your chil-dren's
 4 And so we come, O God, to - day And all our
 5 So that with all our hearts we may To you our



where to look for aid, When days and nights of
 meet be - fore your throne; To you, O faith - ful
 cries in time of need Through him whose name a -
 woes be - fore you lay. Be with us in our
 glad thanks - giv - ing pay, Then walk o - be - dient



anx - ious thought Nor help nor coun - sel yet have brought,
 God, we cry For res - cue in our mis - er - y.
 lone is great, Our Sav - ior and our ad - vo - cate.
 an - guish still; Free us at last from ev - 'ry ill,
 to your Word And now and ev - er praise you, Lord.

Text: Paul Eber, 1511–69, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: WENN WIR IN HÖCHSTEN NÖTEN SEIN (LM) Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–c. 1561.

SERMON: based on Romans 11:13-15, 28-32
“The Gospel Is Meant for All People”

On this day celebrating faith for the Gentiles, St. Paul warns his Gentile readers against any pride on their part or prejudice against the Jews. Note the point of this Apostle to the Gentiles: he reaches out to the Gentile with the hopes of also winning the Jew. Verse 15 makes the point of our Gospel lesson. Rejection by the people of Israel meant Christ would be preached to the Gentiles. How personal this statement is for Paul! How many synagogues had he preached in, only to be cast out and make his way to the Gentiles? But yet Israel retains its dual status: enemies that are beloved. When the nation of Israel turned from its Savior God and his Messiah, God set his face against them as enemies of the Gospel. But yet God’s call and his Word of promise remain. Such is grace, that God does not love the lovable, but makes the unlovable his dear possession. Just look at what he did with the disobedient Gentiles! Both Jew and Gentile apart from Christ languish in the fearful prison called “Disobedience.” God shut them up together that locked thus, all hope and all self-help were gone. Disobedience was all they had and all they could bring forth. Only one door permits one to leave this prison, and it is inscribed: “God’s Mercy.” (R.C.H. Lenski)

¹³ I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry

¹⁴ in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them.

¹⁵ For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

²⁸ As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs,

²⁹ for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.

³⁰ Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience,

³¹ so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God’s mercy to you.

³² For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

Please Stand

PRAYERS:

Luther's Evening Prayer *(in unison)*

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Special prayers and intercessions: optional, read by the minister

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer

M: Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *(in unison)*

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING:

M: May the blessing of the eternal God be upon us: his light to guide us, his presence to shelter us, his peace to unite us.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: CW Hymn 571

"From Greenland's Icy Mountains"

571

From Greenland's Icy Mountains



1 From Green-land's i - cy moun - tains, From In - dia's
 2 What though the fra - grant breez - es Blow soft o'er
 3 Can we whose souls are light - ed With wis - dom



cor - al strand, Where Af - ri - ca's bright foun - tains
 dis - tant isles, Though ev - 'ry vis - ta pleas - es,
 from on high, Can we to those be - night - ed



Roll down their gold - en sand, From man - y an an - cient
 Yet sin the land de - files. In vain with lav - ish
 The lamp of life de - ny? Sal - va - tion! Oh, sal -



riv - er, From man - y a palm - y plain, They call us
 kind - ness The gifts of God are strown; The hea - then
 va - tion! The joy - ful sound pro - claim Till each re -



to de - liv - er Their land from er - ror's chain.
 in their blind - ness Bow down to wood and stone.
 mot - est na - tion Has learned Mes - si - ah's name.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, abr., alt.

Tune: MISSIONARY HYMN (76 76 D) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872.