

## The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

### August 20, 2023

The Christian Church is not an exclusive club! It is open to all who come to Jesus in faith. When a Canaanite woman came to Jesus crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David." The disciples wanted to send her away. Jesus heard her cry and her humble supplication, "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." She was thrilled to hear His response, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly. May we have such faith. May we welcome all who share this faith.

#### Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Lutheran Service Book 901, Lutheran Worship 198, The Lutheran Hymnal 1



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me  
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so  
3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is  
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy

en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty  
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,  
du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,  
gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;

Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed  
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O  
Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I  
May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing

is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!  
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!  
hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.

5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;  
Let Thy will be done indeed.  
May I undisturbed draw near Thee  
While Thou dost Thy people feed.  
Here of life the fountain flows;  
Here is balm for all our woes.

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**L** In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**L** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

**L** Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

**C** Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)

**L** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalm 130:3–4*)

**L** Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

**C** God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen. (*Luke 18:13*)

**L** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### Introit Psalm 28:1–2, 6–7; antiphon: Psalm 28:8

**L** The LORD is the strength of his people;  
He is the saving refuge of his anointed.

**C** To you, O LORD, I call;

My rock, be not deaf to me, lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.

**L** Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help,  
when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.

**C** Blessed be the LORD!

For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

**L** The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**L** The LORD is the strength of his people;  
He is the saving refuge of his anointed.

### Kyrie

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

## Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

- L** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
- C** **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.**
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:
- C** **Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.
- C** **For You alone are the Holy One,  
You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## Collect of the Day

- L** Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## Isaiah 56:1, 6–8

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD:  
“Keep justice, and do righteousness,  
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,  
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,  
and holds 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>The Lord GOD,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,  
“I will gather yet others to him  
besides those already gathered.”

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

- L** Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing!
- C** **Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.**

## Psalm 67

- L** <sup>1</sup>May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,  
**C** <sup>2</sup>**that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.**  
**L** <sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!  
**C** <sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.**  
**L** <sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!  
**C** <sup>6</sup>**The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us.**  
**L** <sup>7</sup>God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

## Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32

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

<sup>13</sup>Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry <sup>14</sup>in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. <sup>15</sup>For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . .

<sup>28</sup>As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. <sup>29</sup>For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup>Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so they too 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 consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse Psalm 147:2-3

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. He gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Alleluia.

## Matthew 15:21–28

- L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out 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>And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread 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, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

- L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven

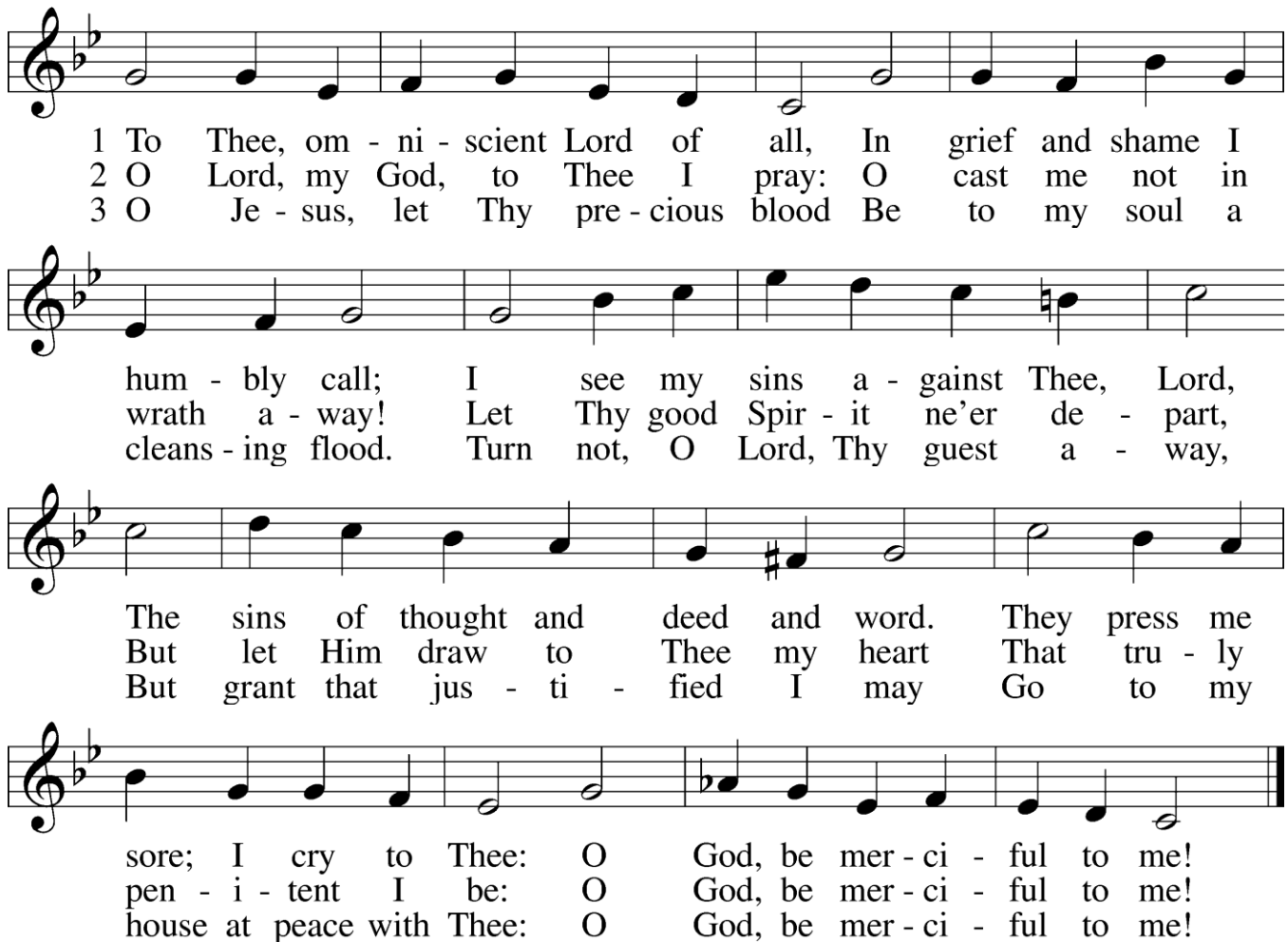
and sits at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen

### To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All

Lutheran Service Book 613, Lutheran Worship 234, The Lutheran Hymnal 318



1 To Thee, om - ni - scient Lord of all, In grief and shame I  
2 O Lord, my God, to Thee I pray: O cast me not in  
3 O Je - sus, let Thy pre - cious blood Be to my soul a  
hum - bly call; I see my sins a - gainst Thee, Lord,  
wrath a - way! Let Thy good Spir - it ne'er de - part,  
cleans - ing flood. Turn not, O Lord, Thy guest a - way,  
The sins of thought and deed and word. They press me  
But let Him draw to Thee my heart That tru - ly  
But grant that jus - ti - fied I may Go to my  
sore; I cry to Thee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
pen - i - tent I be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
house at peace with Thee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

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### Devotional thoughts:

You may have noticed that most of our Gospel readings this year are from the Gospel According To Matthew. Today we have the opportunity to examine one of the more fascinating aspects of this Gospel. Let's see if you can discover it from the following portions of Matthew.

Matthew begins in the second chapter with the report of wise men coming from some faraway country in the east to worship the newborn King of the Jews. In Matthew 8, a Roman centurion comes to Jesus to request healing for his paralyzed servant. He tells Jesus, "I am unworthy to have you come under my roof, but only say

the word and my servant will be healed.” When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.

Later in chapter 8 Jesus travels to a gentile area on the other side of the Sea of Galilee and heals two men. In chapter 15 we find the Gospel lesson for today. On the way to His crucifixion, a man from Cyrene, a city in Libya on the northeast coast of Africa, carried Jesus’ cross. And of course, Matthew’s Gospel ends with these words of the Great Commission “make disciples of all nations.”

Have you figured it out? Although it is the most Jewish of the four Gospels, Matthew repeatedly shows Jesus reaching out to the non-Jewish world. Jesus’ work of salvation is for all. Jesus’ message reaches out across all human boundaries with love and forgiveness!

Jesus was raised in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He made Capernaum His home base for ministry on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. He spent a large portion of his ministry in and around northern Israel but He did not confine Himself to this small area. He was constantly on the go. He traveled through Samaria and ministered to the people there. He traveled across the Jordan. He journeyed to Jerusalem and Judea. Today, we find Him leaving His home region and traveling to Tyre and Sidon, the two most important cities of Phoenicia, located in present-day, Lebanon.

In this land of Gentiles, a Canaanite woman came to Him with an urgent plea, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” Her cry is one that you have echoed many times, Kyrie, Eleison. Lord, have mercy!

Her cry for mercy is not for herself. It is an intercessory prayer for her dear beloved daughter. As a parent or grandparent, you may totally understand her concern. She will go to any length to help her daughter.

At first, Jesus’ response may seem callous and cruel when He does not answer her but this is a teaching moment for His disciples and for us. He knows that there is more to this woman than the disciples can see. She is a woman of great faith! Even His harsh response, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs,” will not put her off.

She responded with some of the most memorable words coming from someone other than Jesus, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”

She is only begging for crumbs! Yet what wonderful crumbs these are when they come from The Master’s table. There is miraculous healing in these crumbs! Her daughter is instantly healed!

There are many lessons to learn here. The disciples had witnessed Jesus heal many times. They know the power of God displayed in Jesus’ miracles. What the disciples now need to see is Jesus’ love and concern for everyone, even non-Jews! They also need to learn that Gentiles can and do have great faith!

What do we need to learn? Since most of us are Gentiles, we see Jesus’ love and concern for us! We know that He hears our, Kyrie, Eleison. Lord, have mercy! We realize again that crumbs from The Master’s table are sufficient for all of our needs. We understand that forgiveness, life, and salvation are for each one of us regardless of our ethnic background.

In this time of national strife, it is particularly important for us to learn that the Gospel has no boundaries. The Christian Church is not an exclusive club! It is home to all who share the faith of this anonymous Canaanite woman. Like Jesus, we have love and concern for all.

In our lesson today, we see Jesus leaving the comfort of His home territory and traveling to where people need Him. Let us also be so moved to bring compassion and care to those in need wherever they may be and whoever they are.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

God’s richest blessings to you in Christ.

## Prayers

**L** O Lord, grant that Your people may steadfastly proclaim Your irrevocable gifts and calling, that those who are disobedient may receive mercy and that those who hear from any nation or background would become grafted onto Jesus Christ, the true vine.

**C** Amen.

**L** O Lord, bless all honest work and occupations, and grant that we may use well the fruits of our labors. Give us generosity for those in need. Bless all that we give to You for the work of Your Church.

**C** Amen.

**L** O Lord, help us to trust in You at all times, that we may have no doubt or fear. Grant us confidence in all that You have promised to Your people for the necessities of daily life and our eternity with You.

**C** Amen.

**L** Father, daily You bless us with abundance and freedom. Bless those who defend us from our enemies, who serve us in government, and who protect us in our communities. Be with our president, Congress, our governor, and our judges and magistrates, that they may discern the right path and lead us with honor and integrity.

**C** Amen.

**L** Heavenly Father, Your Son came to heal the sick and forgive sinners. Hear our prayers for those who suffer in any way. Restore them according to Your gracious will, and strengthen their trust in Your faithfulness and love. Let Your blessings rest upon all medical personnel and first responders who come to our aid in time of need.

**C** Amen.

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**C** 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.

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

## Jesus Shall Reign

Lutheran Service Book 832, Lutheran Worship 312, The Lutheran Hymnal 511



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -  
2 To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And end - less  
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue Dwell on His  
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns: The pris - 'ners  
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from  
prais - es crown His head; His name like sweet per -  
love with sweet - est song; And in - fant voic - es  
leap, un - loose their chains, The wea - ry find e -  
cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with



shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
fume shall rise With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.  
ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.  
songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud a - men.

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### Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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# Enhancing Your Worship

## Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27  
My eyes are awake through the night watches,  
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

### The Week of The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 21 - 26, 2023

#### Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you meditate on what God has done for you.

#### Monday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- G** Amen.

#### Verse Psalm 147:2-3

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; Alleluia.
- G** Alleluia, Alleluia. He gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Alleluia.

#### Introit Psalm 28:1–2, 6–7; antiphon: Psalm 28:8

- L** The LORD is the strength of his people;  
He is the saving refuge of his anointed.
- G** To you, O LORD, I call;  
My rock, be not deaf to me, lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.
- L** Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help,  
when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.
- G** Blessed be the LORD!  
For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.
- L** The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and  
with my song I give thanks to him.
- G** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- L** The LORD is the strength of his people;  
He is the saving refuge of his anointed.

## Kyrie

- |          |           |          |                          |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Christ, | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |

The introit distills the essence of Psalm 28 for us. In this Psalm, David pleads with God to hear his cry for mercy. He implores God to not be deaf to him.

We often find ourselves in David's shoes. It seems as though God is not listening. All of the somber news reports move us to prayer. Yet as we anxiously wait, it seems that political conflict gets worse and crime on our city streets won't go away.

You may have been in David's shoes while lying in a hospital bed or praying for a sick loved one. You may have been in David's shoes when you lost a job or experience some tragedy.

At the end of the Psalm, David exclaims, "Blessèd be the LORD! For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy."

David learned from experience what we all need to know. God answers all our prayers. He does it in His own way, in His own time, and for our blessing. In human terms, we think we have all the answers. And we demand that God answer in our way and in our time.

May God grant us His grace and Spirit to trust Him with all our needs. Since He did not spare His own Son, we know that He will give us everything to fulfill His ultimate will of bringing us to Himself for all eternity.

**L** Let us pray. O Lord, hear my cry for mercy! Grant us patience to wait for your answers to our prayers through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God world without end.

**C** Amen

## Tuesday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Verse Psalm 147:2-3

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. He gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

- |          |           |          |                          |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Christ, | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |

**L** Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Trials and temptations come our way. We may feel that we do not deserve them. Many people believe that they are entitled to every piece of good fortune that others experience.

There is no denying that we live in a sinful world. Troubles come through our own fault or the fault of others. Nevertheless, God grants us blessings even though we are undeserving.

It is good to pause each day and recognize God's loving-kindness and mercy in our lives. He gives us the sun and rain, family and friends, pleasant pastures and quiet waters. More than that He gives us His own Son and eternal life.

Prayer: Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Wednesday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Verse Psalm 147:2-3

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. He gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

## Psalm 67

**L** <sup>1</sup>May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,

**C** <sup>2</sup>that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

**L** <sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

**C** <sup>4</sup>Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

**L** <sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

**C** <sup>6</sup>The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us.

**L** <sup>7</sup>God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

This short Psalm is a reminder that even in the Old Testament; God is the God of all. His saving power is for all nations. David exclaims, "Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! "Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth."

God preserved the message of salvation and worship of the true God through Israel. His long-promised savior was to be a descendant of Abraham and David. But the gift of eternal life has always been for all who believe.

Today, it is essential that we remember that all peoples are loved by the Lord and welcomed into the family of faith through Jesus Christ.

Prayer: O Lord, let the nations be glad and sing for joy, especially for the gift of salvation that is ours in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Thursday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Verse Psalm 147:2-3

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. He gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Alleluia.

### Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

### Isaiah 56:1, 6–8

- <sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD:  
“Keep justice, and do righteousness,  
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,  
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,  
and holds 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>The Lord GOD,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,  
“I will gather yet others to him  
besides those already gathered.”

God has granted me the privilege of traveling to a variety of states and countries. For a short time, I lived in Canada.

When you travel or live in another land, you become aware of feeling out of place. Your language or dress may be different. The food you eat is unfamiliar. The climate may be strange to you.

Isaiah reports that foreigners will join themselves to the Lord. We are thankful that we are among the foreigners who have been welcomed into the Lord’s family.

Let us remember that the house of the Lord is a house of prayer for all peoples. Everyone who comes to Jesus for salvation is welcome. In fact, we are no longer “strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19 KJV).

In Revelation 7:9-10, we read this description of heaven, “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”

No one is an outcast in God’s house.

Prayer: O Lord God, thank You for welcoming us into Your family through Jesus. Grant us the grace to welcome people into your Church from all tribes and languages. Amen.

## Friday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Verse Psalm 147:2-3

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. He gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

<b>L</b> O Lord,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.
<b>L</b> O Christ,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.
<b>L</b> O Lord,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.

## Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32

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

<sup>13</sup>Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry <sup>14</sup>in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. <sup>15</sup>For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . .

<sup>28</sup>As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. <sup>29</sup>For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup>Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so they too 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 consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

The Apostle Paul has great concern for his fellow Israelites, descendants of Abraham. In welcoming Gentiles into the Church, God has not rejected the Jewish people.

While Paul is an apostle to the Gentiles, he knows that Jesus died for the salvation of the Jews as well. All of us have been disobedient and enemies of God at one time or another. That does not mean that God has rejected us.

Like the father of the prodigal son, God is waiting with open arms to welcome all who repent and believe whether they are Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. May we join Paul in praying for all unbelievers, that they would come to faith and receive mercy from God our Father and the gift of eternal life.

Prayer: O God, thank You that You have made us all one in Christ. Grant us the desire and ability to continue to boldly share the message that “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Saturday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Verse Psalm 147:2-3

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. He gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Alleluia.

## Gradual Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

- L** Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing!  
**C** Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

## Kyrie

- L** O Lord,           **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Christ,       **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Lord,           **C** Have Mercy on us.

The verse for this week points us to Psalm 147. It is the second of five hallelujah psalms. In verse 1, we read, “Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.”

Why praise the Lord? Because He gathers the outcast and heals the brokenhearted!

At one time or another, we all have experienced the agony of a broken heart. Our hearts are broken not only in romance but whenever we have felt rejection from someone dear.

Children are brokenhearted when parents reject them. Parents are brokenhearted when children reject them. We all are brokenhearted when friends desert or deceive us. The list goes on.

Praise God! We are never brokenhearted because God rejects us. Instead of rejecting us, He sent His Son to save us. He binds up our wounds and welcomes us into His family, here in time and there in eternity! Praise the Lord! Alleluia!

## Prayer: What a Friend We Have in Jesus

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1   What a friend we have in Jesus,<br>All our sins and griefs to bear!<br>What a privilege to carry<br>Ev’rything to God in prayer!<br>Oh, what peace we often forfeit;<br>Oh, what needless pain we bear—<br>All because we do not carry<br>Ev’rything to God in prayer! | Can we find a friend so faithful<br>Who will all our sorrows share?<br>Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness—<br>Take it to the Lord in prayer.  |
| 2   Have we trials and temptations?<br>Is there trouble anywhere?<br>We should never be discouraged—<br>Take it to the Lord in prayer.   | 3   Are we weak and heavy laden,<br>Cumbered with a load of care?<br>Precious Savior, still our refuge—<br>Take it to the Lord in prayer.<br>Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?<br>Take it to the Lord in prayer.<br>In His arms He’ll take and shield thee;<br>Thou wilt find a solace there. |

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