

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Aug 16, 2026

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion towards all who call this place home.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Church Campout – Aug 23-25 at Park Lake. Sign up sheet in our Place of Welcome.

INTRODUCTION

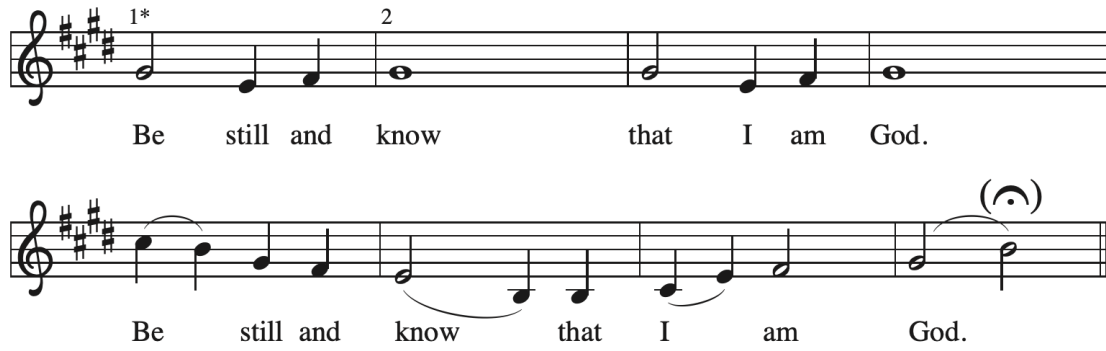
In Egypt, God's hand has been upon Joseph, who reunites with his family and saves them from famine. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter, and Jesus commends her bold faith. How might we be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need?

We take a moment to center our hearts and minds for worship.

GATHERING

Blessed be the holy Trinity,
✝ one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

"Be Still" ACS 1083 – piano, guitar, bass, rainstick



PSALM 5:1-3

Give ear to my words, O LORD,
consider my meditation.

**Listen to the sound of my cry, my king and my God,
for to you I pray.**

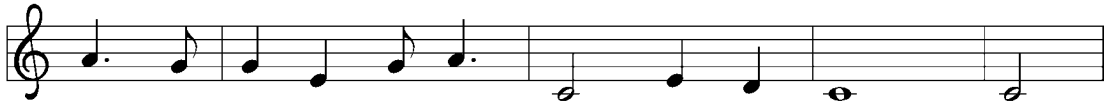
O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice.

In the morning I plead my case to you, and watch.

"Give Me Jesus" ELW 770 v 1-2, 4-5

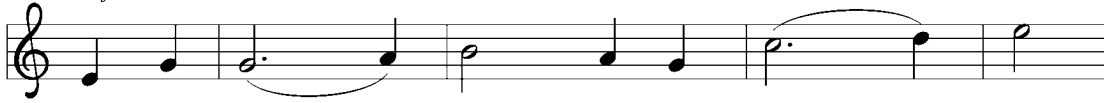


1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
 dark . . . mid-night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
 oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
 and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

It is our delight to pray. Holy One of Israel, covenant-keeper, you gather in what has been rejected,
 restoring what is lost and healing what is wounded. Give us faith to speak out boldly, so that the
 outcast may be welcomed and all may be blessed. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:1-15

In this sequel to last week's story, Joseph is moved to tears by Judah's plea on behalf of Benjamin, and declares, "I am Joseph!" He asks, "Is my father still alive?" Despite the brothers' evil intent, God used Joseph to preserve many lives at a time of famine.

A reading from Genesis.

[After Judah offered himself in place of his brother Benjamin,] Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

For the word of God in scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – “Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil” WOV (sing once)

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Today's gospel and sermon have been prepared and shared by Rev. Katherine Gohm, Assistant to the Bishop, Eastern Synod and Rafael Rodriguez, Director of Public Policy, Eastern Synod.

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.

For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile. Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 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." 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." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." 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 of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The song leader invites the congregation to stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate" ELW 722



- 1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
- 2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
- 3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
- 4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.
whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,
We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield
come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.
and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.
that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.
whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

A NEW CREED

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you,

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (WITH SONG)

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

"Come, Bring Your Burdens to God" ACS 1009

Wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom -
Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your

thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho, U -
bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for

ye - s'a - ka - so - za - thi hayi.
Je - sus will nev - er say no.

We pray for believers around the world who believe in you Jesus as their Saviour and Lord, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom.

We give thanks for your creation, and our hearts are saddened when we see the destruction caused by the wild fires in BC. Send rain where it is needed, protect firefighters and comfort those who have lost homes and livelihood. Our thoughts and prayers are also with the people of Columbia as they recover from an earthquake. Be their source of strength now and in the days ahead.

**Come, bring your burdens to God; come, bring your burdens to God;
Come, bring your burdens to God, for Jesus will never say no.**

We pray for the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Protect Natalie Abudayyeh, who has been imprisoned without cause, reassure her of your abiding presence and allow her to be released. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly.

We lift up all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind, especially Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Janet D, Dave, Austin, Tiffany, Patrick, Linda H, Carol, Murray, Shirley J., Isobel, Jim N., Clayton P, Marlene and Darcy, Doreen, Clayton and Margaret, Sheila, Ray, Nancy, Alan T, Cherylee, Elda, and those we name silently now . . . [*silence*].

**Come, bring your burdens to God; come, bring your burdens to God;
Come, bring your burdens to God, for Jesus will never say no.**

We give thanks for this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. We give thanks for Creative Fingers and ask your blessing on them, and they work that they do. Hold in your care Janice Vucurevich and Albert & Barb Weik, as well as Pastor Joel, Vanesa and Hans.

We give thanks for the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example will continue to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death.

**Come, bring your burdens to God; come, bring your burdens to God;
Come, bring your burdens to God, for Jesus will never say no.**

Trusting in your abundant grace that you are never say no to listening to our prayers, we bring our prayers before you, O God. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.**

BLESSING

Almighty God,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "We Will Go Out with Joy" – v 1 only

C
Leader

1 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.

C
All

We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia! We will go out with joy.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

to Stanzas

SENDING

Go in peace, for Christ is with you.
Amen. Thanks be to God!

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