



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024 | 11 am



St. John's Lutheran Church
Salisbury, NC



Welcome to St. John's

We're so glad God has brought you here!

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

Pictorial Directory—Openings are still available for your **Photography Session**. The location is at our former Seasons Gift Shop. For important details and to sign up, visit our website or scan the QR Code here. If you need assistance, please call our office.



Wednesday Night Meals—Starts this Wednesday at 5:30 pm in Ritchie Hall. Make plans to join in fellowship around the table, connecting with old friends and meeting new ones. Dinner is served at 5:30 pm and our upcoming menus are tried and true favorites. As part of our discipleship study, Pastor Kendra Joyner Miller will introduce you to Cole Arthur Riley's work as creator of Black Liturgies in partnership with Catawba College's Clergy Network program.

Senior Adults Luncheon—Sept. 17, 11 am-1 pm in the Pit. **RSVP is required.** To sign up, contact Pastor Lori at lori@stjohns-salisbury.org. **Deadline for luncheon sign up is Sept. 12.** If you would like your picture taken for the Directory, please scan the QR Code above or call the church office to check availability and sign up for open slots.

Flu Clinic—Wed., Sept. 25 from 4 pm-6 pm in Ritchie Hall. Our Healthcare Ministry will be hosting its annual Flu Clinic. Please be sure to bring your insurance card with you.

Altar Flowers—Given to the glory of God and in memory of our son, Davey Rhodes, by Gary and Scott Rhodes.

Worship Navigation

The Congregation is invited to respond where words are in **Bold**.

***** = Please stand as you are able **+** = Face the Cross

+ = You are invited to make the sign of the Cross.

Hymns are found by number in the red worship books located in each pew.



Gathering

The Holy Spirit gathers us as the people of God

Prelude

Aria on 'Hoch sei gepriesen unser Gott'

setting by Paul Frey

Confession and Forgiveness*+

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.
We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.
The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.
In our desire to be first
we make distinctions among ourselves.
We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.
In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.
Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity
and to remember our sin no more.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
your sins are forgiven.
Amen.

Entrance Hymn 858**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

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 Eleison* *A centering prayer asking for God's mercy and peace as we gather for worship.*
Setting by Robert J. Durocher, Jr.

(Cantor) Congregation (Cantor)

Voice Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Lord have mer - cy. Chr - i - ste e -

6 Congregation 2nd time

le - i - son, Christ have - mer - cy. Christ, have - mer - cy.

Hymn of Praise**Glory Be to God in Heaven*

ODE TO JOY

Glory be to God in heaven; peace goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth;
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

Welcome and Announcements



Word

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

Reading: James 2:1-10, 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Word of God. Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

The Gospel Acclamation*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark*

Mark 7:24-37

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

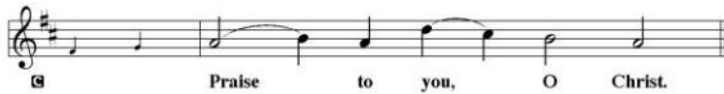
In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying,

“He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

Sermon Hymn 807*

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

Apostles' Creed* *Gathered as God's people across time and space, let us confess our faith using 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 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 \dagger of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Collection of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

With a Voice of Singing

by Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia!
O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honor of his name,
Make his praise to be glorious.

Offertory Hymn 152

Create in Me



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.

Offertory Prayer*

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession* *Each petition ends: "Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great."*

The Lord's Prayer*

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.



Sending

Forgiven and nourished, we are now sent into the world to share God's love.

Benediction*

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn 597*+

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

MELITA

Dismissal *

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Unless otherwise indicated, today's service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship
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Worship Participants

Order of St John's:

Acolytes—Emmett Stephenson and Mary Masters Goodman

Crucifer—Jeffrey Stephenson

Reader: Mitch Siegel

Banner Bearer—Finn Avery

St. John's Lutheran Church

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Pastoral Ministry

Senior Pastor.....Dan Joyner Miller....ext. 2060
Pastor for Congregational CareLori Carter...ext. 2050
Pastor for Youth and OutreachJames Demmel.....ext. 2040

Worship and Music Ministry

Minister of Worship and the Arts.....Rob Durocher, deacon.....ext. 2080
Contemporary Worship Leaders.....Michael Board and Ondria Witt
Assistant Parish Musician.....Janie Rollins
Bell Choirs.....Kimberly Lentz
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins.....ext. 2190
Director of Music *emeritus*.....Karl Kinard, Jr., deacon

Program Ministry

Children.....Stacey Shafer.....ext. 2020
St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds), DirectorGina Phifer.....ext. 2120
Child Development Center, Executive Director.....Lea Anne Thomas.....ext. 3212

Administrative Team

Church Administrator.....Deborah Cross.....ext. 2030
Office Manager.....Vivian Connor.....ext. 2000
Bookkeeper.....Mark Bias.....ext. 2170
Communications Specialist.....Jodorrian Taylor.....ext. 2180
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg.....ext. 2070
Custodian.....Brandt Cozad



Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*