



## **FOCUSED OUTREACH**

*Worship Folder for July 26, 2020*

Christ Lutheran Church

32962 Vickers St, NE

Cambridge, MN

[www.christcambridge.com](http://www.christcambridge.com)

Find us on Facebook @ Christ Lutheran Church – Cambridge, MN

# Christ Ev. Lutheran Church

*Information to help you stay connected and get involved!*

## CHURCH INFORMATION

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## THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | JULY 27—AUGUST 2

**SUNDAY**                      9:00am                      Worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Forward in Christ** The August edition of Forward in Christ is available on the table in the entryway.

**Outreach Opportunity** - Volunteers are needed for our "Back to School Safely" outdoor event on August 15 from 9-11am. The event will focus on teaching kids about health and hygiene as well as an opportunity to share how Christ has washed us clean by his precious blood.

**Hearing Assistance** The council voted to go forward with pursuing the installation of a hearing loop in the sanctuary. \$2,200 has already been reserved for that from Memorials and technology fund designations. About \$4,300 is still needed. If anyone would like to give additional offerings toward this to help make worship more accessible to those who struggle with hearing loss it would be greatly appreciated!

**Help Needed** Service opportunities with cleaning, ushering and money counting are resuming. Please let us know if you are signed up but are not able to resume. Thank you.

**Challenge Week #4** We have all been blessed with different gifts. While some of us are more outgoing than others, try to step out of your comfort zone this week, if only in a small way. Here are some suggestions:

- As hard as it might be, try to think about how we operate on a "normal" Sunday morning. Think about what challenges we may unknowingly present for someone not familiar with church.
- Consider if there is a demographic, either racial, cultural, or generational we could do a better job of reaching. Brainstorm ideas to better show them Christ's love.
- Pray that God would open our eyes to see ways to do ministry that may benefit others, even if they do not interest or benefit us.



welcome

**Canvassing** There will be a canvassing opportunity next Saturday, August 1st. We will plan to meet at church around 3:45 to gather materials and give a few pointers on how to be respectful of people's space. We will plan to be done by 5:00. If you are interested in joining please let Pastor know.

## MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

**Opening Hymn – “Blessed Jesus, At Your Word”** (Christian Worship #221 v.1,3)

*(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism)*  
In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:  
**God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.**

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,  
**We lie and do not live by the truth.**

If we claim to be without sin,  
**We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

### **Confession of Sin**

**Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake O God, be merciful to me a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.**

*Silence for personal examination and confession.*

### **Absolution**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*The words of this lesson came to the mind and mouth of our Savior when he confronted the gross perversion of temple worship in Mark 11. Through Isaiah God told the world that God---fearing Gentiles would always have a place within his temple. Yet in his temple on earth, the religious leadership turned the court of Gentiles into a marketplace that robbed both man and God. Jesus cleansed it of both the commerce and corruption and quoted this lesson. The godly Gentiles described are the exact opposite of the Jews in Matthew 15. God in his grace calls the Gentiles into his presence and makes his Church a house of prayer for all nations.*

### **First Lesson: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

This is what the LORD says. Protect justice, and carry out righteousness, because my salvation is coming very soon. My righteousness is ready to be revealed.

<sup>6</sup>Then the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him and to love the name of the LORD and to become his servants, every one of them who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, those who take hold of my covenant—<sup>7</sup>I will bring them to my holy mountain, and I will make them glad in my house of prayer. Their whole burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar. For my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples of the world. <sup>8</sup>This is the declaration of God the LORD, who gathers Israel's dispersed people: "I will gather still more people to my house besides the ones already gathered."

*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)*

### **Second Lesson: Romans 11:13-15, 28-32**

<sup>13</sup>I am speaking to you Gentiles. For as long as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I am going to speak highly of my ministry. <sup>14</sup>Perhaps I may make my own people jealous, and so save some of them. <sup>15</sup>For if their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, what does their acceptance mean other than the dead coming to life?

<sup>28</sup>In regard to the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But, in regard to election, they are especially dear for the sake of the patriarchs, <sup>29</sup>because God's gracious gifts and call are not regretted. <sup>30</sup>For just as you were once disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy due to their disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so also now they have become disobedient, so that by the mercy shown to you they may be shown mercy too. <sup>32</sup>For God imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may show mercy to all.

### **VERSE OF THE DAY**

Alleluia. The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Alleluia. (Hebrews 4:12)

## **Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28**

<sup>21</sup> Jesus left that place and withdrew into the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> There a Canaanite woman from that territory came and kept crying out, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! A demon is severely tormenting my daughter!" <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her a word. His disciples came and pleaded, "Send her away, because she keeps 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 in front of him, saying, "Lord, help me." <sup>26</sup> He answered her, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to their little dogs." <sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she said, "yet their little dogs also eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, your faith is great! It will be done for you, just as you desire." And her daughter was healed at that very hour.

### **Sermon on Matthew 15:21-28**

**Theme: Rethink Where We Are Looking!**

[Click Here For Message](#)

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Theme: "Rethink Where We Are Looking"

7-26-2020

What comes to your mind when you hear the word "traditional"? There are a lot of people who look at that word with a certain sense of pride, me included. Traditional means known. Traditional means familiar. Traditional means we are carrying something on, we are a part of something greater. Traditional means tested and proven. Those are all positives of tradition. Here in church those things include the way we look at God's Word, the way we worship with liturgy and song. Those things include how we go about doing events and get together, how we dress and talk. There are a lot of aspects of tradition that are good. But there can be a lot of negatives to tradition as well. There is the aspect of tradition that is completely thoughtless, much like walking on a path because it is already there. We do not need to think about where to go or the best route to take because someone has already done the thinking for us. There is the reality of how tradition can become command and we can elevate tradition to an unhealthy place because it is what we have become comfortable with and we do not like to be uncomfortable. There is the aspect of tradition that can lead us not to see new and better ways to do something, simply because we are not looking for it. Just as there are many aspects of tradition which can be good and can connect us in a meaningful way to the past, there can be just as many aspects to it which are negative and can cause us to miss out on opportunities or even cause us to offend those who don't see or understand our traditions.

The negative side of tradition is what Jesus was addressing in the beginning of Matthew 15. He was mocked and rejected by many Jews and their leaders for nothing else than simply trying to open their eyes to errors they had become blind to. So, Jesus withdrew from that place. No one wanted to listen, they wanted to continue in their division, so Jesus left them. This information and lesson background is crucial to see and know as we come to our verses today. This information is vital to know as we challenge ourselves with God's Word this morning to rethink where we are looking. May we not just do this for the sake of doing it, but may we do it with clear purpose and with an expectant reality of what may happen when we do this very thing. We listen once more to our lesson from Matthew 15:

<sup>21</sup> Jesus left that place and withdrew into the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> There a Canaanite woman from that territory came and kept crying out, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! A demon is severely tormenting my daughter!" <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her a word. His disciples came and pleaded, "Send her away, because she keeps 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 in front of him, saying, "Lord, help me." <sup>26</sup> He answered her, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to their little dogs." <sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she said, "yet their little dogs also eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, your faith is great! It will be done for you, just as you desire." And her daughter was healed at that very hour.

Jesus has just walked on water. He was on the shore of the sea of Galilee at a town named Gennesaret. There he was speaking with people he was very familiar with. They were not just his countrymen, but they were the chosen people of God's promise. They were the ones whom God had given his law too. They were the ones God had made a covenant with and promised that through them the promised Messiah would come. These are the ones Jesus now leaves and heads Northwest, out of the nation of Israel and into Samaria, into the region of Tyre and Sidon. There, in this place where paganism reigned, Jesus finds a most unexpected thing.

As he comes here a woman whose daughter was possessed by a demon, cries out to him again and again asking for his help. But she is not just asking a random person for help. She calls to Jesus with an exactness that could only come from knowledge of the Word of God and the messiah she knew to be standing before her. And yet, Jesus just seems to ignore her. He does not say a thing. But she keeps crying out and eventually the disciples get sick and tired of her and say, "Send her away."

But it is as if this conversation by the disciples makes her even more desperate. She kneels in front of their path and pleads, "Lord help me." Jesus' response, though it may seem callous, gives her the exact platform she needed to show the faith Jesus could see within her to his disciples. Her response highlights the fact she knew the power of God's word was so great, she only needed a crumb of it and her plea would be answered beyond her wildest dreams. The God-given trust she had in the Word and promises of God made man, the Messiah who stood before her, were obvious and Jesus praises it. In fact, he praises it with a response that we hear only one other time from the mouth of Jesus, "Your faith is great!"

But where, in this lesson, lies the message for our ears?

For that, we need to each do some soul searching. As we do, we need to ask where do our frustrations with Jesus lie? Or maybe, we need to ask ourselves if we are content and we are not struggling with anything. Maybe we are frustrated with earthly things and we are allowing those things to cover our ears or to tie up our hands to action and are not listen to God's Word as we should or we are not giving the encouragement we are asked to give by God to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ or to the world around us.

Maybe we know there are others who need to hear, but the work that God tells us needing to be done for those to hear we really wish someone else would do. Maybe, we can calm ourselves with the thought that if we only stay busy doing the things that put a smile on my face then I am fine and I can fire darts at the godless world around me while doing nothing about it and doing nothing to see how I might be part of the problem.

Maybe we are afraid of finding great faith in an unexpected place by people who look or act a lot different than myself, who may seem to be a little embarrassing and we just wish they would go away, much like the

disciples thought. Maybe we are frustrated with the efforts we have put forward thus far but are unwilling to ask ourselves what more we can do, or maybe if we are just targeting people, we are comfortable targeting. Maybe, and if we are being honest with ourselves, it is more of a certainly, we have an attitude to repent of because we can be more concerned with looks, budgets, traditions, and comfort, than we are with pleading to be filled by our Savior and seeking to proclaim him with all that we do. What would Jesus' criticism of us be? Let us not be so bold as to think he would stand before us in awe of our faith. Would he distance himself from us and go somewhere else?

As we sit here and ponder these heart wrenching thoughts, may we remember the attitude Jesus calls us to, an attitude of contrition, one of sorrow for our sin. One that seeks to go to God's law for the purpose of having our heart cut open to reveal and the cancer of our sin. And then in utter hatred of it, one that kneels before him continually crying out, "Son of David, have mercy on me." For this is when we can be confident of the thing he will never do, this is when we can be confident, he will draw nearer than ever before and reach out to pick us up. This is when he wastes no time in pointing us to the inexplicable drama of the Cross, when Jesus, your promise from God and mine, assures us all is not just well, but that we have fellowship with him and the Father in heaven. Peace is ours.

May we never let that peace allow us to turn inward or to selfishly limit who is right for church and who is wrong. May we never let that peace allow us to ever grow content with ourselves and how we minister to this area. Rather, may that peace we know by the grace of God, through faith, constantly lead us to rethink where we are looking and every nook and cranny there is, to share even the crumbs that fall from the Master's table. Amen.

Now may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep us through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen.

**Offering:** (Though we are not meeting together at this time please do not forget the opportunity to give back what is rightfully God's with respect to what he has given us. Offerings can be mailed or dropped off at church. You can also make use of online giving through the giveplus app or by going to the church's website ([www.christcambridge.com](http://www.christcambridge.com)) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

**Prayer:**

O Lord God, heavenly Father, open our hearts to the mighty power of your Word. Teach us to depend on your holy sacrament for spiritual strength. Grant that our minds may be renewed in righteousness, that our consciences may be stirred to choose the good, and that every thought, word, and deed may be brought to captivity to Christ.

Give to your Church ministers and teachers who have the faithfulness and courage of true prophets, that your people may be built up in faith, abound in good works, rejoice in your love, and finally enter your heavenly kingdom.

We pray for our beloved country. Give us citizens who perceive that the standard of all that is

right is not personal advancement or private favor, not public opinion or party platform, but your holy will. Lavish your grace on all families, that each home may, by its Christian love and character, be for our children a foretaste of the joy and blessedness of our heavenly home.

For all who are in any sickness, pain, anguish, or suffering, for all who are in any danger of body or soul, we pray. Teach them to turn to you and wait on you for mercy. Grant them hope and a joyous deliverance from all their trials and let them walk in your light all their days.

### *Private Petitions*

These things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our refuge and hope, in whose name we also pray the prayer he taught us:

**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.**

## **Children's Message**

### **BLESSING:**

**The Lord bless you and keep you.**

**The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.**

**The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.**

**Closing Hymn: "In Christ There Is No East or West" Christian Worship #539**