

# Sunday, August 16, 2020

## Proper 15, Year A, 11<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost

### Introduction

The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society?

### Prayer of the Day

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Readings and Psalm

#### [Psalm 67](#)

Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

#### [Matthew 15:\[10-20\] 21-28](#)

*The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter*

### Reading: Psalm 67

*Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)*

- <sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to us and bless us;  
may the light of God's face shine upon us.
- <sup>2</sup>Let your way be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.
- <sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.
- <sup>4</sup>Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.
- <sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.
- <sup>6</sup>The earth has brought forth its increase;  
God, our own God, has blessed us.
- <sup>7</sup>May God give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

## Gospel: Matthew 15:10-28

*Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.*

[<sup>10</sup>[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:<sup>11</sup>it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."<sup>12</sup>Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?"<sup>13</sup>He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.<sup>14</sup>Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit."<sup>15</sup>But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us."<sup>16</sup>Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding?<sup>17</sup>Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?<sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.<sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.<sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

<sup>21</sup>Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.<sup>22</sup>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."<sup>23</sup>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."<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>He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food 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, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

## Prayers of Intercession

When I say, "Lord, in your mercy," you respond, "**Hear our prayer.**"

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence is held as we gather our prayers.*

Lord, you gather the church to be part of your mission as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. As Jesus acknowledged the great faith of a woman from outside his people, help your church discover and find blessing in the faith of people we might reject.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You have blessed us with the bounty of the earth. Grant your grace to all your creatures, that the earth may flourish. Relieve waters choked by garbage, renew soils stripped of nutrients, and refresh the air all creatures need to live.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You call the nations to be glad and sing for joy. Let your way be known among all the nations of the world, now divided by competing interests, contending alliances, and consumed by enormous worry. Bless us and make your face shine upon all that you have created.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You show unexpected mercy, kindness, and generosity. We pray for those who do not have enough, for outcasts in our villages, cities, and towns, and for those who need your healing.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In you we live and move and have our being. Grant Grace, the congregation that makes us one, the grace to find our life refreshed in you. Accompany us in the rhythms of late summer. Give us rest and renewal, and strengthen us for mission in your name.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the offerings we bring. Our ordinary gifts seem small when we stand in your presence. Multiply the gifts we are able to offer to make them abundant, not merely enough, that you may be seen through us.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Hear now the prayers of our hearts as we offer them before you both silently and aloud:

*Silence for the prayers of people's hearts*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Your eternal promises are more than we could ever imagine. As you gather all the saints, join us also with them on the great day of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.  
God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love.  
**Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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Prayers adapted by Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman

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