



Sunday, September 5, 2021
9:15 am

Fifteenth Week After Pentecost
Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146
James 2:1-17
Mark 7:24-37

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

GATHERING HYMN vs. 1 & 4 *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

A reading from Isaiah.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

¹Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**

who keeps promises forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

A reading from James.

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For 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, and 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," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, 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? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and 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? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She

begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He 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.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They 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. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY vs. 1, 4 & 5 *“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”*

APOSTLE’S CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The response is:

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

PEACE

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

GREAT THANKSGIVING

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING

BENEDICTION

HYMN

vs. 1, 5 & 6 *“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

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Serving in Worship

Pr. Justin Smoot
Karoline Schwantes - Assisting Minister
Joel Freiberg - Pianist
Ryan Schwantes - Layreader & Vocalist

Technical Support

Schwantes Family
Joel Freiberg
Bob Wiederhoeft

Holy Communion

All are welcome. The communion elements are available on the table in the Narthex along with a plastic bag to dispose of the empty cup(s) following communion which can be placed in the waste can as you leave the Sanctuary. Communion is received together as directed during the service.

Altar Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God by Will Allmandinger in memory of his mother.

Rally Day and Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, September 12

The day will begin with worship at 9:15 am — ***NOTE: There is only one service which will also be livestreamed.** Bring your lawn chairs to the east parking lot for worship which will include presentation of bibles and blessing of backpacks, students and teachers as a new school year begins. Following the service, enjoy outdoor fellowship, yard games and celebrate the beginning of Sunday school (September 19) on the Celebration Patio and north lawn with a catered lunch by Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken. A free-will donation will be received.

Volunteers Needed

Sunday school teachers, helpers, group leaders, small group confirmation mentors/facilitators are needed to make Sunday school and confirmation a success!

Requirements to volunteer: a willingness to share your faith and a caring heart. Help is needed for all grades. Curriculum, lesson plans and teaching materials are provided. If you are interested and feel called to support these programs with your time and talent, please reach out to Jenna at jenna@salc-wausau.org

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, September 30, 1-6 pm

Mark your calendar! A blood drive supporting the American Red Cross will take place in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers will be needed to help with registration, refreshments or other support. Please contact Pr. Justin at 715-842-3333 or pastorjustin@salc-wausau.org if you have questions or want to volunteer.



**American
Red Cross**

Thank you for your offerings and continued support!

Now more than ever we are grateful for a gift of any amount you might share to further support the ministry of Saint Andrew. What you share makes a difference as we seek to be "open to all". For the many ways you give, thank you. Offerings may be placed in the Offering Box at the entrance of the Sanctuary.

LOUD or quiet?

Place an **L** by the Loud parts of worship.

Write a **Q** by the Quiet parts.

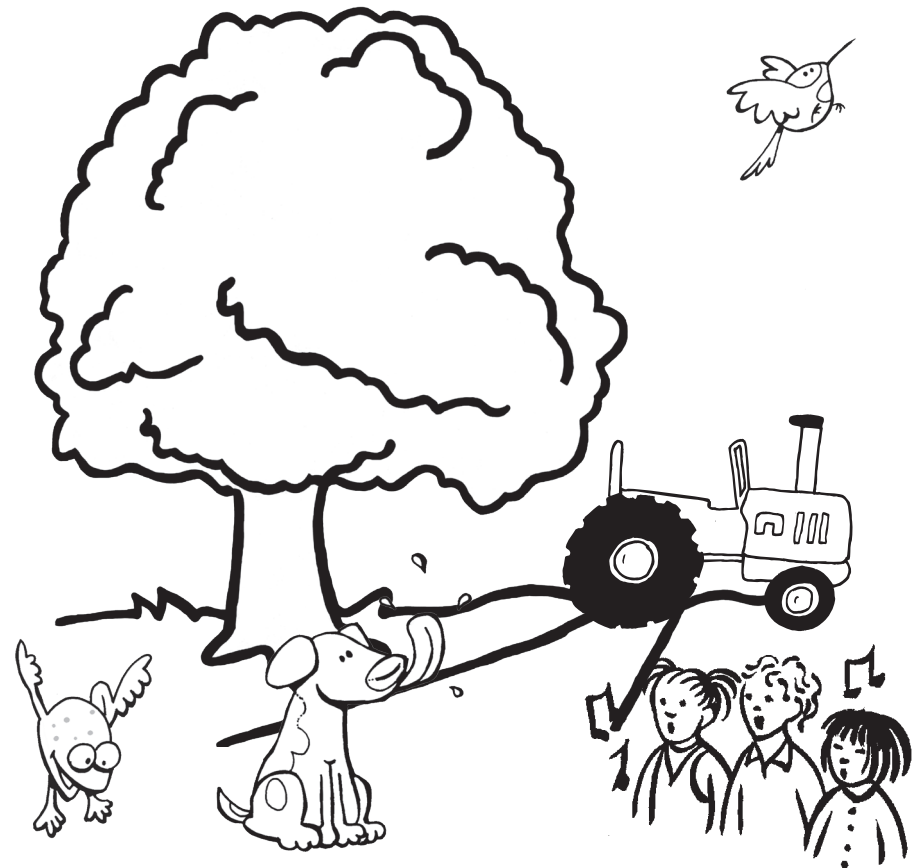


PRE-READER

Pentecost 15

- Today is the **15th Sunday** after Pentecost.
- The season after Pentecost is the **longest season** of the church year.
- Jesus wants **everyone** to follow him.

Color your favorite noisemakers in this picture.

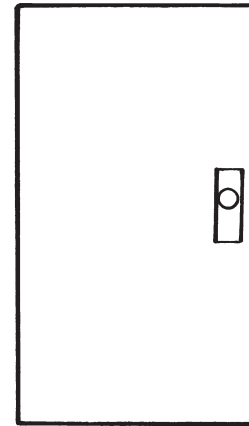




Jesus healed the deaf man. Now the man can hear!

Jesus opened the man's ears so that he could hear.

What do we use to open things? Circle them.



Open Up To Worship

The man in today's story had his sense of hearing restored. Think about all the senses you use in worship as you do this activity.

Draw lines from some of the things that may happen in worship to the parts of the body people use to enjoy them. Try to let your senses be "open" to many different things in today's worship.



READER

Pentecost 15

- Today is the **15th Sunday** after Pentecost.
- Pentecost is the **longest season** of the church year.
- Jesus uses us to **continue his work** during Pentecost and always.
- **Faith and action** work together.

Hear That?

Add your favorite noisemaking creatures to this tree. After worship see who can imitate them best.



Beyond Belief

In today's stories Jesus does amazing healings. People couldn't keep quiet about it!

Put the pictures for today's stories about Jesus in the right order. Listen to the gospel story. There are two stories about Jesus. The first piece of each of the two stories is labeled for you already. Put the numbers 2,3, and 4 on the right puzzle pieces for each story.



Jesus uses spit again in Mark 8:22-25—this time to heal sight.



Memory Verse

Memorize this verse by learning one line at a time. Fold the bottom of your bulletin up to the dotted line. Say a line and cover it up. Work your way up until you've got the entire verse memorized!

Mark 7:35

And he spoke plainly

and his tongue was released

his ears were opened

And immediately



Bible Tip!

During worship, we often pick up in the Bible where we left off the week before. Leave a bookmark in Mark 7 this week and next week you'll be ready to go!



SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking† faith home

God's love breaks down boundaries.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 7:24-37	Jesus heals the Gentiles
Monday	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Return of the exiled
Tuesday	James 2:1-17	Faith without works is dead
Wednesday	Hebrews 13:1-9	Service that pleases God
Thursday	Leviticus 19:33-37	Living a holy life
Friday	Ephesians 2:11-22	One in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[I]f 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," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? James 2:3-4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you that your mercy triumphs over judgment and your love leads us to care for all people through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For the food that we eat and the food that we share, give us, O Lord, thankful hearts that show care. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord God bless you with an open heart to receive and to give love through Christ Jesus our Savior.



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SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with
Your Love*



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What does it feel like to be left out of a group or not selected for a team?
- How do you react when you see someone being excluded from a group?
- Jesus showed love even to strangers. How would you describe the way you treat strangers?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 7:24-37.

Jesus shows uncharacteristic rejection of someone in need. The Syrophenician woman asks for help, but she is not Jewish. She is a foreigner, and Jesus suggests he came for the children of Israel, not those outside of Judea and Galilee. However, perhaps he is speaking the voice of the early church that is likewise wondering what are the proper boundaries for the mission field of the church. The answer: Gentiles—therefore, all people—are part of God's arena of care and redemption through Christ. It is time for all ears, tongues, and hearts to be opened. God's power of love and forgiveness is so awesome that it knows no boundaries. Thanks be to God! God's compassion is present for all of us, stranger and friend alike. When have you reached out to a stranger with the love of God?

Pray: **Loving God, just as you reach out to us with your grace and forgiveness, give us hearts to reach out to others that all may know your care through Christ Jesus. Amen.**

SERVICE



James 2 warns against worshipping communities showing partiality. Many congregations look very homogeneous. They attract people who look, act, and think like one another. Some of this is due to local contexts, but some of it is due to a lack of warmth and initiative taken toward new people. Who is someone who could use your warmth and care to help them feel welcome in your congregation?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Welcoming others with the peace of Christ has been part of the Christian tradition for two thousand years. Look up the sign language for peace. Teach it to others. As a way to practice reaching out to others with hope and love, you can greet others in your home, neighborhood, school, and work with these words: "The peace of the Lord be with you."



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org