

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost (2020)

Holy Spirit, Light Divine: Shine upon this heart of mine;
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day;
 Let me see my Savior's face; let me all His beauties trace;
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to Thee.
 Amen.

²¹ And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon."
²³ But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly. ¹

In the Name of Jesus.

This woman gave birth to the Church's liturgy! 'Lord, have mercy on me! Have mercy on those possessed! Be with ME!'

To save even the Lutherans, Doctor Martin Luther wrote about The Holy Spirit's deep concern: our DISGUST with HIS Thing; our disgust with the Gospel. In his commentary on Isaiah 55 and following, Luther sings about Isaiah's theme through all 66 chapters: FULL cups cannot receive a drop; but the Lord has always MORE! More to give. And--praise God!--as we learn in Louisiana that the heavens don't ask permission of rivers and lakes and even our front lawns to decide whether or not to pour out more, holy Isaiah sings THAT is the way of the Holy One of Israel when He begins the givin'! Refuse Him all you want. He's still got more to give and more givin' to do!

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 15:21–28). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

And when Israel turned in DISGUST from Jesus--well, He came to GIVE! NOT to have a cork shoved in Him! Bursting, spilling: 'Jesus went away from there and withdrew to another place...'

Our lectionary skipped over from last week to this the passage that ends 'Washing or not washing hands does not make anyone unclean!' Ha!

But the faith and worship and liturgy part of the skipped-over selection--love it, dear ones!

⁷ You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

⁸ “ ‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;

⁹ in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ”

¹⁰ And he called the people to him and said to them, “Hear and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.”

¹² Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?”²

Oh!! No! Them Pharisees wuz OFFENDED?! How can we go on?!

I learned from an edgimicated man this happy thing:

Matthew 15:21–18:14

Here appears the longest stretch of text in Matthew without any formal quotations of the OT. ³ (3 to four chapters out of 28. Good chunk!)

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 15:7–12). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

OT Old Testament

³ Blomberg, C. L. (2007). [Matthew](#). In *Commentary on the New Testament use of the Old Testament* (p. 54). Grand Rapids, MI; Nottingham, UK: Baker Academic; Apollos.

You remember that the Gospel according to Saint Matthew churns out them Old Testament quotations: virgin birth--Isaiah, born in Bethlehem--Micah, called out of Egypt--Hosea--

But all those quotes would blow past the understanding of a Canaanite pagan, a woman of Tyre and Sidon; as those blow past American ears, Lord'a'mercy!

But everybody understands "dog." NOTHING lost in translation there: Jew or Gentile. "Dog" versus "lost sheep;" "dog" shot back at the words "my daughter!" Every woman knows what it is to cry out in distress for mercy and love and 'presence,' and receive "not a word."

BUUUUT.... NO ONE--Jesus HIS-SELF is shocked!--NO ONE knows, no one expects, no one comes to heaven with a bucket FULL...OF...THIS, this woman's JESUS! This woman's FAITH:

'Dog?! You're JOKING! That's all you got?! Then I...GOT...YOU! Because YOU come along WITH YOUR WORD!'

Luther again: 'Dogs it is! But dogs get crumbs!'

INSIDE Israel, Jesus quickly ran out of people who were empty and hungry and insistent that Heaven help them. In fact, Jesus even leaves GALILEE: where He will meet the apostles after He will have risen from the dead. Going to Tyre and Sidon was 'all the way.' Perhaps 'Galilee' was a therapeutic baby-step for the apostles, Jews every last man-Jack of 'em.

What are the signs of Christ's imminent return? One of many is that the New Israel, the Church, becomes as full and carefree as Old Israel: no room for Jesus to SAVE anyone, anymore.

We learn again today--from this dear Lutheran sister--why the Church's liturgy is what it is: the Word of the Lord, His arrangements and gifts and pledges and finalities--put into proclamation and repetition and prayer and hymn and ritual, and even, when the Spirit casts out demons--even in your poor pastor's little Bible book report and chat.

Therefore, my dear ones, even YOU must not despair about the way that you are; nor must I!

If YOU can squeeze yerself in to the list of people you gripe about daily and much—at least at the tail-end of the list of those who need heaven's help!--I say to you again that Holy Baptism is Holy not when YOU are somethin' else, but because HE is somethin' else: 'Son of David'--Jewish King--Who now chases demons EVEN out of their most natural homes: us Gentile, dog, sinners.

You've been cleaned by God--but don't expect history to record it. OR your memory; or your relatives; or your so-called friends. Despair not! Learn from that woman to catch Jesus in His words: SURPRISE Him! No one's doing that!

'I had NOTHIN' to do with YOU making me, dying and rising for me, baptizing me and teaching me to confess my sins and trust the gifts of your Holy Supper! That's all YOUR doing! So, I'll do MY thing and keep sinning so I have something to confess. Then YOU still have a role in this world; at least with one; at least with me.'

'Woman! Great is your faith!'

Well, I wanna be great too! Don't you?!

That's the first step on the road to disgust over the Gospel.

For that woman was not great. She was a Lutheran-- meaning, she paid attention ONLY to the Lord's Word:

Great is your FAITH! Yes. For that WOMAN had just said: YOU, Son of David, are great enough, low enough, altogether-enough, to throw my daughter crumbs; me too; call us what you will.

Great is YOUR Jesus, my dear ones. Great enough, lowly enough, altogether enough, to give like this; give to you, give in this region, give today:

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' ³² But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." ³³ Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." ³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." ³⁵ Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same. ⁴

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 26:26–35). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

³⁷ And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” ³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” ⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ” ⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” ⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. ⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!” ⁵⁵ There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, ⁵⁶ among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. ⁵

Woman! Man! Greatest ones! THAT Bread and Body,
Wine and Blood; what they did to That King; that’s Jesus-great.
And so, we’ll say today, great is your faith IN the Name of Jesus.

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 27:32–56). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.