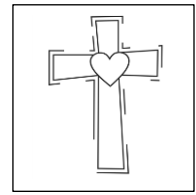


Perley Lutheran Parish
August 16th
Lectionary 20



Welcome and Announcements

- Joint Council meeting Tuesday evening at 6:30 – Nora (masks will be required)
- Nora Council will meet following the joint council meeting that evening
- No Mid-Week devotions until September some time.
- We continue to monitor the COVID crisis and watch for implementation of our Re-Opening Plan
- Continue to send in your offerings. Keep in touch – if you need something please reach out and invite friends to watch!

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation, to generation. Amen

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin

Reconciling God,

We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness in life. Amen

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through +Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

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.

Psalms 67 (Read Responsively)

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, **that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.** Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.** Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. **The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.** May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

First Reading Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 15:21-28, **Glory to you O Lord**
The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message

Have you ever heard of Fanny J. Crosby? Fanny was a hymn writer and poet who wrote over 8,000 hymns! I looked through this hymnal that I brought with me this morning and I discovered that there are seventeen hymns

in this hymnal written by Fanny J. Crosby. A very short list of the most popular hymns written by Fanny would include such great hymns as "To God Be the Glory," "I Am Thine, O Lord," "Tell Me the Story of Jesus," "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross," and "All the Way My Savior Leads Me." You may be surprised to learn that Fanny was totally blind. She lost her sight when she was only six weeks old through the negligence of a doctor who was treating an inflammation in her eyes.

Because she was blind, I am sure that many times Fanny heard the words, "You can't do this" or "You can't do that." One reason I feel sure she heard those words is that she once wrote a song entitled, "Never Give Up!" The words to the refrain of that song go like this:

Never give up, never give up,
Never give up to thy sorrows,
Jesus will bid them depart;
Trust in the Lord, trust in the Lord,
Sing when your trials are greatest,
Trust in the Lord and take heart.

Fanny never gave up! "Blindness," she wrote, "cannot keep the sunlight of hope from the trusting soul." Fanny had great faith in God and put her trust in him to get her through the obstacles she faced in her life. She never gave up!

Our Bible lesson today tells about another woman who had great faith and refused to give up. The Bible doesn't tell us her name, it simply calls her "a Canaanite woman." That means that she was a Gentile and, as you know, Jesus and his disciples were Jews. The Jews would have very little to do with gentiles. The Canaanite woman met Jesus one day as he was traveling in the region of Tyre and Sidon. She came toward him crying out, "Have mercy on me, for my daughter is possessed by an evil spirit."

Jesus did not reply to the woman and his disciples came to him complaining that she was bothering them and asked him to tell her to leave. Jesus said to the woman, "I was sent only to help God's lost sheep—the people of Israel."

But she came and worshiped him, pleading again, "Lord, help me!"

Jesus replied, "It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs."

The woman answered, "That's true Lord, but even dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall beneath their masters' table."

"Dear woman," Jesus said to her, "your faith is great. Your request is granted." At that very moment, her daughter was healed.

What if she had given up? What if her faith had not been so strong? The end of this story would be quite different, wouldn't it? Let us follow the example set by Fanny Crosby and the Canaanite woman. Let's "Keep the Faith" and "Never Give Up!"

Father, we place our faith and trust in you. When we face obstacles and trials in our daily life, help us to keep our faith in you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

Our Gospel this morning has Jesus withdrawing to the region of Tyre and Sidon. He's been quite busy the last few weeks in the Lakes area with calming the storms in the lives of the disciples and feeding those who were hungry and following him. It also was a time when some of the Pharisees and teachers put a bit of pressure on Jesus not to upset the norm too much. They urged him to keep things as they were – same old habits of the people and the same ways that things had always been done.

Jesus has now crossed over into the region of Tyre and Sidon – a region that isn't home anymore or familiar and safe to him. This region was diverse – different people, different languages, different beliefs and different values. They pretty much did everything different and therefore this visit wouldn't be an easy "status quo of operation" for Jesus in this different place. Most importantly, this region would've not been one that any Israelite would've even ventured to go to much less been accepted back home very easily once they had. Nevertheless, Jesus disregarded the "rules" that his people had made and went there.

We really don't have any idea if any of those same Pharisees and teachers followed Jesus there – our passage doesn't give us any information about them - but we do know that his disciples did. Jesus and the disciples went there to be with a small community of Israelites who had made their home together in that region. It was a prosperous and successful business region that had brought the Israelites there and their community did as most Israelite communities did – they worshipped regularly just as they had been taught. Unfortunately, they did so without their hearts being in it. This community had turned their hearts away from God and they began to see much suffering, little compassion and definitely no love of neighbor. Jesus knew he was going to have his hands full – he would need to heal them, give them hope and most of all turn their hearts back to the love of God.

Then comes a Canaanite woman. She is crying and pleading "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is tormented by a demon." Who was she? She would've been a "local" and native to that area. In regards to status for the Israelites – she would've been of lower status and therefore one that they would most likely ignore and avoid. She also would've been a woman who looked tired and worn out. Years of dealing with her possessed daughter, years of struggling to find help for her and years of being avoided would've worn on her and you would've been able to know that just by looking at her. She would've been there in desperation and of course, the disciples who seem to think at times that they need to protect Jesus, would've tried and urged Him to send her away – get rid of her.

She, however was persistent. She knew she wasn't going to receive a warm welcome from the Israelites. Yet she knew who Jesus was. She had heard the stories of miracles and healings of others. She had even heard the calls that he is the Messiah. Sure, she would've compared him to the many other "healers" who had assured her they could help, but this time Jesus shone above all the rest. This time she had hope that it would be different. After all, Jesus has shown compassion to all people wherever he has gone, she must then believe that Jesus is the Lord and Savior and could help like the others had not been able to do.

I think it was her belief. I think her knowing of and understanding that Jesus was the Lord of all – remember she didn't call out his name for help or "hey you" – she called out "Lord, Son of David have mercy on me". She believed he was the Messiah.

And yet, Jesus did not say a word or as our passage said "He did not answer her at all." God did not answer – there was silence. In the midst of her suffering, God did not answer. I am well aware of that feeling as I'm sure you are too. How many times have you found yourself on your knees praying to God in the midst of suffering only to find silence in your prayers? It was the same, however for Jesus when he too prayed in the garden amongst the suffering and God was silent then as well.

The faith that Jesus had in his Father in heaven gave him strength to cross from that fear of meeting death to the cross for you and I. Faith in Jesus, in God, helps us to endure the suffering because we know that death is never final if you believe. We too are promised the new life from the grave.

Now for the rest of the story. Jesus answers the woman “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” He had answered her and that in itself had to be a ray of hope for her – but his answer wasn’t going to be enough for her. She knew why she had come and she knew she must continue so she came even closer and knelt before him in prayer. “Lord help me.”

Again Jesus replies to her, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs.” And the persistence continues as she responds with “Yes, Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” And he knows it when he replies to her “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted” and instantly the daughter is healed.

Jesus is using this story to show us the woman’s great faith – through all of the suffering and loss and pain – she has kept her faith and now He puts it on display for all to see. True, there is a bit of oddity in that he compares the faith of the woman to the faith of the family pet – a dog. However, if you’ve ever had or known someone with a dog, one you know that they are faithful. They know their owner, their nature and habits, and how they will care for them and they therefore know they too can put their trust in their master.

When Jesus gave this woman the bread of the “children” as he put it – he was in inviting her to the table – to the fellowship of all of the other children. This woman’s invitation invited her to receive all that the rest of the believers received. She has essentially been adopted into the family of God because her belief was strong and she did not waiver.

That idea, that example, is good news for all of us too. Through the loving grace and mercy that Jesus has for us we too can be invited to the table. We too can be in fellowship with him and the believers. We too can receive great blessings no matter who we are, what language we speak, what color of skin we have, what our house-hold income is, which neighborhood we are from the list goes on and on. Jesus will accept EVERYONE!

Faith in Jesus brought his woman into the presence of God. Her belief and faith please Jesus and he blessed her and invited her to be in fellowship with him. It’s exactly the same for you and me. We just have to have faith – good faith – no wait, great faith!

Faith that keeps us believing in our suffering even when we only hear the silence. Faith that reminds us that death is not the end for us – that we have been promised life ever-lasting. Faith that brings us hope when we feel like there is no answers, no healing and no options. Faith that can bring us courage and peace. Faith that can bring great love and compassion into our lives and our communities and our country and our world. And most of all – a great faith that comes from believing in Jesus is the Lord of All. Yes, ALL!

Amen

Hymn of the Day: All Are Welcome

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;
All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found In water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.

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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the people: (Lord in your mercy. **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.

Lord, you gather the church to be part of your missions 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 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 and presence like Alana, and Jeff, and Brent, and Kirk, and Wally, and Mark, and Emilie and all of those that we name now in our own hearts. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

For the nations and their leaders. In you, steadfast love and faithfulness meet, and righteousness and peace live together. Protecting God, we have created divisions you will not own. In places of conflict – be it from safe practices because of COVID or from racial disparity. God of mercy, your grace is poured out for all. Inspire authorities and politicians to act with compassion. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

In you we live and move and have our being. Grant our congregation of Nora and Kirkebo grace to find our life refreshed in you. Accompany us in the rhythms of late summer – especially now as we continue to plan and seek guidance in all things related to this pandemic. Give us rest and renewal, and strengthen us for missions in your name. 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

Words of Institution

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.

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

Meal

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

Sending Hymn: Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
By saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven

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

Mark Your Calendars:

Tuesday – August 18th – Joint Council meeting at Nora 6:30pm, with Nora Council meeting following
Sunday – August 23rd - Outdoor Worship at Kirkebo – 9AM. Please bring a chair

Pastor Michele Jenson: Phone: 701-261-0998 Email: mjenson001@luthersem.edu Web Page: www.perleyparish.org Email: perleyparish@gmail.com

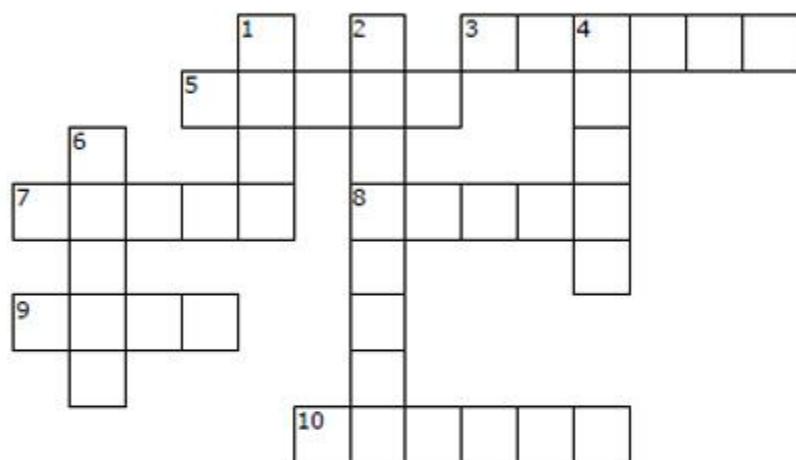
Jesus Loves everyone!



Never Give Up

Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." Matthew 15:28 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 15:21-28 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. To experience physical or mental pain
5. An adult female human being
7. The Son of God
8. An very large amount of something
9. Unable to be found
10. Small pieces of bread or cake

DOWN

1. Animals with four legs, commonly kept as pets, and sometimes used to guard things
2. A female child in relation to her parents
4. To have trust or confidence in something or someone
6. An evil spirit

JESUS	DAUGHTER	SUFFER	CRUMBS	DEMON
WOMAN	GREAT	FAITH	DOGS	LOST

Never Give Up

Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." Matthew 15:28 (NIV)

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O D N F V L Q K R N G E O L A
Z S T F E K M E R C Y R A Z U
V Q F A I P J D P Y D N E T Q
U C R H E L P O Z O P T N A S
G S U D O G S Q C R Y I N G T
I B H Q T Q S W H E A L E D Y
C I Q G A O Z H L F A L L R S
D W L Q B C Q M E O L F J F U
C K J I L J R E D E S D M A F
C Y N W E E J U E E P T P I F
T B Z E O E H E M Y M K C T E
J N H N L M Z H S B M O W H R
J S M J Q T A A R U S R N F I
A P B Z K O L N N W S H F K N
X I T D A U G H T E R Z T D G

HEALED
GREAT
DEMON
EAT

DAUGHTER
CRYING
HELP
FAITH

SHEEP
DOGS
TABLE
CRUMBS

FALL
LOST
ISRAEL
SUFFERING

MERCY
JESUS
WOMAN
KNELT

Never Give Up

Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the page.



1. A _____ woman came to Jesus and asked him for help.
2. The woman begged Jesus to have _____ on her.
3. The woman told Jesus that her daughter was possessed by a _____.
4. The _____ asked Jesus to send the woman away.
5. Jesus said, "I was sent only to the lost _____ of Israel."
6. The woman continued to _____, "Lord, help me."
7. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's food and toss it to their _____."
8. "Even the dogs eat _____ that fall from the master's table" the woman answered.
9. Jesus saw that the woman had great _____.
10. Because the woman had great faith, Jesus _____ her daughter.

Matthew 15:21-28 (NIV)

healed	crumbs	Canaanite	sheep	faith
dogs	plead	demon	disciples	mercy