



**St Michael's**  
L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

**Sunday, September 5, 2021—10:00 a.m.**  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

## Welcome Statement

St. Michael's Lutheran Church lives out God's grace and love for all people. Faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we welcome those who have been part of church communities, those who have no previous church experience, and those who have felt excluded by the Church because of their race or ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental capabilities, financial resources, or family circumstances. In this witness we seek reconciliation, healing, and wholeness. As a diverse people we are then empowered by the Holy Spirit to live and work together for God's promised day of justice, peace, and mercy.

In Christ's love, we welcome you!



St. Michael's Lutheran Church is a  
Reconciling In Christ Congregation.



St. Michael's Lutheran Church is  
a member of the ELCA.

On Sunday mornings, we have *A Wiggle Room* available if someone you're worshipping with needs to get some wiggles out. Our *Wiggle Room* is found in our Courtyard Room, located near the main entrance to the sanctuary.

Please have an adult with your child(ren). Continue to wear a face mask, and maintain a physical distance of six feet from other households.

We continue to use protocols in worship to protect children, youth and those who have not yet completed COVID-19 vaccinations. Our protocols will continue to adapt in the weeks and months ahead.

# Sunday, September 5, 2021

## Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophoenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

### +GATHERING+

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Beach Street*  
Wilbur Held

### INVOCATION

Blessed be the Holy Trinity ✚, one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**Amen.**

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Let us come into the presence of God and one another in a spirit of renewal and life; knowing that here we are met by the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is held as we open our hearts in prayer.*

In the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal, "hymn" numbers are found at the top of the page; "page" numbers are found at the bottom of the page.

All may make the sign of the cross ✚, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

God our comforter:

**We wonder off and lose sight of your paths.**

**We gaze upon abundance yet only see scarcity.**

**We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.**

**We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.**

God our healer:

**Draw us back to you; guide us in your way.**

**Show us the fullness of your grace and promise for all.**

**Challenge us to speak and act for those in need.**

**Listen when we call out to you for help.**

**Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Amen.**

All sin and all fall short of the glory of God. Yet, it is by the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God renews and give us life. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of God and strength for the journey.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

ELW 445

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Gracious God,

**throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.**

## +WORD+

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

The Lord will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

God 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.

### SECOND READING

James 1:17-27

My siblings, 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 siblings. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that God has promised to those who love the Lord? 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?

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God’s vengeance on Edom, Israel’s age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles’ return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God’s will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

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 siblings, 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.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW p.124

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,' are written below. The second staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is: Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter). The lyrics 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below. A small 'S124' is printed in the upper right corner of the first staff.

**GOSPEL READING**

Mark 7:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 7th chapter.

**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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ!**

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

## SERMON

Pastor Brad Froslee

## ANTHEM

*When at Night*

Englebert Humperdink, Hansel and Gretel

## SACREMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

God's love and salvation in Jesus can seem mysterious and cosmically far away, so we give thanks for the sacrament of baptism, which pulls these big promises down into the world. Here, God's sacred time comes to play with our human time. Baptism claims us by name and entangles every witness in the good news of God's never ending "yes!"

Baptism also marks our identity as followers of Jesus Christ and unites us to his life, death, and resurrection. When we are baptized in Christ we are marked with the sign of the cross, and in that blessing Jesus' story becomes our story: Suffering may find us but it will not conquer us. Death will greet us, but it will not ultimately claim us.

Iris will not remember this day, so it is our job to remember for her and with her as she grows, to be reflections of God's love in her life and to help her live into her identity as child of God. Though this responsibility is given to our entire congregation and the family and friends who walk with her, Aaron and Elyssa, it is your role as parents to be the primary reflections of God's love for Iris, and to guide her in her faith.

Elyssa and Aaron, called by the Holy Spirit, and trusting in the love and grace of God, do you desire Iris to be baptized into Christ?" If so, respond: "*We do.*"

In Christian love you have presented Iris to the waters of baptism, and you are therefore entrusted with the following



responsibilities:

- ❖ To live with her among God's faithful people in a community of faith,
- ❖ To bring her to the word of God and share in the holy supper,
- ❖ To teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
- ❖ To place in her hands the holy scriptures, and to nurture her in faith, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, and, following in the way of the prophets and Jesus, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you as parents promise to support Iris as she grows in Christian faith and life? If so answer, *"Yes, and I ask God to help and guide me."*

This is no small task. You have therefore entrusted godparents to help you and to be a special sign of God's love in Iris' life.

As godparents, do you promise to encourage and support Aaron and Elyssa in the promises they have made? Do you promise to pray for Iris, to nurture her in her faith journey and to be an example of how to live in response to God's grace? If so, answer *"Yes, and I ask God to help and guide me."*

The world will waste no time telling Iris lies about power, worth, and love. And so we come together this day to speak God's truth about these things, to stand with this beloved sister now and as she grows, and to stand against all that might tear her down. So we ask:

People of God, do you renounce evil and all forces that defy God? **We renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **We renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you away from God and neighbor: selfishness and greed, oppression and violence, discrimination and injustice, and everything that leads to hatred and death? **We renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Creator, who gives birth to life and creation?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Beloved of God, and God's holy presence?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

This is ordinary water made extraordinary by the sacred stories of scripture it carries. For in the beginning God's Spirit moved over the waters and by God's Word the world was created, calling forth life in which God took delight. In

the wilderness, God provided water for Hagar and Ishmael and promised them a new life. God shepherded a people across the waters of the Reed Sea and into a place of promise. In the vision of waters rolling down from mountains held by the prophets, God proclaimed restoration and health to humanity and the whole of the cosmos. In the river Jordan, Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By baptism into Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God sets us free from the power of sin and death and raises us to live as liberated people of faith. These waters wash us with the love of God and hold the stories of our spiritual family, which Iris now enters into.

Iris Ann, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Mother of us all. Amen.

God of heaven and earth, sustain your beloved child, Iris, with the gift of your Holy Spirit:

The spirit of wisdom and understanding,

The spirit of counsel and might

The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,

The spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

Iris child of God. You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God.

The gift of baptism does not ensure a life free from pain and struggle, but it does promise us the presence of God and the love of community to surround you. Hear these words of promise and encouragement in the following poem, "Beloved is where we begin" by Jan Richardson:

If you would enter into the wilderness,  
do not begin without a blessing.

Do not leave without hearing who you are:

Beloved, named by the One who has traveled this path  
before you.

Do not go without letting it echo in your ears,  
and if you find it is hard to let it into your heart, do not  
despair.

That is what this journey is for.

I cannot promise this blessing will free you from danger,  
from fear, from hunger or thirst, from the scorching of sun  
or the fall of the night.

But I can tell you that on this path there will be help.

I can tell you that on this way there will be rest.

I can tell you that you will know the strange graces that  
come to our aid only on a road such as this, that fly to  
meet us bearing comfort and strength, that come  
alongside us for no other cause than to lean themselves  
toward our ear and with their curious insistence whisper  
our name:

Beloved. Beloved. Beloved.

**With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into the  
Lord's family. We receive you as a beloved child of God  
and a fellow member of the body of Christ. We promise to  
love, encourage and support you; to share the good news  
of the Gospel with you and to help you know and follow  
Christ as we work together in the kingdom of God.**

Let us now welcome Iris into our family of faith!

## +MEAL+

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all  
**And also with you.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

*Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy."*

*The congregation responds, "Hear our prayer."*

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

#### WORDS FOR DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ is given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Communion will be distributed in the pews. If you did not receive elements upon entering the sanctuary an usher can provide them to you.

Lord of life,  
**in the gift of the bread that is broken and the cup that is shared you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of healing and hope. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love made known in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**+SENDING+**

Susie began her ministry at St. Michael's on September 1st as our Interim Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries. She is currently a student at Luther Seminary and a candidate for Word and Sacrament Ministry in the ELCA.

## **INSTALLATION OF SUSIE MODROW**

### **BLESSING**

People of God,  
you are Christ's body,  
bringing new life to a world in need.  
The holy Trinity, † one God,  
bless you now and forever  
as you live in love toward God and one another.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

*Thy Holy Wings*  
*ELW 613*

Our worship is over,  
our service begins.

### **SENDING**

Go in peace, you are the body of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Allegro Vivace*  
G. F. Handel

## WORSHIP NOTES

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### Participants in Today's Worship

- Pastors:** *Rev. Ali Ferin, Rev. Brad Froslee*
- Baptismal Liturgist:** *Gary Wilkerson*
- Musician:** *Thomas Bartsch, organ*
- Special Music:** *Karen Wilkerson, Therees Hibbard*
- Lector:** *Verna Larson*
- Ushers:**
- Fellowship Hosts:** *The Zarambos*
- Worship Flowers:** *Given by the Zarambo family*
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### St. Michael's Lutheran Church

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## **This Week at St. Michael's**

### **Sunday, September 5**

10:00 a.m.      Worship  
10:45 a.m.      Fellowship Hour

### **Monday, September 6**

Office Closed, Labor Day  
No Monday Worship  
4:00 p.m.      Rezek House Meal

### **Tuesday, September 7**

11:30 a.m.      Staff Meeting

### **Wednesday, September 8**

12:00 p.m.      Faith in Daily Life  
5:30 p.m.      Youth Bells  
6:00 p.m.      Confirmation Meeting  
6:30 p.m.      Chapel Ringers  
6:30 p.m.      Celebration Singers  
7:30 p.m.      Spirit Choir

### **Thursday, September 9**

9:30 a.m.      Thursday Morning  
                    Bible Study  
6:30 p.m.      Adult Choir

### **Sunday, September 12**

8:45 a.m.      Worship  
10:00 a.m.      Fall Kick-Off  
10:00 a.m.      Sandwich Making  
10:00 a.m.      Fellowship Hour  
11:00 a.m.      Worship

## **Announcements**

### **Fall Kick-off & Registration**

Sunday, September 12, 10:00 a.m.

### **First Day of Sunday School**

September 19, 10:00 a.m.

### **Faith in Daily Life**

September 8, Wednesday, 12:00 p.m.

### **Youth Music Rehearsals**

September 8, Wednesday

Youth Bells 5:30 p.m.

Celebration Singers 6:30 pm.

Spirit Choir 7:30 p.m.

### **Confirmation Parent Meeting**

September 8, 6:00 p.m.

### **Chapel Ringers**

September 8, *Wednesday*, 6:30pm

### **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

September 9, 9:30am

### **Adult Choir Rehearsal**

September 9, *Thursday*, 6:30

### **Monday Morning Ministries**

September 13, 7:00 a.m.

### **Fall Yoga Devotion**

September 13, 6:30 p.m.

### **Sarah Circle**

September 14, 9:30 a.m.

### **Elisabeth Circle**

September 15, 1:00 p.m.

### **Desserters II Book Club**

September 28 , 7:00 p.m.