

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

A good reputation is better than much wealth. High esteem is more to be desired than silver and gold. For God vindicates the pure in heart, and brings ruin to the twisted ways of slanderers and evildoers.

***SCRIPTURE READING Mark 7:24-37**

*** OPENING HYMN: # 732 Come, We That Love the Lord**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who seek the presence of the Lord, and let us worship!

People: But some are rich, and some are poor and not all have learned fine words.

Leader: In the eyes of the Lord all are wonderful and lovely children.

People: But can the poor be as lovely as the rich, or the polished as lovely as the rough?

Leader: To the Lord, we are everyone God's people, whom Christ died to save.

All: Blessed be the name of the Lord!

*** Let us pray (Congregation):**

O God, you are so magnificent and mighty, yet you have chosen to love and cherish even those who are the least in the eyes of the world. Help us to love and accept others as you do, Lord. In Christ we pray. Amen.

*** LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS: # 369.....Blessed Assurance**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Congregation)**

Lord, even though we have heard of your accepting love, we have been tempted to believe, in our most private thoughts, that we really are more special to you than perhaps those who are in some way not like us. Forgive us, Lord, and help us be about your command to love one another truly and not just love those who remind us of ourselves. In Christ we pray. Amen.

*** LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS: # 375.....There is a Balm**

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Listen for God's word of hope with new ears and fresh faith: Here is God's good news. Now is the time. This is the time to pay attention to God's word to see what He has to say to us today. Amen

***SCRIPTURE READING: James 2:1-14**

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: **"Breaking Down the Walls that Divide Us"**

*** RESPONSE TO THE WORD: # 548.....In Christ There is No East or West**

CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns

*** PRAYER HYMN: # 2200 O Lord, Hear My Prayer**

CLOSING HYMN: # 174 His Name is Wonderful

***DISMISSAL BLESSING**

Today's Scripture Readings -- September 13, 2020

Mark 7:24-37

²⁴ From there He arose and went to the region of Tyre ^[a]and Sidon. And He entered a house and wanted no one to know *it*, but He could not be hidden. ²⁵ For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. ²⁶ The woman was a ^[b]Greek, a ^[c]Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept ^[d]asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw *it* to the little dogs."

²⁸ And she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs."

²⁹ Then He said to her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter."

³⁰ And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed.

³¹ Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee. ³² Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him. ³³ And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."

³⁵ Immediately his ears were opened, and the ^[e]impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed *it*. ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Second Scripture Reading: James 2:1-14

² My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality. ² For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in ^[a]fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in ^[b]filthy clothes, ³ and you ^[c]pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," ⁴ have you not ^[d]shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? ⁷ Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

⁸ If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; ⁹ but if you ^[e]show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not

murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴ What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?



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