

Sunday Worship on September 8, 2024

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 105 I'll praise my Maker while I've breath

We Listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a
- Second reading: Psalm 146 (refrain 1)
- Third reading: Mark 7:24-37
- Sermon: Even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs
- Hymn – BOP 624 Blest are they
- Communion (no Apostles' creed)

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 730 O for a world where everyone

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

Put your confidence in God.

We have God as our helper and so we rejoice.

God gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry.

God frees the prisoners and opens the eyes of the blind.

So put your trust in God's goodness.

May God's goodness endure forever! Let us worship God.

Praise song – BOP 321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Prayer of Adoration

Eternal God, You are our beginning and our end. You gave breath to all living things. By your Holy Spirit, you come among us this day, breathing new life into our familiar patterns, as the gift you offer us through Christ Jesus. By your grace, you open new possibilities for the world you love. So we offer you our lives in worship and in service, joining our voices with all your creatures, to offer you honour and blessing, glory and gratitude, now and always. Amen.

Prayer of confession (Unison) (Let us come to God with the Prayer of confession in Unison)

God of mercy, you keep an eye out for those who dwell on the margins of life. We confess we fail to keep our eyes open for those on the margins. We have been silent when we should

have spoken up in the face of injustice. Our generosity to others does not match what you offer us. Forgive us for thinking of ourselves first. Renew our commitment to show others the kindness we meet in Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us: (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 of Assurance

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you.

Praise song – BOP 105 I'll praise my Maker while I've breath

Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)

- First reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a
- Second reading: Psalm 146 (refrain 1)
- Third reading: Mark 7:24-37

“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”

SERMON: Even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs

Good morning everyone. It is good to be back. Thank you so much for your generosity and patience, and prayers and support. My family had a great time off, during the month of August. We were able to visit Korea and visit family members and friends. Thank you.

Some of you already got this pen. I custom made this pen. JESUS HUGS YOU. Those who have not receive the pen, please take one. I brought this pen for you, so that you can give out this pen to your friends as you invite them to our Jesus. Share Jesus' encouragement and support by hugging them. And please know that Jesus hugs you when you are having great times, or when you are going through challenging times. **Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”** With the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ, with the unchanging love of Jesus, he always cares for us and hugs us.

So, with a little souvenir, let us remember the love of Jesus and share his love to our neighbours.

In today's Mark story, there is a gentile woman. Jesus was in a gentile area. One mother whose daughter was suffering from an unclean spirit heard about Jesus staying near her area. She came to Jesus and bowed down at his feet.

Here, what kind of emotion would she have? Nervousness? Hope? Desperation? If you were in her shoes, how would you feel?

V26, “She begged [Jesus] to cast the demon out of her daughter.”

Demon possession is something out of human control. So, she's got the right person.

To her desperate plea, Jesus answered, **v27. “[Jesus] 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.”**

An unexpected answer in our perspective. However, she might have expected NO from a Jewish man because of the tradition at that time. Jewish and gentiles did not get along. Moreover, male and female, without knowing each other, they couldn't have a conversation freely.

But, for her, being in the presence of Jesus itself stands for her attitude. She gave up her tradition. She pushed herself to have so much courage to talk to the Jewish male. In today's sense, one theologian writes, “it's like a homeless person interrupting the dinner of the president of the United States to ask a favor.”¹

Here, after Jesus saying NO to her, surprisingly, she did not give up. She pushed a little further. **V28, “But she answered him, “[Yes,] Sir [or Lord], even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”**

Can you keep asking same thing over and over when you get NO? It's considered not polite. Asking the same thing twice or three times, then we are becoming bothersome. It's annoying. So, we don't do it. But, here is the condition. Her beloved daughter is in trouble and right before her eyes, here is the man who can solve the problem. But, that man said NO.

WHY is she so sure about Jesus' healing power?

Mark 6, in the previous chapter, Jesus fed 5000 with two bread and 5 fish. And Jesus healed some sick people. That was enough for her to cling to Jesus.

Do we have faith like her? Are we desperate on something? Do we need prayer? What do we pray for? If so, if we pray, what do we pray for? What do we need? Do we really need the power of Jesus? Are you clinging to Jesus like the woman?

Sometimes, we worry about our next generation. Think about what parents give to the kids these days. We provide them safety, entertainment, food, shelter, rides, extra curricula. We gave our kids opportunities to explore different kinds of hobbies. What do we not provide for children? Every possible thing, I can think of. The parents are like the shepherd for the children, so they do not lack anything. In other words, children do not have the need for prayer. That's another big topic. But, today's parenting style describes that there is no need for prayer for children because parents try to satisfy every possible thing.

What about us? We try to provide every possible thing for ourselves. Our prayer is not desperate. Or with the development and growth in society and our person life, we try to earn necessities. In the process, we might have lost the feeling of desperation. Or we learned that we are the only one who can help ourselves. What are you desperate for? If so, do you have the solution for that?

I still have young children. If they want a specific thing, they keep asking. They do not mind repeating themselves over and over and over and over again. It is really difficult to be patient for their repeated pleas. **Why do they ask?** They know that parents are able to give what they want. That's their belief and they are very sure about that. Holding them going up the stairs when they are tired. Looking for the missing toys. Giving them some candies and they know where they are and they cannot get them. More screen time. And many other things that require parents extra work and time.

What makes children repeat themselves asking the same thing over and over?

¹ Hare, Douglas R. A., Pg 44, Feasting on the Word, Year B, Vol. 4.

Their faith that parents can satisfy their desires.

What about the mom from the story? How can she ask her favour to Jesus even after Jesus said NO to her? Because of her faith. **She heard about Jesus' power and she put her hope in Jesus.**

In addition, when she has a faith in Jesus, where does she focus on? The problem or the power of Jesus? Her desperation becomes the motivation to focus on Jesus' ability, not her own problem.

Now, from the perspective of God, she is like a **baby crying for help**. God's daughter. God picks her up and holds in his arms taking care of her need.

Psalm 131. 1 O Lord, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. 2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like the weaned child that is with me. (my soul within me is like a weaned child). 3 O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

After she said, "Even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs," Jesus said to her, **v29, "for saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter."**

When she gets home, as she opened the door and saw her daughter, **V30, "So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone." Amplified Bible states, "she found the child lying on the couch relaxed and resting, the demon having gone."**

Have you seen a sleeping child? Relaxed and resting and peaceful. Isn't this the image of Psalm 131, the weaned child? Those who have breastfed babies would understand the true satisfaction of the weaned child. My wife sometimes tells that she misses the feeling of contentment of breastfeeding.

The emotion of the story changes from desperation to satisfaction.

What changes the emotion? How can we do the same?

In our desperation, we come to Jesus with faith that he can satisfy our needs.

Matthew 18:3, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Becoming like children. Humbling oneself. It could be giving up our traditions, our accustomed way of life, our pride, and our self-awareness being mindful of others. And being like children is being honest to our desperation.

Even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs. This is the honest expression of the desperation of her need. Let us come to God with our needs. I encourage you to take some time during the week. **Get a pen and paper** and ask God to give you wisdom. Write down your needs. Write down what you are desperate for. And pray to God like a child. May God grant your prayers and turn your desperation into the contentment of the weaned child.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Praise song – BOP 624 Blest are they

Communion At The Lord's Table

The joy of union with God is God's gift for us. God's compassionate heart is guiding us through Jesus Christ who is alive. Let the unity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit be with us as we gather at the Lord's Table and share this meal prepared by our Lord Jesus Christ. God can satisfy our desperation.

*(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) (Please say **BOLD** print together)*

L: The Lord be with you. **ALL: And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: In your love, you brought us to your presence. Your grace poured out upon us. Foolishly, we focused on our challenging situations. We were afraid of breaking our unspoken rules and traditions. We were afraid of standing before the truth, the true light of God. You taught us to be humble, to be honest to our desperation. God, you satisfied our needs, gave us your life.

Therefore, with the company of the saints in glory, with the sinners and the lost of this world, **we lift our hearts in joyful praises.**

(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: The wise seek after you, God of grace and glory, for you sent Jesus Christ, our Lord to us. Like a woman humbling her whole self before you out of desperation, we want to have discerning wisdom and courage before the greatest truth, greatest treasure. Like a weaned child, we would like to be with you. Like a shepherd who would face danger in rescuing his sheep, Jesus goes to the cross, experiencing our death, so he can carry us into the resurrected life. As we gather at his feast, we come to you with praise and glory that we have been completely accepted. **We proclaim the mystery of faith:**

P: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

L: As we come to your Table at this time, pour out your Holy Spirit upon this company of sinners who long to find the truth and to live in the true light. Thank you that your gifts are prepared for us. As we eat of the Bread of Life, strengthen our hearts and spirits, so we may search for the true light. As we drink from the Cup of Grace, may we be found to be faithful and courageous, as you guide us to walk in your path. Through Christ, by Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE – prepare your Bread and Wine

“This is the **body** of Christ, broken for you.” (BREAD)

Take, eat, remember, and believe that the precious body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (Let us take it)

“This is the **blood** of Christ, poured out for you.” (CUP)

Take, drink, remember, and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (Let us drink it)

Prayer after Communion:

God of love, thank you for giving us life. Thank you for bringing us into your presence. Help us have you in the centre of our hearts so we live in your truth. Help us be honest to our hearts. In our hearts, give us desperation. Make us courageous that we can bring our desperation to you.

After summer, we are getting back to our normal life again. We pray for this new school year. First of all, we pray for teachers. Give them wisdom and love, so with generous hearts, may they love their students. They can change the life of their students. Let their hearts be overflow with your love and truth first, so they can share what they have in their hearts. Also, be with students. As they learn about life, let them form good communities within their schools, friends, churches, families, and sports teams. Let them have fun, have the joy of life, joy of togetherness and fellowship. Teach them love and honesty and your truth. Keep them safely through the year.

We also pray for our congregation. Gracious God the Father, protect each person and provide our needs. Help us come to you with honesty and desperateness. Help us become like children, so we may come to your truth with our whole self. You are God of power. When we have all different needs, you know each of our needs and you have the power to satisfy them all. Grant our prayers in your time, in your ways. As we worship you, bring our hearts close to you and build strong community of love and acceptance with your grace and love.

Be glorified through our lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful and beautiful name, we pray Amen.

Invitation to the offering:

The scripture declares that those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. While we do not bring bread today, we offer our gifts trusting God to use them to meet needs of those who often go without.

As we praise and worship God with our gifts, Let us praise God and glorify him with the Doxology (BOP #830.)

Offering prayer:

Generous God, you call us to reach out to those in need in kindness rather than judgment; and with generosity, not just good intentions. Bless our gifts and our actions for Christ's sake, so that our faith in his love will show in the work of the Church that bears his name. Be praised and worshipped. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 730 O for a world where everyone

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world where God called us to be. Be honest to your hearts and be honest to Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Saviour, and our true King. Look into your hearts with calm and peaceful mind and look at yourself with the eyes of God our true Father. I hope and pray that you may live with God.

Benediction: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, our Father, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.