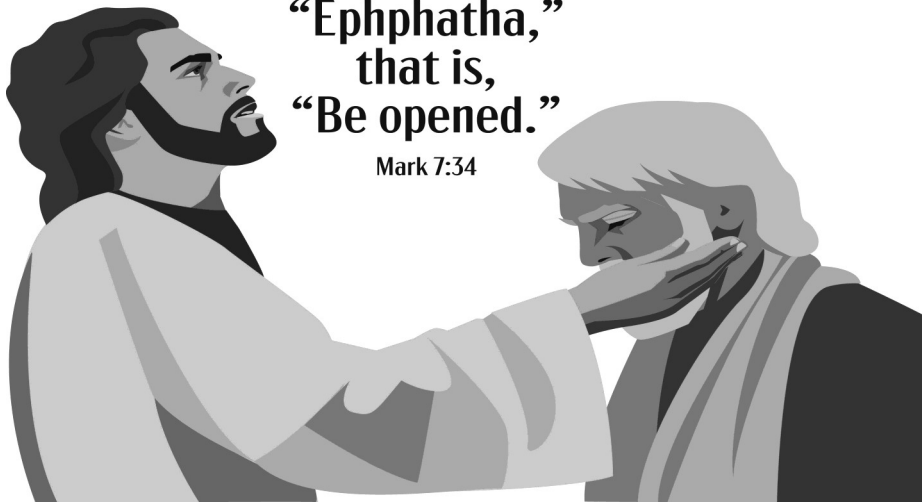




The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

“Ephphatha,”
that is,
“Be opened.”

Mark 7:34



Epiphany Lutheran Church

6606 Maplecrest Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46835
(260) 485-5122
www.epiphanyfw.com

16th Sunday of Pentecost

September 8, 2024

Worship on Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:15 am

Worship Mondays: 7:00 pm

Richard Hartman - Pastor

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

With One Voice Setting

✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠

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 Syrophenician 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 her or his needs to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

You are invited to let this prelude turn your heart to the Lord and prepare you to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Welcome to all visitors, and thank you for worshipping with us at Epiphany!
Please sign our guest register at the front door.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

L: Gracious God

C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

L: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen

GATHERING HYMN 345 *"How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"* Green Hymnal
**How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds and drives away all fear.**

**It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the heart's unrest.
'Tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary, rest.**

**Dear name! The rock on which I build my shield and hiding place.
My never failing treasury, filled with boundless stores of grace.**

**By thee my prayers acceptance gain, although with sin defiled.
The devil charges me in vain, and I am owned a child.**

**O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend. My prophet, Priest and King.
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring/**

**How weak the effort of my heart, how cold my warmest thought.
But when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.**

**Till then I would thy love proclaim, with every fleeting breath.
And may the music of thy name, refresh my soul in death!**

GREETING

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

C: And also with you

KYRIE (sing)

L: Kyrie eleison

C: Lord have mercy.

L: Christe eleison

C: Christ have mercy.

L: Kyrie eleison

C: Lord have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE (WOV p.29) Blue Hymnal

Refrain: Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

**1. Lord God heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glory. Refrain**

**2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God Lamb of God, you take away the sin of
the world, have mercy on us. You are seated on the right hand of the Father, receive our pray-
er. Refrain**

**3. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord. You alone are the Most High, Je-
sus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Last Refrain: Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

**Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

SALUTATION

L: the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray

PRAYER OF THE DAY (unison)

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 promis-
es to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen**

✝ WORD ✝

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 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.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He 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.

PSALM 146 (responsively by verse leader/congregation)

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

³Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴**When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.**

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;**

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸**the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰**The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!**

SECOND READING: James 2:1-17

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.

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

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 brothers and sisters, 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.

L: The Holy Gospel for this the 16th Sunday in the Season of Pentecost is from the Gospel of Mark, the 7th chapter starting with the 24th verse.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 7:24-37

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.

From there he 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."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 406 *"Take My Life, that I May Be"* Green Hymnal

Take my life that I may be, consecrated Lord to thee.

Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move, at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be, swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing, always, only, for my King.

Take my lips and let them be, filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use, ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord I pour, at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself and I will be, ever, only, all for thee.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. We pray especially for these members of our Epiphany Lutheran Church family...**Vera, Jim, Barb, Sarah, Sandi, George, Sara, Karen, Ayden** and for those whom we lift up now from our hearts... Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **AMEN**

PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

You are invited to greet one another with the sign of peace.



Place offerings in basket on baptismal font

OFFERINGS *Please remember offerings can be mailed to
6606 Maplecrest Road Fort Wayne IN 46835
or sent through our website at www.epiphanyfw.com.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray, Merciful God,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen

CLOSING HYMN 400 "God, Whose Almighty Word" Green Hymnal

God whose almighty word, chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight.

Hear us we humbly pray, and where the Gospel day,

Sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light!

Lord who once came to bring, on your redeeming wing, healing and sight.

Health to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind,

Oh, now to humankind, let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love, life giving holy dove, speed forth your flight.

Move on the water's face, bearing the lamp of grace,

And in earth's darkest place, let there be light!

Holy and blessed three, Glorious Trinity, Wisdom, love, might!

Boundless as oceans tide, rolling in fullest pride,

Through the earth, far and wide, let there be light!

DISMISSAL

L: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers today - in celebration of Lee and Sandy Hedin's 48th Wedding Anniversary on September 18th!

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH - Associated Churches Food bank.

1. Dry milk
2. Canned meats: chicken, beef, tuna
3. Crackers
4. Peanut Butter and jelly
5. Bagged noodles
6. Sauces to go with the noodles to make a meal

Remember if you do not want to shop we can take a gift card or cash and shop for you. See Vickie, Cindy or Dia.

Ongoing Military Support - Sending Care Packages - Granola Bars, Jerky, Gum, Mints, Life Savers, Power Bars, Chap stick, individual drink mixes, individual servings of coffee, and Emergen-C.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Thank you for sharing your time and talents!

Leaders 8:00	Sue Johnson and Steve Haag
Leaders 10:15	Jim Davis and Steve Haag
Lector 8:00	Kim Robinson
Lector 10:15	Dia Herb
Pianist	Alicia Davis
Technology Support	Kristen Davis
Greeter 8:00	Sue Johnson
Greeter 10:15	Davis Family



Logan Balliet - September 8th!
Rhonda Everhart - September 8th!
Steve Auman - September 12th!

August	Deposits	Paid Bills	Balance
8/4/2024	3,736.90	1,335.47	2,401.43
8/11/2024	3,314.51	4,239.99	(925.48)
8/18/2024	1,765.71	1,107.50	658.21
8/25/2024	2,260.53	3,959.07	(1,698.54)
August Totals	11,077.65	10,642.03	435.62

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY 9/8	8:00 am & 10:15 am Worship 12:00 pm - 3:30 pm Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School
MONDAY	8:00 am - 3:00 pm NHC NO Worship
WEDNESDAY	6:00 Meal 6:30 Bible Study
THURSDAY	8:00 am- 3:00 pm NHC
FRIDAY	9:00 am -12:00 pm Set up God's Work Our Hands 5:00 pm - ??? Set up God's Work Our Hands
SATURDAY	<i>11:00 am Zo Prayer Meeting</i> <i>6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Zo Baptist Worship</i>
SUNDAY 9/15	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Assembly of LWR Kits 12:00 pm Picnic/Potluck 12:00 pm - 3:30 pm Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School