WELCOME! ✧ Welcome! We are glad you have joined us for worship. We are a Reconciling In Christ congregation and welcome people of every race, ethnic background, social status, physical limitation, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Together in our diversity, we seek to embrace the love God offers us in Jesus the Crucified and Risen Christ.

HOLY COMMUNION ✧ You are invited to receive God's gifts of forgiveness and new life in Christ at God's table of Holy Communion. If you are joining from home, please set your table with bread or crackers and wine or grape juice. We are prepared and worthy to receive Holy Communion when we come with an open heart, trusting that God's love is for us.

RECORDING ✧ First Immanuel is committed to connect with people who are unable to be with us in person for worship. Please note that we are connected by Zoom and through YouTube. And as such, video recording takes place throughout the service.

CHILDREN ✧ We encourage children to participate with their families in worship. It is our custom to invite children to come forward for a special message from the Pastor just before the sermon. Parents are welcome to join them. A play area with a nursing area and changing table is downstairs. Please ask an usher.

FLOWERS ✧ Altar flowers today are given to the glory of God.

COFFEE ✧ Please join us for coffee downstairs in Fellowship Hall after worship.

MASKS ✧ Masks are an effective way to protect us from infection. We are currently mask optional. We encourage frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer, and that you stay current on your vaccinations.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

PASTOR	Ellen Williams
ASSISTING MINISTER	George Noble
LECTOR	Leslie Wong
ACOLYTE	Skipper Bessette
USHERS	Kent Fredrickson & Jeannette O'Brien
COMMUNION PREPARATION	Martha Driessnack
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Ralph Nelson
ORGANIST	Karl Jurisons
CAMERA/SOUND TECH	Richard Wong

First Immanuel Lutheran Church
1816 NW Irving Street
Portland, Oregon

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION

16 August 2026

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC **"Adagio"** **Tomaso Albinoni, comp.**

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTES

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP AS A BELL IS TOLLED

✷ **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM** **READ**

Pastor: During this Season of Pentecost, we remember that we are baptized by water and the Spirit.

As water is poured…

People: We praise you, O God, for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in the dying and rising of Jesus. Shower us with your Spirit and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Pastor: There is one body and one Spirit,

People: one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, who is Creator of all, above all, through all, and in all! O come, let us worship the Lord!

✷ Please stand as you feel able.

✷ **GATHERING HYMN** **"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"** **ELW 886** *(red book)*

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

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

3. The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.

4. He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

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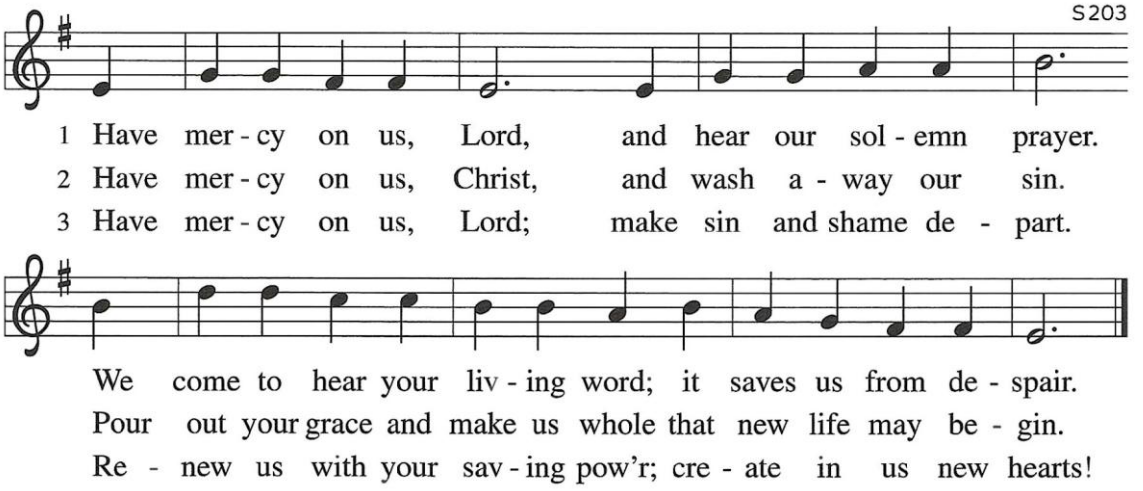
✷ **THE APOSTOLIC GREETING** **READ**

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

People: And also with you.

✷ **KYRIE** **SING: PAGE 203** *(red book)*



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✷ **HYMN OF PRAISE** **SING: PAGE 204** *(red book)*

1. Glory be to God in heaven;
peace, good-will to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation,
Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you,
we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you;
here on earth our songs we raise.
2. Glory be to Christ forever,
Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior,
you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us;
now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us;
in your promise firm we stand.
3. Holy One we now acclaim you;
Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you,
God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit,
in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit,
glory be to God on high!

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✷ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray together.

People: 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

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WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC **"How Can I Keep from Singing" Richard Walter, arr.**
Shigemi Getter & Susan Nelson, sopranos

THE FIRST READING **Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

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Lector: Word of God, word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM **Psalm 67**

Lector: O God, show us kindness and bless us,
and make your face smile on us!

**People: For then the earth will acknowledge your ways,
and all the nations will know of your power to save.**

Lector: Let the peoples praise you, O God,
let all the peoples praise you!

**People: Let the nations shout and sing for joy,
for you dispense true justice to the world—
you guide the nations of the earth!**

Lector: Let the peoples shout and sing for joy;
let all the peoples praise you!

**People: The land has given its harvest:
God, our God, has blessed us.**

Lector: May God bless us, and may God be revered
even to the ends of the earth!

People: Amen

THE SECOND READING **Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

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Lector: Word of God, word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

✷ **ALLELUIA VERSE** **SING: PAGE 205** *(red book)*

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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✷ **THE GOSPEL** **Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

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✷ **GOSPEL RESPONSE**

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME **Pastor Ellen Williams**

THE SERMON **Pastor Ellen Williams**

✷ **HYMN OF THE DAY** **"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"** **ELW 588** *(red book)*

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place
where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place
where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.

2. There is welcome for the sinner,
and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.

3. For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.

4. 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God,
more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

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✷ **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Assistant: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

After each petition…

Assistant: God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude…

Pastor: Trusting that you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: Amen

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HOLY COMMUNION

✷ **SHARING THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

GATHERING OF GIFTS **"Waltz"** **Jāzeps Mediņš, comp.**

✷ **SETTING THE TABLE** **"The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing"** **ELW 531** *(red book)*

1. The trumpets sound, the angels sing,
the feast is ready to begin.
The gates of heav'n are open wide,
and Jesus welcomes you inside.

Refrain:
Sing with thankfulness
songs of pure delight.
Come and revel
in heaven's love and light.
Take your place at
the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin,
the feast is ready to begin.

3. The hungry heart he satisfies,
offers the poor his paradise.
Now hear all heav'n
and earth applaud
the amazing goodness of the Lord.

Refrain

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Assistant: Let us pray together.

People: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen

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✷ **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy…

SING: PAGE 207 *(red book)*

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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✷ **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Pastor: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore. You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own. That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed…Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

People: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

People: Amen

✷ **THE LORD'S PRAYER** **PRAY**

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; and 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

✷ **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All are welcome at Christ's table, where the risen Christ meets us and strengthens us for God's work in the world. Please follow the ushers' directions to come forward; those worshiping at home are invited to receive as serving begins. White grape juice is in the center cups, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer a blessing, come forward with your arms folded across your chest.

LAMB OF GOD **SING: PAGE 208** *(red book)*

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

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COMMUNION HYMN **"You Are Mine"** **ELW 581** *(red book)*

1. "I will come to you in the silence,
   I will lift you from all your fear.
   You will hear my voice,
   I claim you as my choice.
   Be still and know I am here.
2. "I am hope for all who are hopeless,
   I am eyes for all who long to see.
   In the shadows of the night,
   I will be your light.
   Come and rest in me.

Refrain:

Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine."

3. "I am strength for all the despairing,
   healing for the ones
   who dwell in shame.
   All the blind will see,
   the lame will all run free,
   and all will know my name.

Refrain

4. "I am the Word that leads
   all to freedom,
   I am the peace the world cannot give.
   I will call your name,
   embracing all your pain.
   Stand up, now walk and live!

Refrain

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN 2 **"Deep Peace"** **ACS 1018** *(blue book)*

Deep peace of the running waves,
deep peace of the flowing air,
deep peace of the shining stars to you,
deep peace of the quiet earth.

(Repeat)

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✷ **COMMUNION BLESSING**

✷ **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Assistant: Let us pray together:

People: **Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen**

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SENDING

✷ **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

People: Amen

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✷ **SENDING HYMN** **"Jesus Shall Reign"** **ELW 434** *(red book)*

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
   does its successive journeys run;
   his kingdom stretch
   from shore to shore,
   till moons shall wax
   and wane no more.
2. To him shall endless prayer be made,
   and praises throng to crown his head;
   his name like sweet perfume
   shall rise
   with ev'ry morning sacrifice.
3. People and realms of ev'ry tongue
   dwell on his love with sweetest song;
   and infant voices shall proclaim
   their early blessings on his name.
4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
   the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,
   the weary find eternal rest,
   and all who suffer want are blest.
5. Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
   peculiar honors to our king:
   angels descend with songs again,
   and earth repeat the loud amen.

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✷ **SENDING**

Assistant: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

People: Thanks be to God.

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POSTLUDE **"Rondeau"** **Joseph Mouret, comp.**

You are welcome to remain in the sanctuary for prayer.
The front section of our worship area is dedicated as quiet prayer space following the close of worship. God be with you.

FIRST IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"A Welcoming Community Centered in Christ's Love, Joyfully Reaching Out Together"

1816 NW Irving Street, Portland, Oregon 97209
Phone: 503/226-3659
Office Hours: Mon.—Thu., 9 AM—5 PM
www.firstimmanuelluth.org
office@firstimmanuelluth.org

MINISTRY TEAM

Every Member of First Immanuel
Pastor: Ellen Williams
Congregation President: Chris Weiss
Office & Facilities Manager: Debbie Rehn

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chris Weiss, President
Andrew Drexler, Vice President
Jeannette O'Brien, Secretary
Pat Andeen
James Bash
Amy Harrison
Calvin Rasmussen
Jane Sproul
Ryan Traetow
Bobbi Varnes
Ellyn Wheeler
Leslie Wong

Kent Fredrickson, Treasurer

Want to connect with Pastor Ellen?

Schedule a time on her calendar
Email her: pastorellen@firstimmanuelluth.org
Call or text her: 503-348-4326
Call the church office: 503-226-3659 x. 402

Note: For live links, please see our weekly e-news or website

Our Last Summer Potluck of 2026! This Saturday, Aug. 22

Come one, come all! Bring some food to share and some lawn chairs.

- August 22, 4 PM: at Kevin Kindschuh's home (kevin@kindschuh.org for RSVP and directions)

Join us for food, company, and conversation in our wonderful summer weather!

First Annual Ministry Calendar Planning Meeting
Saturday, August 29 • 10 AM—2 PM

Help us plan the year ahead! We are creating a September 2026–August 2027 ministry calendar to help us coordinate our activities, anticipate important dates, and make the most of the year together.

We'll look at regular church activities—worship, education, meetings, and fellowship—as well as community events, neighborhood activities, school schedules, holidays, and other events that may affect or provide opportunities for our ministry.

Bring your ideas, suggestions, and hopes for the coming year. Together, we'll create a calendar that supports an engaging, connected, and meaningful program year at First Immanuel. A light lunch will be provided. Everyone is welcome!

Support Lift UP's Soup & Ramen Drive

LIFT UP
FOOD BRINGS US TOGETHER

As food insecurity continues to rise across Portland, simple comfort foods like canned soup and ramen can make a meaningful difference for seniors, families, and neighbors facing hard times. We're collecting canned soups (especially low-sodium and pop-top options) along with ramen cups and bowls to help stock Lift UP's pantry shelves with easy-to-prepare meals. Many of the seniors served by Lift UP experience mobility and dexterity challenges, making pop-top cans and convenient meal options especially important. Together, we can help provide warmth, nourishment, and dignity — one bowl, cup, and can at a time.

Coffee Hour Help Needed

Just bring some cookies or simple treats, your choice. Make two pots of coffee; the creamer/sugar are ready to go. Paper napkins and cups make clean-up super easy; just wash the coffee pots and a few utensils. Sign up on the chart in Fellowship Hall. You can also help by donating shelf-stable cookies, juice boxes or ground coffee. Thanks!

Join the End-of-Summer Choir: Sunday, Sept. 6

Calling all choir members and choir wannabes! It's almost time for our end-of summer choir. If you'd like to sing the anthem on Sunday, September 6, just come to the sanctuary at 10:30 AM to learn the easy song with choir director Ralph Nelson. This is a great way to join with other singers in church!

Rehearsals resume on Wednesday, Sept. 9:
Bells at 6 PM, Choir at 7 PM

Altar flowers needed!

It's easy and a great way to honor God's gift of natural beauty. Sign up on the flower chart in Fellowship Hall, or contact Debbie (503-226-3659, debbie@firstimmanuelluth.org) with your preferred date and any special dedication. Bring flowers on the Sunday you select. After worship, take your flowers home or leave them for the pastor to share with others on home visits.

Thanks to special donations to First Immanuel designated for altar flowers, you can be reimbursed for your flower purchase, if you wish—just send a copy of your receipt to Debbie at the church office (debbie@firstimmanuelluth.org).

We hope to see a lively and vibrant altar space for everyone, whether in person or Zoom!

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the LORD:
Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

6And the foreigners who join themselves
to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name
of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—
7these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
8Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Psalm 67

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2aGod has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

29For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, 31so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. 32For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

[10[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: 11it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." 12Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" 13He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." 15But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." 16Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? 17Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? 18But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. 19For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. 20These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

21Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." 23But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." 24He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." 26He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." 27She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." 28Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20.

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