

Readings for September 5, 2021

Prelude: “Diapason Movement” by John Keeble

Hymn of Praise: Verses 1, 3, 4

Prayer of the Day:

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴Say 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.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then 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;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For 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, ³and 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,” ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, 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? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For 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. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and 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? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

²⁴[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, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He 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.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying

that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.”³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into 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 And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Hymn of the Day: *All verses*

Closing Hymn: *Verses 1, 3, 4*

Postlude: “*Nun Lasst uns Gott dem Herren*” by Johann Pachelbel

Prayer list: *Carol, Nancy, Pastor Steve Swanson, Jean, Guy, Perry, Rose, Cindy, Corie, Sandy, Gary, Michael, Will, Gerry, Bob & Sue, Jennifer, Dave, Barbara, Susie, David, Betty, all those diagnosed with COVID-19, and those we hold in our thoughts.*

In alignment with local mandates, masks are required for all people indoors. We appreciate you helping us care for one another.

Check out our **Family Faith resources** page for videos and activities for children and their families. Visit www.concordiafaith.org/familyfaith!

Join us on **Holy Cross Sunday, September 12th**, when we'll dedicate the new processional cross handmade by Gary Radtke and celebrate with a picnic lunch following worship! Sandwiches and chips will be provided. Please RSVP for the lunch at www.concordiafaith.org (registration link is on homepage).

Confirmation classes resume this Fall after our long hiatus with the first class meeting on Sunday, September 19th at 9 AM in the church gym. Tables will be set up so that students may be seated 6 feet apart and everyone is encouraged to wear masks while in class. Class instructors will be Gary Radtke, Kim Baratta and Christina Formeller. We are looking forward to being able to resume our preparations for full membership in the church by our young adult members. Please reach out to Pastor Nicholas Zook if you have any questions or would like to learn more about our program.

Our **5 week Fall Adult Study** will be led by Christina Formeller starting Sunday, September 19th at 9 AM via Zoom. The study book will be “Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times” by Jonathan Sacks, published last year and available at book stores or on Amazon. Rabbi Sacks addresses the shifting cultural times in which we live and lifts up the changing role faith plays in our self-identity and value choices. Challenges and opportunities are explored and the tension between self-interest and common good is placed in the light of a more fulsome picture. Interested in participating in the class? Please let Pastor Zook know (nzook@concordiafaith.org) and purchase the book for the class. We will send you a weekly Zoom link and discussion questions for each chapter.

A **Memorial Service for Karen Sumner** will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, September 19th at 11 AM. Karen grew up at Concordia Church and served in many key leadership roles. She died in January 2020, and her family will hold a service of remembrance and celebration of her life for friends and family in Chicago. Everyone is welcome to attend.