

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2023

The 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. And 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-- these 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. Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Psalm

Psalm 67

1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

2 Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

7 May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

The Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

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. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

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

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

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

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just 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." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Announcements

Birthdays this month

1st: Jerry Ritchie
 4th: Harper Martin
 7th: Pete Litterski
 13th: Donna Richardson
 14th: Margie Litterski
 20th: Ella Cammack
 22nd: Monika Henry
 22nd: Connor Tucker
 23rd: Kristel Morris
 27th: Stefanie Kirschke
 29th: Paige Lindsey

This Week at SMAA

Wednesday, August 23, 2023
 6:00 pm Dinner & fellowship

Sunday, August 27, 2023
 9:00 am Bible Study
 10:00am Morning Prayer

Piney Woods ECW September Luncheon

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 314 Henderson Blvd. Kilgore, Texas 75662 on **Saturday, September 16**
 The event will begin at 10:00am. Fee: \$10 due by **Sept 9**
 Text Sherry Lockman or Liz Garrison for info
 903-649-1253 or 903-431-6198
 Mail \$10 to St Paul's ECW (address above)
 Venmo \$10 to: @Sherry-Lockman (please make sure we know who you are)

New Pictorial Directory for 2023

Christina will be in the church office to take you and/or your family's picture every Sunday during August either before the service or after the service. She will also have a clipboard for you to verify or update your contact information. If you would like to send your own picture, use same photo from two years ago, or updated your contact information, please e-mail her at christina@smaalongview.org.

Confirmation Classes

Classes are in Mtr Tracey's office after the service. For students in grades 7th and up. If interested, please contact Mother Tracey.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate the flowers for the service, the Flower Dedication forms for 2022 are in the narthex.

This Sunday's Servers

Acolytes: Amy Brown
Cameras & Streaming: Robert Brown
Danny's Team: Bryan White
Eucharistic Ministers: Frank Supercinski
Greeter: Amy Brown
Lector: Susan Schug
Nursery Helper: Mary Lynn Dawes
Ushers: Stan Williams
Vestry People: Susan Schug, Bryan White
Worship Tech: Melinda Smith

Prayer Requests

Healing For:

- Ed Maxwell
- Patti Maxwell
- Andrew McWhorter
- Chris and Penny Nicholson
- Terry Lewis for diabetes & neuropathy
- The Akinson & Brown Family
- Lorraine, Pete and Margie Litterski

Comfort For:

- Becky Supercinski's granddaughter

Bereavement For:

- Prayers for the Kirschke Family: Sara, Dawn, Stefanie & Lindsay for the passing of their father
- Sunni Spraggins Family

To submit a prayer request, fill out the back of the information sheet in the pew and place it in the offering.

Or, send an email with your request to: prayer@smaalongview.org

**** Emailed prayer requests are received by all who've signed up for the SMAA prayer chain. This community of prayer is committed to holding up our needs and thanksgivings to God whenever they are shared. TO JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, JUST SEND A REQUEST TO SMAA@SMAALONGVIEW.ORG ASKING TO BE A PART OF THE PRAYER CHAIN. ****

Stewardship Update

DATE	GIVING	BUDGET	ABOVE/BELOW
07/23/23	\$2,741	\$2,939	-\$198
07/30/23	\$1,170	\$2,939	-\$1,769
08/06/23	\$3,098	\$2,939	\$159
08/13/23	\$4,465	\$2,939	\$1,526
YTD TOTALS	\$107,636	\$96,982	\$10,654

Next Sunday's Servers (08/27)

Acolytes: Javier Glave
Cameras & Streaming: Robert Brown
Danny's Team: Melinda Smith
Eucharistic Ministers: Becky Supercinski
Greeter: Becky Supercinski
Lector: Javier Galve
Nursery Helper: Carolyn Deakins
Ushers: Michael Greathouse
Vestry People: Susan Kuhlman, Susan Brown
Worship Tech: Gianna Glave

St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church
 The Rev. Tracey F. Carroll
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