

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

## The First Reading

*Isaiah 35:4-7a*

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

*Psalm 146*

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul! \*

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, \*  
for there is no help in them.

3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, \*  
and in that day their thoughts perish.

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Hallelujah!

## The Second Reading

*James 2:1-10, [11-13], 14-17*

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.

## The Gospel Reading

*Mark 7:24-37*

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, 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."

*The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by David & Susan Frier Brown in celebration of our daughter Betsy Colosky*

*The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by Tommy & Melinda Smith in celebration of Addi Speight's Birthday*

## Announcements

### Birthdays this month

1st: Margot Lindsey  
 2nd: Michael Buckner  
 3rd: Ruby Hahne  
 3rd: Tasha Root  
 4th: Gloria Richards  
 11th: David Brown  
 11th: Terisa Kirschke  
 17th: Diane Buffington  
 19th: Robyn Murphy  
 19th: Roxanne Brink  
 23rd: Kyle Glave  
 24th: Caroline Tucker  
 26th: Lillian Tucker  
 27th: Helen Daniel Glave  
 27th: Ava Rook

## This Week at SMAA

Wednesday, September 11, 2024  
 6:00 pm Dinner & fellowship

Sunday, September 15, 2024  
 10:00am Holy Eucharist: Fr. Sean Steele

### Blessing of the Animals

Join us **Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM** for the Annual Blessing of the Animals. Dogs, Cats, and other pets-small and large, furry, and non-furry are all welcome. Kids are welcome to bring a stuffed animal to bless.

Please begin to bring dog food and other dog items to be donated to the local animal shelter.

### Church Wide Bible Study

The study, titled "The Path," will commence on Sunday, **October 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM**. It features excerpts from Scripture guiding you from the creation narrative to the conclusion of Revelation. The primary coursebook for adults includes both the reading passages and study questions. Correspondingly, the Family Story book is organized into identical chapters, containing the same narratives along with discussion questions for families. Additionally, a coloring book will be offered. For those interested in purchasing any of these books, a sign-up sheet can be found in the narthex.

### Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate the flowers for the service, the Flower Dedication forms for 2024 are in the narthex.

**Piney Woods September Brunch**  
**Traditional Hymns to Contemporary Music**  
 St. Michael's & All Angels, 909 Reel Road, Longview 75604  
 Saturday, September 14 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm  
*Please respond by September 3*  
*Mail the \$10 registration fee to the church*  
*You may mail several checks in one envelope!*  
*See YOU then!*  
 Roxanne Brink 480-208-2966 Susan Kuhlman 903-918-2261

## Prayer Requests

### Healing For:

- Mtr. Tracey
- Andrew McWhorter
- Libby Menger
- The Akinson & Brown Family
- Lorraine, Pete and Margie Litterski

### Other Prayer Request:

- Jonathan secures employment, enabling the Bowman family to relocate to Longview.

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](mailto: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
08/11/24	\$1,121	\$3,302	-\$2,181
08/18/24	\$4,540	\$3,302	\$1,238
08/25/24	\$2,661	\$3,302	-\$641
09/01/24	\$2,124	\$3,302	-\$1,178
<b>YTD TOTALS</b>	<b>\$122,133</b>	<b>\$115,576</b>	<b>\$6,557</b>

## Next Sunday's Servers (09/15)

**Acolytes:** Ruby Hahne  
**Cameras & Streaming:** Melinda Smith  
**Danny's Team:** Laura Buckner  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Joshua Martinez  
**Greeter:** Diane Buffington  
**Lector:** Roxanne Brink  
**Nursery Helper:** Marie Tucker  
**Ushers:** David Brown, Stan Williams  
**Vestry People:** Stan Williams, Tommy Smith  
**Worship Tech:** Amy Brown

## This Sunday's Servers

**Acolytes:** Javier Glave  
**Cameras & Streaming:** Robert Brown  
**Danny's Team:** Susan Kuhlman  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Diane Buffington  
**Greeter:** Joe Frank Brown  
**Lector:** Melinda Smith  
**Nursery Helper:** Helen Daniel  
**Ushers:** Donna Richardson, Bryan White  
**Vestry People:** Samantha Rauch, Susan Brown  
**Worship Tech:** Wayne Workman

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