

# Our Saviour Lutheran Church



Twelfth Sunday after Trinity  
26 August 2012



James Tissot (1836–1902), *Jesus Heals a Mute Possessed Man*

**Be opened!**

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### **A note to visitors**

We are delighted to have you with us this morning to receive the Lord's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service.

### **The Offering**

At this time, members of this church are privileged to give to the Lord for the work of His church in this community and throughout the world. For God loves a cheerful giver. Visitors should not feel obliged in any way to contribute to the offering plate.

### **Children in the Service**

It is a delight and a privilege to have children in the service. Children as much as adults are members of God's family and Jesus welcomes little children to Him.

There is a Sunday School for children during the sermon. The children leave at the beginning of the sermon and return to church before the Service of the Sacrament.

Please do not worry if your child will not sit still or quietly throughout the service. Most young children won't manage that! There is plenty of space at the back of the room. If you do need to take a child outside, the smaller room is available for that purpose.

### **Holy Communion**

It is our desire that all people receive the body and blood of our Lord at this altar! However, our Lord has told us in His Word that His body and blood, given into our mouths, are powerful and not to be given or received lightly or in a careless way. Therefore, in respecting the Word of the Lord that anyone who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner is doing harm to themselves, and that He desires that all who commune together be truly united in the confession of the truth, we ask that only those who have been instructed in the Lutheran Confessions and are under our pastor's care come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

All who are visiting us and who desire to commune with us are asked to first speak with our pastor before the service, so that all can make an informed decision about participating with us in our fellowship in this place. *We are not condemning anyone with this practice*; we seek only to follow the Word of the Lord and carry out responsible pastoral care.

**Thank you for honouring our beliefs.**

### ***A note on the service:***

*Both the hymns and the order of service are found in the Lutheran Service Book. The outline of the service is given in this bulletin. The congregation stands for the parts of the service printed in italics and sits for the rest.*

*The numbers in the bulletin refer to page numbers in the hymnal, where Psalm 1 is also page one, and the first hymn is 331, following page 330.*

*It helps to follow the service if you mark your place in the liturgy with this bulletin.*

*Explanation of Symbols:*

- C** Congregation
- P** Pastor (ordained)
- A** Assistant minister (ordained or lay)
- L** Liturgist (ordained or lay)
- ✠ You may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism.
- ❖ You may bow at this point as a sign of reverence.

**Divine Service III**

**LSB 184**

**531 Hymn: Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus**

**184 Confession and Absolution**

**Catechism**

- P** The Third Petition
- C** **Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**
- P** What does this mean?
- C** **The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.**
- P** How is God's will done?
- C** **God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.**

*Introit (Ps. 70:2b, 4, 5; antiphon: Ps. 70:1–2a)*



- A** Make haste, O God, to de- | liver me!\*
- O LORD, make haste to | help me!
- Let them be put to shame and con- | fusion\*
- who | seek my life!
- C** **Let them be turned back and brought to dis- | honour\***
- who de- | sire my hurt!**
- A** Let all those who seek | You rejoice\*
- and be | glad in You.
- C** **But I am poor and | needy;\***
- hasten to me, | O God!**
- A** You are my help and my de- | liverer;\*
- O LORD, do | not delay!
- C**❖ **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***
- and to the Holy | Spirit,**
- as it was in the be- | ginning,\***
- is now, and will be forever. | Amen**
- A** Make haste, O God, to de- | liver me!\*
- O LORD, make haste to | help me!

**☒ Let them be put to shame and confusion\*  
who seek my life!**

**186 Kyrie**

**187 Gloria in excelsis**

**189 Collect of the Day**

Almighty and merciful God, by Your gift alone Your faithful people render true and laudable service. Help us steadfastly to live in this life according to Your promises and finally attain Your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### **The Readings**

#### ***Faith Comes from Hearing***

A man who was deaf and therefore also had an impediment in his speech was brought to Jesus (Mark 7:31–37). In the same way, all are by nature deaf toward God and therefore also unable to confess the faith rightly. For *“faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ”* (Rom. 10:9–17). Jesus put His fingers into the man’s ears, and He spat and touched His tongue. Even so in Holy Baptism, water sanctified by the words of Jesus’ mouth is applied to us; and the finger of God, that is, the life-giving Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:4–11) is put into our ears in the hearing of the baptismal Gospel. Jesus’ sighing *“Ephphatha”* opened the man’s ears, and his tongue was loosed to speak plainly as Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah, *“In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book”* (Is. 29:18–24) So also, He who sighed and breathed His last on the cross for us has given us to hear and believe in Him and has opened our lips that our mouths may declare His praise.

#### **Old Testament reading—Isaiah 29:17–24**

<sup>17</sup> Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest? <sup>18</sup> In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. <sup>19</sup> The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel. <sup>20</sup> For the ruthless shall come to nothing and the scoffer cease, and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off, <sup>21</sup> who by a word make a man out to be an offender, and lay a snare for him who reproves in the gate, and with an empty plea turn aside him who is in the right.

<sup>22</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: “Jacob shall no more be ashamed, no more shall his face grow pale. <sup>23</sup> For when he sees his children, the work of my hands, in his midst, they will sanctify my name; they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and will stand in awe of the God of Israel. <sup>24</sup> And those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding, and those who murmur will accept instruction.”

**Gradual (Ps. 34:1–2)**

**C** I will bless the LORD | at all times;\*  
 His praise shall continually be | in my  
 mouth.  
 My soul makes its boast | in the LORD;\*  
 let the humble hear | and be glad.

**Epistle Reading—2 Corinthians 3:4–11**

<sup>4</sup>Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. <sup>5</sup>Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, <sup>6</sup>who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

<sup>7</sup>Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, <sup>8</sup>will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? <sup>9</sup>For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. <sup>10</sup>Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. <sup>11</sup>For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

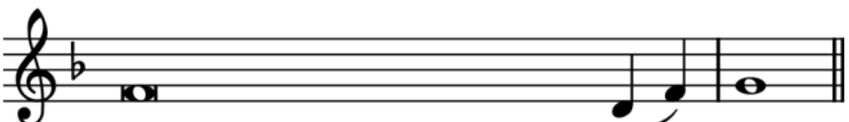
**Alleluia & Verse (Ps. 81:1)**



**C** Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia.



Sing aloud to God our strength;\*



shout for joy to the God of Ja - cob.



**C** Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia.

**Gospel Reading—Mark 7:31–37**

**L** The ✠ holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.



**C** Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord!

<sup>31</sup>Then [Jesus] returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to



## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD

### FORMULA OF CONCORD: EPITOME

#### ARTICLE II: FREE WILL

*A sinner cannot come to know or believe in God by his own free will any more than a deaf man can will himself to hear. And just as Jesus used His fingers and saliva to open up a deaf man's ears and loose his tongue, so He uses earthly means of the preached Word and Sacraments to open up dead hearts and loose tongues to confess sins and faith.*

2. ... we believe, teach, and confess that the unregenerate will of mankind is not only turned away from God, but also has become God's enemy. So it only has an inclination and desire for that which is evil and contrary to God, as it is written in Genesis 8:21, "the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth." Romans 8:7 says, "The mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot." Just as a dead body cannot raise itself to bodily, earthly life, so a person who by sin is spiritually dead cannot raise himself to spiritual life. For it is written in Ephesians 2:5, "even when we were dead in our trespasses, [He] made us alive together with Christ." And 2 Corinthians 3:5 says, "Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God."

3. God the Holy Spirit, however, does not bring about conversion without means. For this purpose He uses the preaching and hearing of God's Word, as it is written in Romans 1:16, the Gospel "is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes". Also Romans 10:17 says, "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." It is God's will that His Word should be heard and that a person's ears should not be closed (Psalm 95:8). With this Word the Holy Spirit is present and opens hearts, so that people (like Lydia in Acts 16:14) pay attention to it and are converted only through the Holy Spirit's grace and power, who alone does the work of converting a person. For without His grace, and if He does not grant the increase, our willing and running, our planting, sowing, and watering (1 Corinthians 3:5-7)—are all nothing. As Christ says <in John 15:5>, "apart from Me you can do nothing". With these brief words the Spirit denies free will its powers and ascribes everything to God's grace, in order that no one may boast before God (1 Corinthians 1:29). Paragraph 3-6

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

### The Week Ahead

Today	5pm	Pastor at Oxford Lutheran Mission
29 Aug	12.30pm	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
30 Aug	7.45pm	Bible Study (Parsonage)
1 Sep	5.30pm	Saturday Supper (Scout Hall)
2 Sep	10.30am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)

### Further ahead

5 Sep	12.30pm	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
6 Sep	7.45pm	Bible Study (Parsonage)
9 Sep	10.30am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
13 Sep	7.45pm	Voters' Assembly (Parsonage)
22 Sep	<i>Ladies' Guild Sale (The Hub)</i> <i>ELCE Children's Ministry Conference, Cardiff</i>	
30 Sep	<i>Harvest Festival and Lunch</i>	
5–6 Oct	<i>ELCE Annual Synod</i>	
31 Oct—2 Nov	<i>Holiday Club</i>	
3 Nov	<i>Family Festival (Scout Hall)</i>	

### Next Sunday's Readings:

**2 Chronicles 28:8–15 Galatians 2:15–22; Luke 10:23–37**

### Daily Readings:

Sun: 1 Kings 8:22–30, 46–63 2 Corinthians 4:1–18 *Apology of the Augsburg Confession V (III): 170–176*

Mon: 1 Kng 9:1–9; 10:1–13 2 Cor 5:1–21 *Ap V (III): 177–182*

Tue: 1 Kng 11:1–26 2 Cor 6:1–18 *Ap V (III): 183–191*

Wed: 1 Kng 11:42–12:19 2 Cor 7:1–16 *Ap V (III): 192–194*

Thu: 1 Kng 12:20–13:5, 33–34 2 Cor 8:1–24 *Ap V (III): 195–204*

Fri: 1 Kng 16:29–17:24 2 Cor 9:1–15 *Ap V (III): 205–212*

Sat: 1 Kng 18:1–19 Ephesians 1:1–23 *Ap V (III): 213–222*