



**First Lutheran Church – ELCA**  
**1200 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue - Worthington, MN 56187**  
**Web Site: felcwgtn.org & Email: felcwgtn@frontiernet.net**  
Ministers: All baptized members; Jeanette McCormick, Pastor  
**July 13, 2022; 6:00 pm Worship**

## WELCOME

## CONFESSION

There are many ways to be unfaithful to what we have become through baptism, to our commitment and our obedience to God. We offer God now our prayers of repentance.

**We confess to you, living God, our failure to live as brothers and sisters, and as your children.**

We confess to you, loving God, that we have not loved you as you have loved us.

**We confess to you, gracious God,, that we have doubted your word and failed to obey its teaching.**

We confess to you, merciful God, our desire to own you and contain you within our doctrines and theologies.

**We confess to you, almighty God, that we do not acknowledge you as Lord of all the earth.**

Forgive us and redeem us for we have not allowed your presence to shine among us.

**There are many ways in which we have failed in our commitment and obedience to our fellow men and women.**

We turn towards our neighbors and our friends and offer them our prayers of repentance.<sup>1</sup>

## FORGIVENESS

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

**SONG – “Way Maker” (Song Sheet)**

## PRAYER

Give me ears to hear and eyes to see, O God, your unfolding vision for me and for your world. In the name of +Jesus, **Amen.**

**GOSPEL:** Mark 7:31-37

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

## MESSAGE

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.faithward.org/prayer-of-confession-collection/>. –Nolan Palsma, Pitcher Hill Community Church, North Syracuse, NY



## REFLECTION TIME

**The Nourishing Vocation Project**  
**Near and Now:**  
*Embracing Holy Indifference:*  
*The Man who could not Hear or Speak*

**Warm-up Question**  
*When have you had to be open to something new?*



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### **Discussion Questions**

- 1 What do you see in this image?
- 2 What do you feel looking at this image?
- 3 What stories from your own life does this image bring to mind?
- 4 What stories of the world does this image bring to mind?

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1 What does it mean to you that Jesus learned to be open?
- 2 Why do you think Jesus first refused to help the Syrophenician woman?
- 3 Who are the “Syrophenician women” in our world today?
- 4 Who are those who have no voice in our world today?
- 5 When have you felt like you needed to be persistent with Jesus?
- 6 In what ways is it “good news” that Jesus grew in openness?
- 7 In what ways is it “good news” that Jesus calls you to “be opened?”



- 8 In what ways is it “good news” that Jesus gives a voice to one who previously had none?
- 9 How are you being called to be open right now?
- 10 What can you do to open a way for those who have no voice to be heard?

**SONG** – “Your Great Name” (Song Sheet)

**PRAYERS**

**COMMUNION**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING**