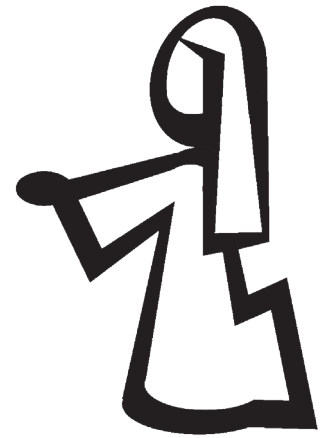


Pentecost 12

August 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 15 (Year A)

Themes of inclusion and exclusion are a common thread running through this week's Scriptures. Isaiah prophesies about who is accepted and who is not in God's house, which depends upon obedience to God's law. St. Paul passionately asserts that even though Israel did not believe in Jesus, God will not turn away from his chosen people. Jesus crosses ethnic boundaries to heal a girl from Syrophenicia.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Reward for Obedience to the Covenant

The prophet spoke the word of the Lord, saying that God's house is to be a house of prayer. This meant that those who followed the Lord's commands would be blessed; their offerings would be considered acceptable.

Psalm 67

Let All the Peoples Praise You

The psalmist asked the Lord to bless the nations and to let his holiness shine on them as he provided a good harvest and judged the people as righteous.

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32

Israel is Not Rejected

St. Paul continued his exhortation on the fate of Israel. God, he said, has not rejected his people. Even though they were disobedient and unfaithful, God would not abandon them. Instead, Christ's death and resurrection opened a way for Gentiles to be included in God's plan for salvation. The gifts and call that come from God are forever. They are irrevocable because of God's faithfulness, not ours.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus and the Syrophenician Woman

Jesus had just instructed his followers that what is unclean is not what is put into one's mouth; instead, it's what comes out of the mouth from the heart. As he went off to Tyre and Sidon, he was met by a Canaanite woman who, in faith, cried out to him to heal her daughter. He tried to dismiss her because of her ethnicity, but her clever retort about dogs getting crumbs from the table won Jesus over. Her demon-possessed daughter was healed immediately, and Jesus praised the woman's faith.

Liturgical Color: Green

• In Ordinary Time use either the Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise.

• Use the Apostles' Creed.

Today would be a perfect opportunity to incorporate a healing ritual into the worship service. After the Hymn of the Day and before the Creed, invite people who desire a blessing to come forward for individual prayer. Anoint them with oil on their foreheads if you so desire.

What is it like to feel excluded? We have all felt that way at some time or another. For many people in our world, feeling that way has become normal. But it's not normal! Jesus calls us to include people because God created and loves every human being.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	290	---	---	587	186	186
God Whose Almighty Word	400	---	---	673	---	---
Jesus Shall Reign	530	---	832	434	268	268
Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing	559	---	528	886	30	30
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service	423	---	848	712	---	---
Go, My Children, with My Blessing	---	721	922	543	53	53
Healer of Our Every Ill	---	738	---	612	---	---
What a Friend We Have in Jesus	439	---	770	742	223	223
Glories of Your Name	---	---	---	---	---	web
Blest Be the Tie that Binds	370	---	649	656	48	48

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Brokenness Aside

(CCLI# 5881109)

This is Amazing Grace

(CCLI# 6333821)

One Thing Remains

(CCLI# 5508444)

Open the Eyes of My Heart

(CCLI# 2298355)

Hosanna

(CCLI# 4662491)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.