

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who have prepared for those who love
you
good things which no eye can see,
fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your
love,
so that, loving you in all things and above all
things,
we may attain your promises,
which surpass every human desire.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Is 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act
with integrity, for soon my salvation will come
and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who
have attached themselves to the Lord to serve
him and to love his name and be his servants
– all who observe the sabbath, not profaning
it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring
to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in
my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their
sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my
house will be called a house of prayer for all the
peoples.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 66(67):2-3, 5-6, 8

Response:

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

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rn 11:13-15, 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to
the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of
being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my
own people envious of you, and in this way save
some of them. Since their rejection meant the
reconciliation of the world, do you know what
their admission will mean? Nothing less than a
resurrection from the dead! God never takes
back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient
to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their
disobedience, so those who are disobedient
now – and only because of the mercy shown to
you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has
imprisoned all men in their own disobedience
only to show mercy to all mankind.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The sheep that belong to me listen to my
voice,
says the Lord,
I know them and they follow me.**
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the
region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a
Canaanite woman from that district and started
shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me.
My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he
answered her not a word. And his disciples went
and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,'
they said, 'because she is shouting after us.' He
said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of
the House of Israel.' But the woman had come
up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said,
'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the
children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.'
She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs
can eat the scraps that fall from their master's
table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you
have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And
from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive our oblation, O Lord,
by which is brought about a glorious exchange,
that, by offering what you have given,
we may merit to receive your very self.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**With the Lord there is mercy,
In him is plentiful redemption.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Made partakers of Christ through these
Sacraments,
we humbly implore your mercy, Lord,
that, conformed to his image on earth,
we may merit also to be his coheirs in heaven.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

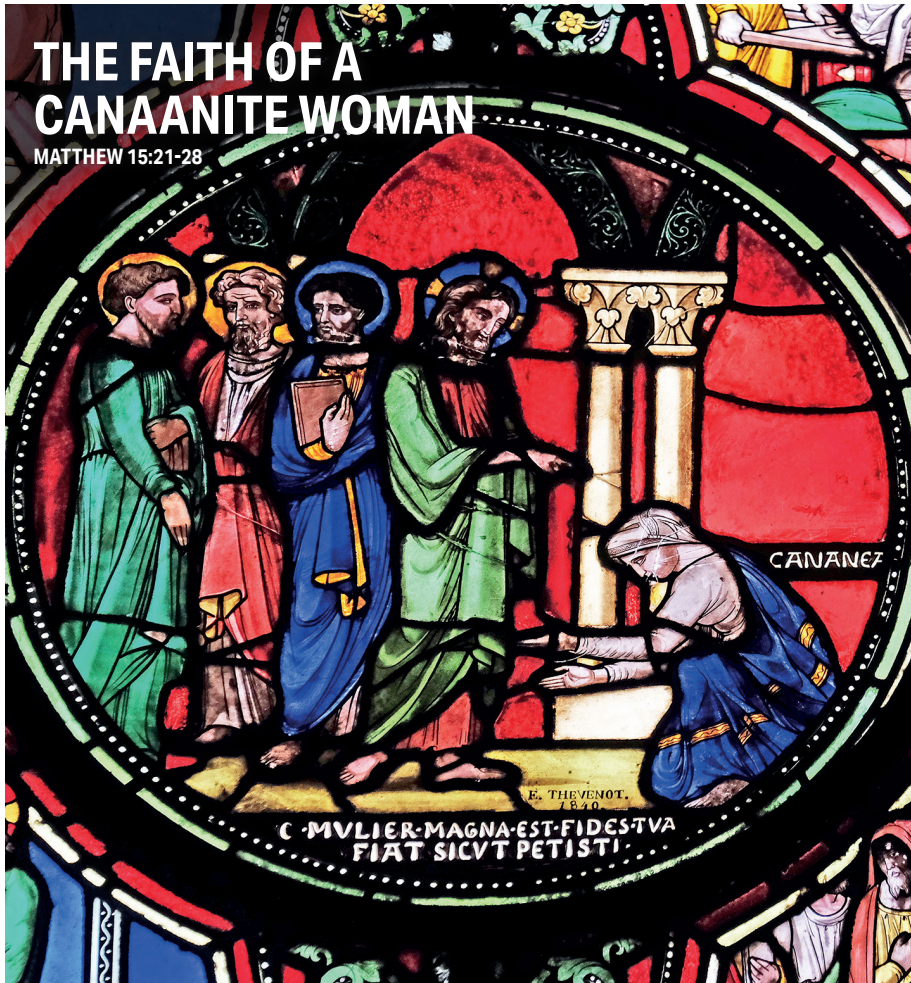
Father in heaven, you have made us for yourself;
our hearts are restless until they rest in you.
Fulfil this longing through Jesus, the bread of
life, so that we may witness to him who alone
satisfies the hungers of the human family. By
the power of your Spirit lead us to the heavenly
table where we may feast on the vision of your
glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Message

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 16 August 2026 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4



Jesus withdraws to the region of Tyre and Sidon, outside the traditional boundaries of Israel, signaling the widening scope of his mission.

A Canaanite woman approaches him, pleading for the healing of her demon-possessed daughter. Initially, Jesus' response seems harsh: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." This moment tests faith and perseverance.

The woman's reply demonstrates remarkable humility, persistence, and insight: "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Her faith recognizes Jesus' power and mercy, even in what appears to be a limited or challenging response. Jesus commends her faith and grants her request, praising her trust and determination.

Matthew presents this encounter as a lesson in God's mercy and the importance of persistent faith. The story challenges preconceived boundaries and emphasizes that faith, rather than ethnicity or status, grants access to God's grace. It also shows that discipleship requires courage and persistence, and that God often works through moments of testing to reveal and strengthen faith. ■

REFLECT

Today, we encounter a woman who approaches Jesus with boldness and faith, even though she is an outsider. She asks for help for her daughter, and at first, Jesus' response seems distant. Yet she does not give up; she humbly and persistently pleads, showing insight and trust: even the crumbs from the master's table are enough to bring healing.

Her example challenges us to consider our own faith. Faith is not always easy, and God's ways may seem mysterious or delayed. True faith perseveres, trusts, and recognizes God's power and mercy, even in unexpected or testing moments. This story reminds us that God's love is not limited, and that persistence, humility, and courage open us to his grace.

In our daily lives, we may face obstacles, delays, or moments when our prayers seem unanswered. Like the Canaanite woman, we are called to remain persistent, trusting that God sees our need and responds in his time. Discipleship is strengthened through perseverance, and faith grows when we learn to rely not on our own understanding, but on the mercy and wisdom of God. ■



SAY

**Lord Jesus,
Give me the courage to bring my
needs to you with persistence and
humility.
Help me trust in your mercy and
timing.
Amen.**

DO

This week, don't give up in prayer or in asking for help, even if answers seem delayed — trust that God hears and responds in his time.

LEARN

Faith requires perseverance and humility, and God's mercy is available to all who trust in him, regardless of status or background.