The Word of God

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 16, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Almighty, eternal God, increase in us your gifts of faith, hope and love; and in order that love may abide in us, help us to celebrate what your love has done for us. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

[1]Thus says the LORD: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon
my salvation will come, and my righteousness be revealed."

[6]And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister
to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant — [7]these I will bring to my holy
mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their
burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."
[8]The LORD God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I
will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered."

Psalm 67

[1]May God be merciful to | us and bless us,*
  show us the light of his countenance and | come to us.
[2]Let your ways be known | upon earth,*
  your saving health a- | mong all nations.
[3]Let the peoples praise | you, O God;*
  let all the | peoples praise you.
[4]Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,*
  for you judge the peoples with equity
  and guide all the nations | upon earth.
[5]Let the peoples praise | you, O God;*
  let all the | peoples praise you.
[6]The earth has brought | forth her increase;*
  may God, our own God, give | us his blessing.
[7]May God give | us his blessing,*
  and may all the ends of the earth stand in | awe of him.

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

[1]I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I
myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of
the tribe of Benjamin. [2a]God has not rejected his people whom
he foreknew. …

[13]Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am
an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry [14]in order
somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some
of them. [15]For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the
world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?

[28]As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as
regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.
[29]For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. [30]For just as
you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received
mercy because of their disobedience, [31]so they too have now
been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they
also may now receive mercy. [32]For God has consigned all to
disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

[21]Jesus went away from {Gennesaret} and withdrew to the
district of Tyre and Sidon. [22]And behold, a Canaanite woman
from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me,
O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a
demon." [23]But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples
came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying
out after us." [24]He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep
of the house of Israel." [25]But she came and knelt before him,
saying, "Lord, help me." [26]And he answered, "It is not right to
take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." [27]She said,
"Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their
masters' table." [28]Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is
your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter
was healed instantly.

Lessons for Next Week: Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138;
Romans 11:33-12:8; Matthew 16:13-20

The Word of God — Weekly Scripture Inserts. Scripture taken from ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®). Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Psalms are taken from the Book of Common Prayer (public domain). Logo and art by Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.com). Permission is granted for subscribers to reproduce this sheet for local congregational use.