



From validating practices of exclusion and denigration, to justifying the confinement and killing of individuals and entire populations, people – who claim to be your people – have used your word as a powerful weapon of violence and subjugation. We confess that the narratives that emerge from practices of violence – past and present – continue to have powerful shaping power in our lives, our communities and our congregations. We confess that, all too often, we have been quick to concoct and to consume narratives that make us and our ancestors heroes, and equally quick to deny and silence the voices of those who reveal the darker side of our grand ideals. In fact, claiming divine rights with force has often produced profound wrong. And our peace has often come at the expense of others' insecurity. O God, Let the light of your face shine on us, so that we might see the fractures in our narratives and our communities, and be healed by your truth-speaking, life-giving word. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN #27**

*Sacred the Body*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Julie Stein

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING** Joshua 11:9-14

And Joshua did to [the Canaanites] as the Lord commanded him; he hamstrung their horses, and burned their chariots with fire.

Joshua turned back at that time, and took Hazor, and struck its king down with the sword. Before that time Hazor was the head of all those kingdoms. And they put to the sword all who were in it, utterly destroying them; there was no one left who breathed, and he burned Hazor with fire. And all the towns of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua took, and struck them with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them, as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded. But Israel burned none of the towns that stood on mounds except Hazor, which Joshua did burn. All the spoil of these towns, and the livestock, the Israelites took for their booty; but all the people they struck down with the edge of the sword, until they had destroyed them, and they did not leave any who breathed.

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**          Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

**SERMON**      "Confronting and Confounding Narratives of Biblical Violence"

**ANTHEM**                                  *Healer of Our Every Ill*  
    Marty Haugen

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**                                  Jock Wright

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen!

**CLOSING HYMN #757**      *Today We Are Called to Be Disciples*

\* **BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE**                          *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*  
    Arr. Jack Schrader



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