

# Epiphany 7

February 3, 2013 • Luke 4: 21-30



**A**FTER HEALING A MAN in Capernaum, Jesus went to the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth, preached from Isaiah, and announced that the Anointed One sent by God to do amazing things was now among them. The congregation was pleased, probably thinking how wonderful it was to have their own resident prophet and healer, and the cachet this would bring to their village.

Then Jesus told them quite bluntly that he would not be performing miracles among them, but instead would go to preach and heal among the Gentiles—like Elijah and Elisha did in ancient days. Why would a prophet of Israel take God's gifts of healing and reconciliation to the Gentiles? Gentiles were outside the covenant, unclean, enemies of Israel! The people were furious.

How quick we are to claim God's gifts for ourselves, and how greedily we guard them. Jesus taught that God's love is for all those who need it. The Church's mission is to share what we have with those who are outside our walls. Sometimes this begins with getting rid of our walls: denominational, class, social, even physical walls.

I am grateful to work at St. David's Anglican Lutheran Church in Orillia, Ontario, a congregation on the territories of the Eastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and Diocese of Toronto, Anglican Church of Canada. St. David's is serious about its ministry to those outside its walls.

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*God of All, help us to see you in our neighbour and be willing to share what we have—food, resources, space, community—signs of your love shared with us. Amen.*

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*Pamela Harrington (Orillia, Ontario), a member of the Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission, was formed as a Lutheran deaconess at Valparaiso University in Indiana and trained as a psychotherapist at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in Ontario. Pamela offers a ministry which embraces teaching, creative liturgy and counselling.*

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