



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 129, Wilton, WI 54670
608-435-6647
October 7, 2018
20th Sunday after Pentecost

Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

GATHERING Welcome/Announcements

As God's children we are

Inviting People to Journey with Christ's Family in Spreading God's Love and Mercy

You are invited to practice God's Love and Mercy by turning to those around you, greeting one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you," or something similar.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

**Source of all life,
we confess that we have not allowed
your grace to set us free.**

**We fear that we are not good enough.
We hear your word of love freely given to us,
yet we expect others to earn it.
We turn the church inward,
rather than moving it outward.
Forgive us. Stir us.
Reform us to be a church powered by love,
willing to speak for what is right,
act for what is just,
and seek the healing of your whole creation.
Amen.**

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.
Our sins are forgiven,
✠ God's love is unconditional,
and we are raised up as God's people
who will always be made new,
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*Gathering Hymn "Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"

ELW #520

*Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

*Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

*Canticle of Praise

“This is the Feast”

ELW pp. 149-150

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

A reading from Genesis 2:18-24

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

²³Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.”

²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 8

¹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—
²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of
infants and children;
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe
and avenger.**
³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**
⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.
⁶**You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:**
⁷all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,
⁸**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**
⁹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

A reading from Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

^{2:5}Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?"

⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,
⁸subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them,⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

ELW p. 151

The holy gospel according to Mark 10:2-16

Glory to you, O Lord

²Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” ⁵But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries

another, she commits adultery.”

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

*Hymn

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

ELW #656

*Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession

Offering

*Offertory

“We Are an Offering”

ELW #692

*Offertory Prayer

**God of life,
you give us these gifts of the earth,
these resources of our life and our labor.
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,
and use them to set a table that will heal the whole
creation;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to our Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed our right, our duty and our joy.....we praise your
name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW p. 153

*Words of Institution

* The Lord’s Prayer

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ’s table.

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 154

Prayer after Communion

**Holy and compassionate God,
in bread and wine you give us gifts
that form us to be humble and courageous.
May your words come to life
in our serving and in our witness,
that we might speak a living voice
of healing and justice to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.**

SENDING

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

ELW#879

Dismissal

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People *Pastor:* Karen Sparling *Organist:* Pat Barnes

Greeters: Judy Arndt and Larry Ballwahn *Altar Committee:* Arlis and Larry

Ballwahn *Reader:* Dan Buchholz *Communion Server:* Justin Arndt

Ushers: Lori and Joel Arndt, Barb and John Ornes

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Matt Zirk, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Robert Cale

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Shirley Meranti, Ron Clark, Carol Osteboe, Mildred Radke, Lorayne Denter, Marjorie Muhr, Ed Bauer, Jerry Eckelberg, Ron Doll, Rod Hermanson, Helen and Evan Summerfield, Don Schreier, Linda Bauer, Rick Brandau, Linda Finnigan, Bob Manson, Dawson Champlin

In an emergency situation, please contact Caitlyn Stanek @608-633-1824

or Dan Buchholz @608-435-6126 (H) or 608-487-6525 ©

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