

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 6th, 2024 – 8:30 AM

WELCOME



Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. 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?

- † Preacher – Reverend Wes Smith
- † Officiant – Pr. Brian Griswold
- † Worship Leader – Earl Hem

WORSHIP

HYMN: In the Secret

In the secret, in the quiet place,
in my deepest heart I know
In the stillness, in the quiet hour I wait only for You
'Cause I want to know You more

Chorus

I am reaching for the highest goal, that I might receive the prize
Pressing onward, pushing every hindrance aside, out of my way
'Cause I want to know You more

Chorus

Chorus:

I want to know You,
I want to hear Your voice
I want to know You more
I want to touch You,
I want to see Your face
I want to know You more

© 1995 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing, CCLI License # 22085334

HYMN: Yet Not I, but through Christ in Me.

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer, There is no more for Heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom, My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace. To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, "all is mine", Yet not I but through Christ in me.
2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken, For by my side the Savior He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, For in my need His power is displayed.
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won and I shall overcome, Yet not I but through Christ in me.
3. No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven, The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated, Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing "I am free". Yet not I but through Christ in me.
4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus, For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day, I know He will renew me Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, All the glory evermore to Him When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat. Yet not I but through Christ in me.

© 2018 CityAlight Music; Farren Love And War Publishing; Integrity's Alleluia! Music, CCLI License # 22085334

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.

GOD'S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: 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.

³**When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,**

⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?

⁵**Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.**

⁶You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:

⁷**all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,**

⁸the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

⁹**O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Mark 10: 13 - 16; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

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, Lord Jesus Christ!**



SERMON – Reverend Wes Smith
“Of Such is the Kingdom of Heaven”

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as you fed 5,000 from the gifts of a young boy, we pray that you will transform our gifts to feed many spiritually hungry people through the ministry and mission of this church. We offer these gifts and ourselves to your service. **Amen.**

OFFERING HYMN: We Belong to You

Holy and kind, and just with all men
Is the Lord who rules o’er the land
We lift our voices and sing unto Him
Who is holy and kind and just with all men

Gracious Redeemer, merciful friend
Perfect in all that You do
Righteous and mighty before all men
All of our praises belong to You

We belong to you, Lord; we belong to You
All of our praises, belong to You

“Holy and Kind”, Written by Andy Nowlen, Jill Lyle and Robin Lyle; c. 1996 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, CCLI License # 22085334

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

† We recognize those joining us via FaceBook Live, and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests submitted for our worship.

Challenged by God’s Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation. *A brief silence.*

God of our ancestors, we give thanks for the church in all times. May we listen for the prophets of this age who bear messages that stir the church toward renewal and justice.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator of every creature on earth, direct our lives toward the renewal and sustaining of cattle, birds of the air, animals of the field, and those who share our homes. Reveal the ways we can work alongside creation for the health and well-being of all.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, we give thanks that you are mindful and benevolent to even us, mere mortals. Accompany us when hardness of heart gets in the way of justice between people and nations. Endow leaders with minds for justice and hearts for compassion.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Restoring Lord, grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick and suffering. Grace those from our families and community in greatest need of our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud)*. Work through medical professionals to diagnose, ease pain, and give life to all who seek their wisdom and experience. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Unifying God, humans were created for relationship with the earth, its creatures, and one another. Forgive us when division threatens companionship, mutual support, and unity among us. May your love inspire us to build supportive communities of faith where all are cherished.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection, you prepare a place in the kingdom through Christ’s death and resurrection. We give thanks for the saints who have taken their place at your heavenly banquet.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

