

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 6th, 2024 – 10 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. Rudy Schneider

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. Live now as the forgiven child of God and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into all righteousness. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: ELW#876 – Let the Whole Creation Cry

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:

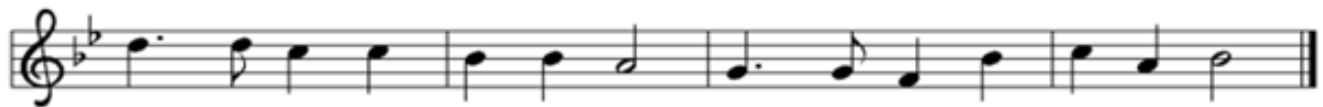
⁷**all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,**

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!**



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.
Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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”

HYMN: ELW#769 – If you But Trust in God to Guide You



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **Amen.**

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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus the Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages, to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.

He fulfilled all your will. He stretched out his hands in suffering, in order to free from suffering those who trust in you. As he was born to die, you raised him from death to life, so that we too know that we shall be raised from death to life.

We therefore remember that he took bread, and after giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.



And in the same way, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. And unto that time, we come before you praying;



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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; 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.

Invitation to Communion – Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

COMMUNION HYMN 1: As the Deer

1. As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you. **Chorus**
2. You're my friend and You are my brother,
even though You are a King.
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything. **Chorus**

Chorus:

You alone are my strength, my shield;
To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

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COMMUNION HYMN 2: Jesus, Name above all Names

Jesus name above all names
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord
Emmanuel, God is with us
Blessed Redeemer living Word.

Jesus, loving Shepherd
Vine of the branches, Son of God
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor
Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

Praise him, Lord above all lords,
King above all kings, God's only Son
The Prince of Peace, who by his Spirit
Comes to live in us, Savior and Friend

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Closing Prayer - Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing – God all mighty, God most merciful ✝ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: ELW#663 – Spread, O, Spread Almighty Word

Song of Blessing

May God’s blessing surround you each day,
As you trust God and walk in God’s way.
May God’s presence within guard and keep you from sin,
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

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Dismissal: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Notes:
