

ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 3rd, 2021 | 8:30 AM

19th Sunday after Pentecost

(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C = Congregation**)

(blue and green are hymnal colors)

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

WELCOMING WORD *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?*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

C: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,

L: the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

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

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

C: O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

+Hymn #250 - Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty (vs. 1, 2)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God, our comforter

C: Like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our

apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

L: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C: Amen.

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also, with you.**

+ KYRIE pg. 57 (Green)

+ HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 60 (Green) *This is the feast...*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Holy God,

C: **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.**

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.

SECOND READING: 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.”

ACCLAMATION (pg. 62)

(sing) Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

L: The Gospel according to Mark, Chapter 10

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: Mark 10:2-16

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.' ⁷'For 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.

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Come as a Child" - Mark Wilson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

+HYMN #474 - Children of the Heavenly Father

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

+ NICENE CREED pg. 64 (Green)

+ **THE PRAYERS** pg. 65 (Green) (As the pastor concludes each petition with the words: “Lord in your mercy...” The people respond: **Hear our prayer.**)”

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Let the vineyards be fruitful* pg. 63(Green)

MEAL

+ **Offering Prayer** pg. 67 (Green)

+ **The Great Thanksgiving** pg. 68 (Green)

+ **Words of Institution.** pg. 69 (Green)

+ **The Lord’s Prayer** pg. 71 (Green) (right hand column)

COMMUNION

+ **Blessing** P. 72 (Green)

+**Post Communion Canticle** pg. 72 (Green)

+ **Prayer** P. 74 (Green)

SENDING

COMMUNITY WORD

+BLESSING

L: May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again.

C: **Amen.**

+**HYMN #721(blue) - Go, My Children, with My Blessing (vs. 1, 3)**

+DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 3, 2021

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 112, Blessings of the Righteous

Tuesday, Deuteronomy 24:1-5, Concerning Marriage and Divorce

Wednesday, Matthew 5:27-36, Concerning Adultery

Thursday, Psalm 90:12-17, God's Eternity and Human Frailty

Friday, Deuteronomy 5:22-33, Moses as God's Messenger

Saturday, Matthew 15:1-9, The Tradition of the Elders

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you." -- *Mark 10:5* *Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.*

- What is your reaction to this teaching?
- What 'hardness of heart' in our lives has strained relationships?
- How does the emphasis on children tell you about Jesus' concern with families?

PRAY: O 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.**

BLESS: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, one God, bless you now and forever. Amen.