

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 6, 2024

10:15 am

Prelude

Welcome

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?

Announcements

Confession and 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.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #641 "All Are Welcome" (vs 1, 2 & 3)

- 1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions;**

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

- 2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus; (Refrain)**

3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat; a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us; (Refrain)

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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.

Readings and Psalm

First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other "one flesh." The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).

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.

Psalm: Psalm 8

¹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

²you 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,

**⁴what 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.

⁶You 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!

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God's right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.

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."

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. If we love one another, God lives in us and God's love is perfected in us. *Alleluia.* (1 John 4:12)

The Holy Gospel according to the book of Mark, beginning with the Tenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

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.

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 our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #656 "*Blest Be The Tie That Binds*"

- 1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.**
- 2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**
- 3. We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear, and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**
- 4. From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship rein through all eternity.**

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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.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Hymn: ELW #686 "We Give Thee But Thine Own" 1st verse

- 1. We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

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Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

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

The 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 the Lord, our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Preface

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Distribution Hymn: ELW #644

"Although I Speak With Angel's Tongue"

- 1. Although I speak with angel's tongue, my faith, my knowledge all surpass,
but have no love, my gifts are vain as clanging gong or blaring brass.**
- 2. For love is patient, love is kind, and never vain with boasting pride; love
bears all things, all things endures. All things must end; love will abide.**

3. For now we peer at darkened glass; our visions end; our tongues all cease.
In part we know, in part now see: then we will see love face to face.
4. The gifts are many, the Body one, and into one are all baptized. Beloved,
share on heart, one mind, one hope, on faith, on love in Christ.

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Post-communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

God all mighty, God most merciful ✚ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #835 "All Creatures Worship God Most High"

Vs. 1, 2, 5 & 6

1. All creatures, worship God most high! Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright; sing, sister moon
and stars of night.

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2. Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
grain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Dear sister water, useful, clear, make music for
your Lord to hear: *Refrain:*
5. And you, most gentle sister death, waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia!
Alleluia! Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom, fair is the night that
leads us home. Alleluia. *Refrain:*
6. O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia! L creatures, bless the father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in
One: Alleluia. *Refrain:*

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements:

Bible Study on Wednesday, at 9 am

VIGILS of PRAYER & LISTENING School Sisters of Notre Dame in Mankato and North Mankato, together with SSND Associates, welcome you to join them for hour-long gatherings of "Prayer and Listening." Thursdays, from 7:00-8:00 PM, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 632 S Broad Street. No registration necessary.

Vivian Strand is our Red Rose. On October 9, 2024 she will be 104 years old, and her love for her family and friends remains strong. Please come to the Pathstone Living Chapel on October 12, 2-4 pm to help her celebrate. Pie from the Rapidan Dam Café and Cider Donuts from the Welsh Heritage Farms will be served. Your presence will be your gift to her. Please RSVP at (712) 330-1823 by September 28.

2nd Annual Women's Event Warm your Heart with Plaid! Saturday, November 9, 2024 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. See poster in Narthex for more information.

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