

20th Sunday after Pentecost October 6, 2024

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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?



Pastor Wolfgang

Confession and Forgiveness

- P. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. Amen.
- **P.** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires 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.
- C. Amen.
- **P.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

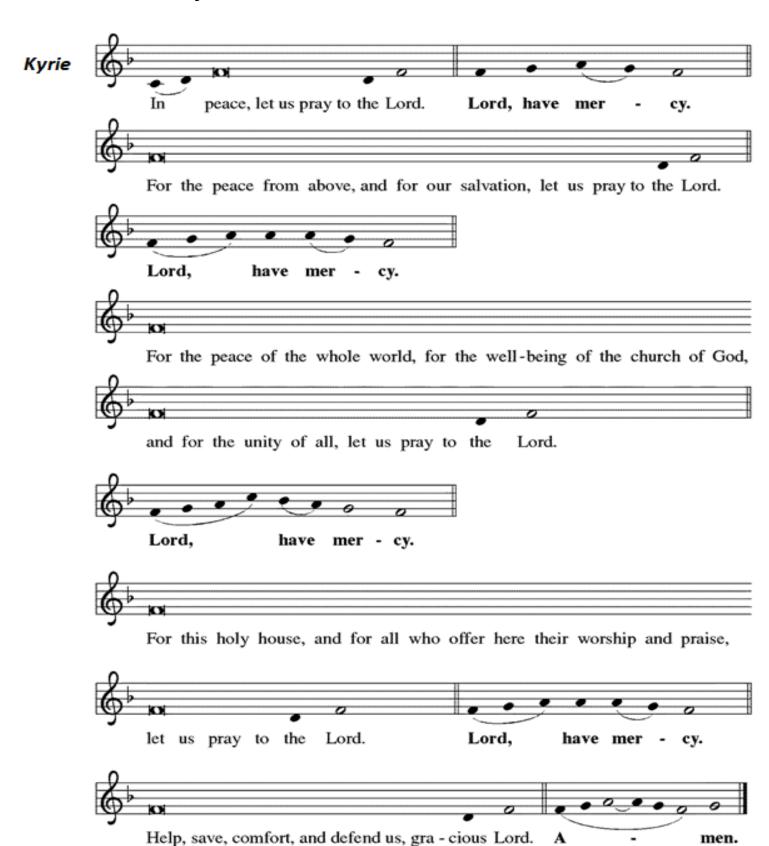
- P. Most merciful God,
- C. we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the 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.
- P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ⊕ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. Amen

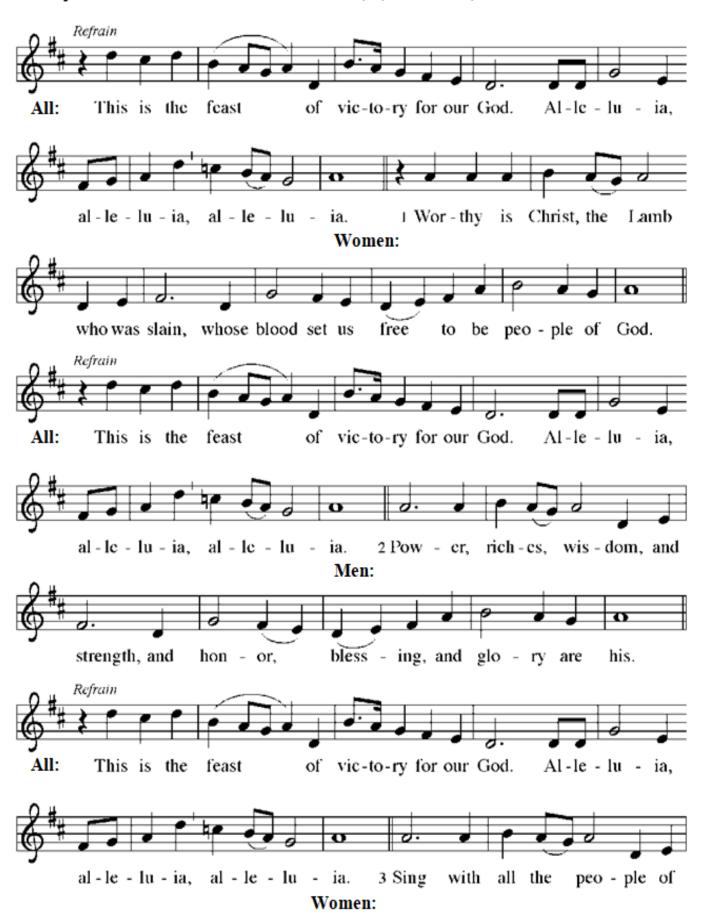
The Peace

- **P.** May the peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C. And also with you.

Greeting

- **P.** 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.







Prayer of the Day

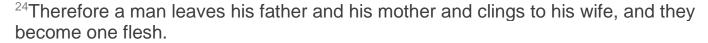
- **A.** Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C. Amen.

First Reading Genesis 2:18-24

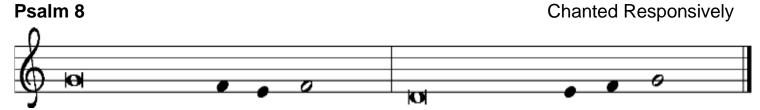
¹⁸The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone: I will make him a helper as his partner." 19So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living 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."



- L. Word of God. Word of life.
- C. Thanks be to God.



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 in- | fants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe | and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work ¹ of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set ¹ in their courses,

⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mind- | ful of them, human beings that you should | care for them?

"The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Genesis 2:18

⁵Yet you have made them little less ¹ than divine; with glory and hon- ¹ or you crown them.

⁶You have made them rule over the works [|] of your hands; you have put all things un- [|] der their feet:

⁷all [|] 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.

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

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."
- L. Word of God. Word of life.
- C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



- P. The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.
- C. Glory to you, O God.

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.

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

Hymn of the Day

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

The Apostles' Creed

- L. With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
- C. 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 again 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

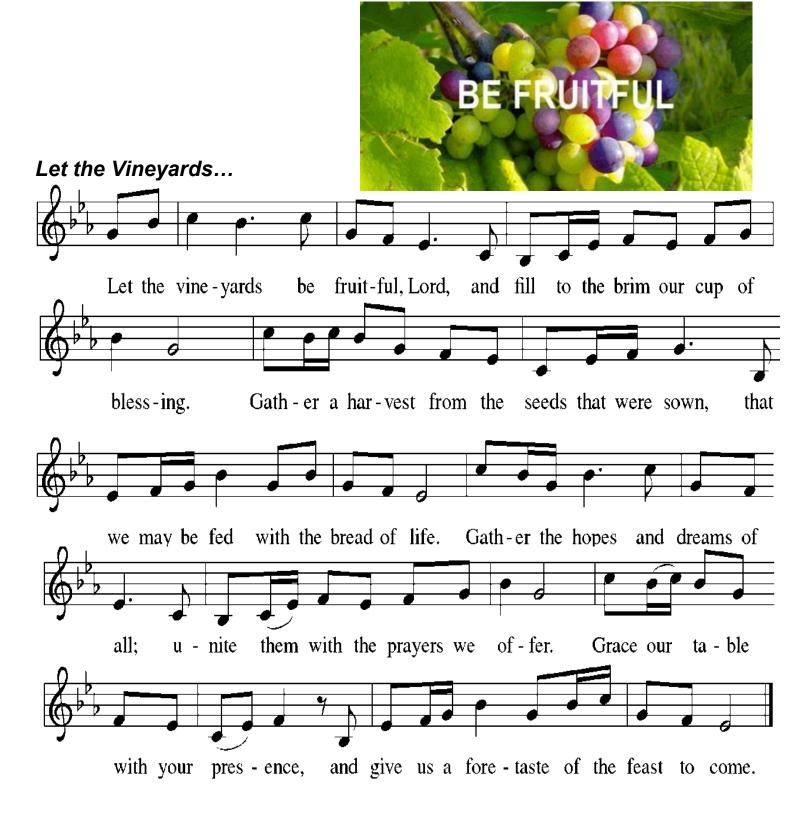


A. Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

- **A.** 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,
- C. hear our prayer.
- A. 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 wellbeing of all. God of grace,
- C. hear our prayer.
- A. 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,
- C. hear our prayer.
- **A.** Restoring Lord, grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick and suffering (especially). Work through medical professionals to diagnose, ease pain, and give life to all who seek their wisdom and experience. God of grace,
- C. hear our prayer.
- **A.** 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,
- C. hear our prayer.

Other Prayers

- **A.** 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 (especially William Tyndale, translator and martyr, whom we commemorate today). God of grace,
- C. hear our prayer.
- **P.** Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.
- C. Amen.



Offertory Prayer

- **A.** 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.
- C. Amen.

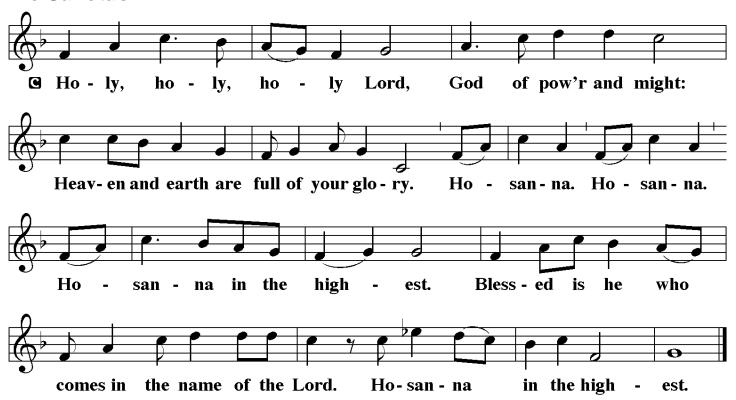


The Great Thanksgiving

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.
- P. Lift up your hearts.
- C. We lift them to the Lord.
- **P.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- **P.** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The Sanctus





Words of Institution

P. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, 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.

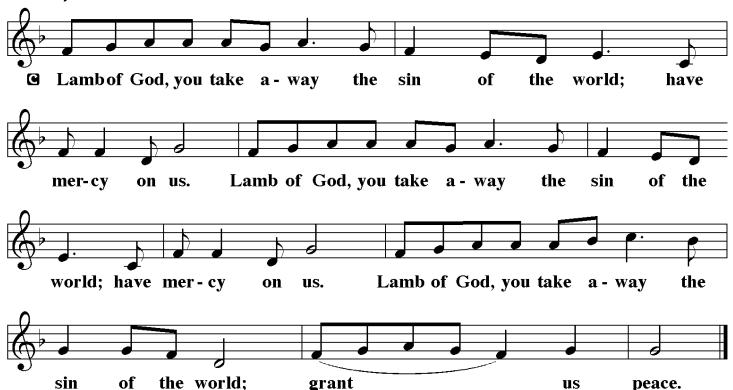


Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

- **P.** Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God. All are welcome, no exceptions.
- C. Alleluia!

Jesus, Lamb of God

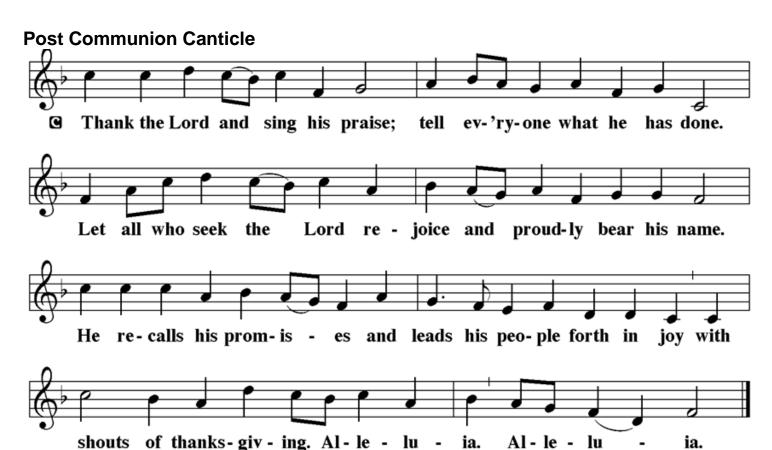


Communion Hymns

Post Communion Blessing

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.

C. Amen



Post Communion Prayer

A. 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.





Blessing

- **P.** Now may the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ⊕ give you peace.
- C. Amen.

Dismissal

- A. Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
- C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Praised Be Thou, Jesus Christ ~ Johann Pachelbel

Gail Hrobuchak

Servers for Sunday, October 6th

Assisting Minister/Reader.	Carol Wilhelm
Reader	Don Wilhelm
Altar Guild	Sylvia Lambert
Greeters/Counters	Terry Barnes / Shannon Thomsen
Acolyte	Antonio Smith



Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.



Flowers this week are provided by Ginny King in celebration of Bill and Kingslee's Birthdays.

Candles this month are given by Gail Hrobuchak in memory of Dorothea Goodling and Dorothy Hrobuchak.



Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheets are on the board in the hallway.

Family of Thomas Isaacs

Donna Hanna
Jerry Hart
Connie Fortmeyer
Tom Harrison

Phil Garoutte

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

David Van Benschoten

lan Lambert
Bob DeVito
Mike Ritts
Patti Flynn
Donna Stone



Blessing of the Animals: Our annual service will be held this afternoon at 2 pm, outside our sanctuary entrance. An individual blessing will be offered for each pet and their owner, if desired, followed by a general blessing of all creation. The service should not take more than 20 minutes.

The Memorial Service for Thomas Isaacs will be held on Saturday, October 12, at 11 am in the church sanctuary. Because of this, the Spaghetti Dinner advertised for October 11 will be postponed; a new date will be announced soon.

The Baptism of baby Jamison Stone is scheduled for next Sunday, October 13, at the 10 am worship service. Because of this, the visit by the Islamic Divan Center announced for that date has now been moved to October 20.

LOOKING AHEAD: Pastor Wolfgang is offering a workshop on "Martin Luther & the Reformation" on Saturday, October 19, 10 am until 1 pm, based on the 2003 movie "Luther" with Joseph Fiennes. Come and hear about Luther's life and the basics of Lutheran theology. Attendance is required for our confirmation students (who will be asked to stay until 2 pm so we can practice for the October 27 confirmations) but has been opened to all interested.

We still need Candy, Candy! LOL will participate in the Town of Garner's Trick-r-Treat the Trails event at White Deer Park on October 31 and needs to prepare goodie bags for 2,000+ children. Please deposit your contributions (individually wrapped, no nuts) in the collection box in the lobby for this Halloween outreach event.





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"All are welcome, no exceptions!"

Rev. Dr. Wolfgang Herz-Lane, Pastor & Mission Developer (919) 810-3534

wolfgangherzlane@gmail.com



Monday – Thursday 1 pm to 6 pm

NOTE: To reach Laura outside normal core hours, please use email or call/text to (919) 349-4370.

Special Thanks to our good friends at Able to Serve, Inc.® for assembling these bulletins!

