



“Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”

Mark 10:15

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
20th Sunday after Pentecost – October 6, 2024**

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

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*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator. All children must be accompanied by an adult.*

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING SONG *Blest Be the Tie That Binds (ELW 656)



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

***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.

*Canticle of Praise *Glory to God*

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.
A - men, a - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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.

FIRST READING Genesis 2:18-24

A reading from Genesis.

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: Psalm 8

Read responsively – congregation reads bold printed verses

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.

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

⁴**what 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.

⁶**You 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

A reading from Hebrews.

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.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL READING: Mark 10:2-16

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

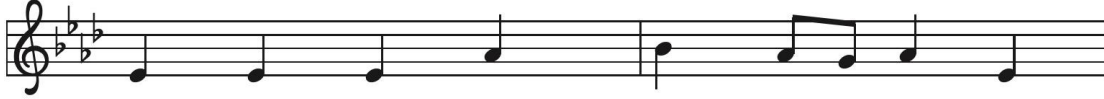
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *Kneeling in the Dust to Form Us* (ACS 1099)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



1 Kneel - ing in the dust to form us,
2 Shaped of flesh and bone and sin - ew,
3 Tem - pered bells re - sound more clear - ly,



mold - ing with a pot - ter's care, God blows breath of
sound - ing cham - bers for the Word, we are tuned by
forged of met - als bright and pure. So our lives, re -



life and Spir - it— pre - lude in the morn - ing air.
dai - ly prac - tice, sea - soned by each les - son heard.
fined by Wis - dom, sound in ac - cents that en - dure.



We be - come God's liv - ing ves - sels:
Skill - ful - ly, the Spir - it plays us,
God's own hand rings out the chang - es,



we, the flutes and pipes and reeds, ech - o - ing the
fin - gers deft on fret and string, pluck - ing mel - o -
strik - ing chords as yet un - known, till a new earth



Spir - it's mu - sic through the wit - ness of our deeds.
dies of yearn - ing as our hearts re - spond and sing.
fills with mu - sic rich and sweet as heav - en's own.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation. (*a brief silence for reflection*)

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 us, mere mortals. Accompany us when hardness of heart gets in the way of justice between people. 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 especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts and all who suffer in any way with the oil of healing and grant them renewal. 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.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God. We pray for (*blue prayer cards are read*). Receive these and the prayers for which we do not yet have words into your holy keeping in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* (ELW 470)

Rise on 3rd verse



1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

***BLESSING OF THE QUILTS**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. 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.**

*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 our thanks and praise.

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 musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est."

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.
The universe declares your praise:
Beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.
We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
Through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.
We bless you, O God.

We give thanks for your dear Son: At the heart of human life;
near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.
We thank you, O God.

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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
In our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,
Through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.
Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,
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.

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Now We Join in Celebration* (ELW 462)



1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
 For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
 rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
 of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
 Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
 pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' n - ly glad - ness.
 seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

COMMUNION HYMN *Eat This Bread* (ELW 472)



“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
 OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
 Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.



***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace.

Amen

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

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,

God of grace

✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Bind Us Together Lord* (WOV 748)**

Refrain
F



Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

*C*⁷ F F



can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,

Dm Gm C F



bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.

F *C*⁷ F F *C*⁷ F



1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King.
2 You are the fam - ly of God. You are the prom - ise di - vine.

F *C*⁷ F F *C*⁷ F *Refrain* B^b/C



There . . is on - ly one Bod - y; that . . is why we can sing;
You are God's cho - sen de - sire, you are the glo - rious new wine.

***DISMISSAL**

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord say, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’

And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’”

Isaiah 6:8

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Gene H

Acolyte: Abby C

Ushers:

Greeters:

Offering: Ava N and Lydia M

Notes for the day’s texts:

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?

Today’s Music

Blest Be the Tie That Binds. Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt., Music: Johann G. Nægeli, 1773-1836, adapt. Public Domain.

Kneeling in the Dust to Form Us. Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953, Music: Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962. GIA Publications, Inc. / Augsburg Fortress.

Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether. Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt., Music: Harold Friedell, 1905–1958. Oxford University Press (New York) / CPP/Belwin Music.

Now We Join in Celebration. Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990, Music: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662. Estate of Joel W. Lundeen / Public Domain.

Eat This Bread. Text: Taizé Community, Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994. GIA Publications, Inc.

Bind Us Together. Text: Bob Gillman, b. 1946, Music: Bob Gillman, b. 1946. Capitol CMG Publishing.

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Next Week’s Readings

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Turn from injustice to the poor, that you may live

Psalms 90:12-17 So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom

Hebrews 4:12-16 Approach the throne of grace with boldness

Mark 10:17-31 Teaching on wealth and reward