

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

## October 6, 2024 ✚ Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

*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?*

### ✚ GATHERING ✚

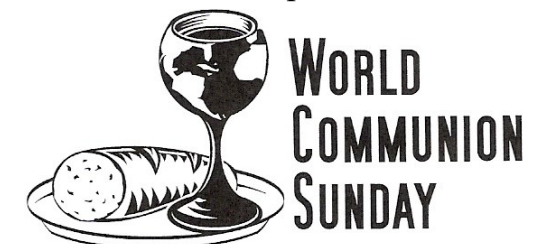
#### Prelude

*(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)*

#### Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

**Holy Communion** will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.



## Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost



### Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

“Turn to me and be saved,” says the Lord.

“For I am God and there is no other.”

**If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,  
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Today we consider the relationships into which the Lord has placed us,  
especially our families, and how we treat one another in them.

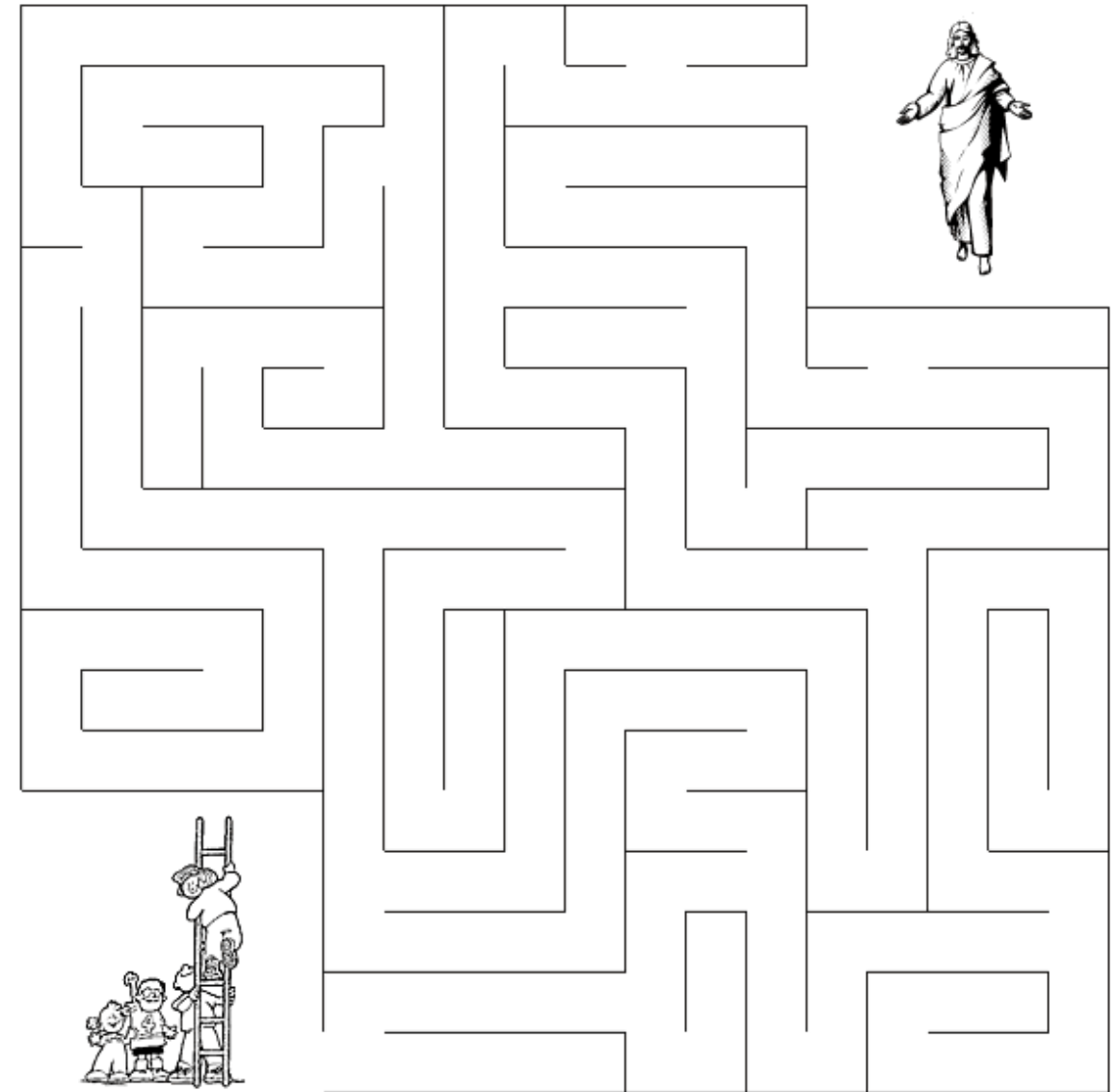
*(Silence for confession and self-examination.)*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.  
Selfishly we turn from one another and from you,  
separating what you have joined together.  
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon 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.**

For our sake, Jesus was made lower than the angels.  
As a member of the human family, he tasted death for everyone.  
For his sake our sins are forgiven.  
To those who believe in Jesus Christ,  
God gives the power to become children of God  
and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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## Help the children find their way to Jesus.



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**Benediction**

May you go as God’s people who are blessed to be a blessing.  
May you go in the name of Jesus to touch and heal the hurt around us.  
May you go with a strong presence of God’s Holy Spirit  
to be light and love to all the world.  
May you go in the name of the Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Sending Song**                      *Now Thank We All Our God*                      #840

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,  
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;  
with ev - er joy - ful hearts, and bless - ed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high-est heav - en,

who, from our moth-ers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,  
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878  
Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662  
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**Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gathering Song**                      *All Are Welcome*                      #641

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions

live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as

hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -

*Refrain*

Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
claim the faith of Je - sus:  
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
end to fear and dan - ger:  
claim from floor to raf - ter:

all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

## Opening Litany

**You have placed us into families, O Lord,  
we thank you for the love our families give.**

You have blessed husbands and wives  
with a special kind of love, O Lord,  
**we thank you for the marriages  
that have brought our lives such joy.**

You have graced our homes with children, O Lord,  
**we thank you for the many ways  
 that children have enriched our lives.**

Within our families, O Lord,  
**may your presence be felt.**

Within the marriages you have established, O Lord,  
**may your love strengthen the love between husbands and wives.**

Among our children, O Lord,  
**may faith in you be nurtured and shared.**

And within this church, O Lord,  
**may we all remember that we are members of your family forever.**

## Apostolic Greeting

The blessing of the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the glorious love bestowed by the ✠ Son,  
and the power of the promised Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## Hymn of Praise

*Praise to You, O God of Mercy*

#208



- |   |        |    |      |     |       |     |           |        |        |    |     |       |       |
|---|--------|----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----------|--------|--------|----|-----|-------|-------|
| 1 | Praise | to | you, | O   | God   | of  | mer - cy: | thanks | be     | to | you | for - |       |
| 2 | From   | of | old  | you | loved | and | sought    | us:    | thanks | be | to  | you   | for - |
| 3 | Praise | to | you, | O   | God   | of  | mer - cy: | thanks | be     | to | you | for - |       |

## *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

#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.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.  
Music: Johann G. Nägeli, 1773-1836, adapt.  
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## Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

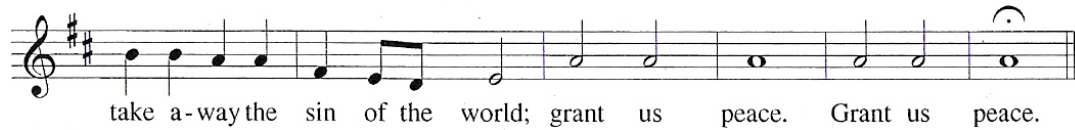
Holy God,

**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. Ame**

**✚ SENDING ✚**

## Announcements





**Distribution**

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:  
*The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.*  
*The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.*

**Distribution Hymn** *Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue* #644

Musical notation for the hymn 'Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue'. The melody is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are:  
1 Al - though I speak with an - gel's tongue, my faith, my  
2 For love is pa - tient, love is kind, and nev - er  
3 For now we peer at dark - ened glass; our vi - sions  
4 The gifts are man - y, the Bod - y one, and in - to  
knowl - edge all sur - pass, but have no love, my gifts are  
vain with boast - ing pride; love bears all things, all things en -  
end; our tongues all cease. In part we know, in part now  
one are all bap - tized. Be - lov - ed, share one heart, one  
vain as clang - ing gong or blar - ing brass.  
dures. All things must end; love will a - bide.  
see: then we will see love face to face.  
mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b.1951 © 1995 Andrew Donaldson.  
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Music: English traditional; Public Domain

Musical notation for the hymn 'The Body of Christ'. The melody is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:  
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:  
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:'Musical notation for the hymn 'The Body of Christ'. The melody is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
thanks be to you for - ev - er!'

Musical notation for the hymn 'The Body of Christ'. The melody is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -'

Musical notation for the hymn 'The Body of Christ'. The melody is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.'

Musical notation for the hymn 'The Body of Christ'. The melody is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!'

Text: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*  
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.**



✠ WORD ✠

**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).*

*A reading from Genesis.*

<sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” <sup>19</sup>So 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. <sup>20</sup>The 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. <sup>21</sup>So 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. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>Then 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.”

<sup>24</sup>Therefore 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.**

**Psalms 8**

*Let us read Psalm 8 responsively.*

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

<sup>2</sup>**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.**

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

<sup>4</sup>**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,  
human beings that you should care for them?**

*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.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

**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,**

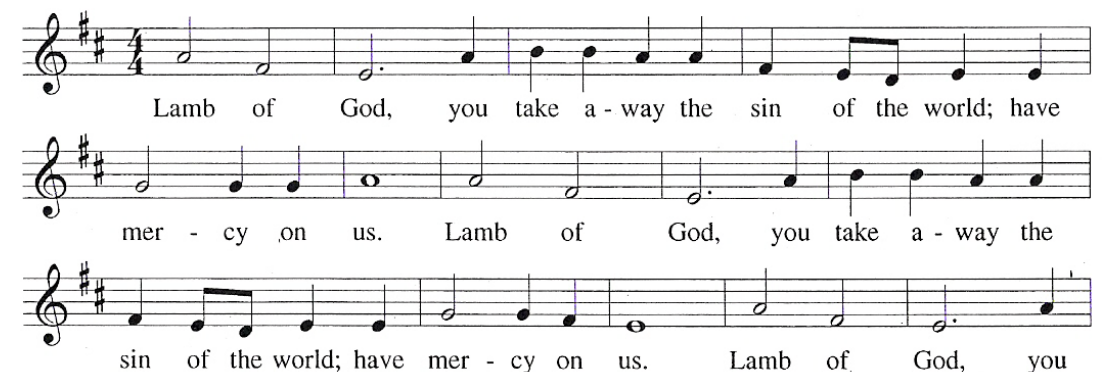
**as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

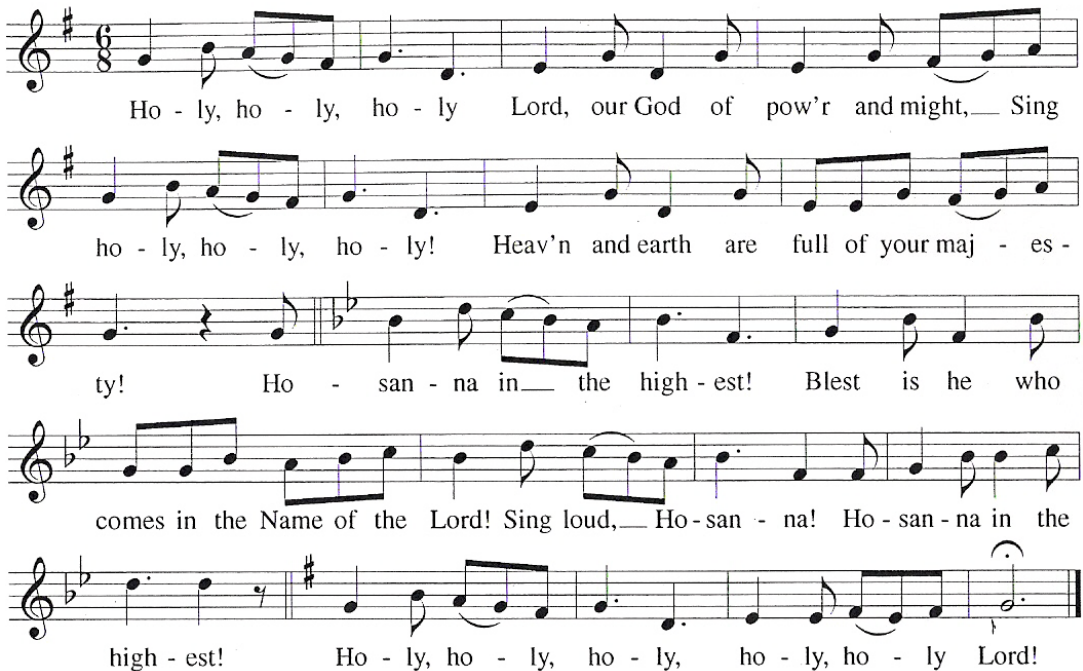
**Agnus Dei**

**Lamb of God**

*Family of God*



**Sanctus** *Holy, Holy, Holy* *Family of God*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, our God of pow'r and might, Sing  
 ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Heav'n and earth are full of your maj - es -  
 ty! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Blest is he who  
 comes in the Name of the Lord! Sing loud, Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

### Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
 who preached good news to the poor,  
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

On 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, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:

<sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them little less than divine;  
 with glory and honor you crown them.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made them rule over the works of your hands;  
 you have put all things under their feet:**

<sup>7</sup>all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

<sup>8</sup>the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
 and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

<sup>9</sup>**O 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.*

*A reading from Hebrews.*

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but 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.

<sup>3</sup>He 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, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>2:5</sup>Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. <sup>6</sup>But someone has testified somewhere,

"What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals,  
 that you care for them?"

<sup>7</sup>You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;

you have crowned them with glory and honor,

<sup>8</sup>subjecting 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, <sup>9</sup>but 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.

<sup>10</sup>It 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. <sup>11</sup>For 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, <sup>12</sup>saying,

“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 Verse**      *God's Word is Our Great Heritage*      #509



God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;  
to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.  
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while  
time shall last your church may hold it fast through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, 1861-1925, alt.  
Music: Martin Luther, 1483-1546  
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**Holy 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.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord!**

✠ **MEAL** ✠

**World Communion Litany**

God calls us to come and dine this day  
with our brothers and sisters around the world.  
**God's food is good for the body, mind, and soul.**

It heals and mends, strengthens and delights.  
**It warms, caresses and makes whole what is broken.**

God's food brings joy, wisdom, love and peace to all who eat it.  
**God calls us to turn the table aside from our busy ways  
and to sit at his table and eat together.**

Come then, come and dine.  
**Let us feast upon the bread and wine,  
which is the body and blood of our Lord and Savior.**

**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.**



**Proper Preface**

Always and everywhere  
praise and thanks are due to you, Almighty God,  
through Jesus Christ our great High Priest,  
by whose perfect obedience and all-sufficient sacrifice  
we are bold to stand in your presence,  
now and in the day of judgement.  
Therefore, with those who bear your name on earth  
and those who praise your name on high,  
we join the everlasting hymn:



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.  
**Amen.**

**Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**✠ OFFERING ✠**

**Offering Response**      *We Are an Offering*      #692

We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voice-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

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<sup>2</sup>Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” <sup>3</sup>He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” <sup>4</sup>They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” <sup>5</sup>But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ <sup>7</sup>‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” <sup>10</sup>Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup>and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” <sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But 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. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup>And 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 Time**  
**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day**      *Our Father, by Whose Name*      #640

1 Our Fa - ther, by whose name all par - ent - hood is known,  
2 O Christ, your - self a child with - in an earth - ly home,  
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, bind our hearts in u - ni - ty  
in love di - vine you claim each fam - 'ly as your own.  
with heart still un - de - filed to full a - dult - hood come:  
and teach us how to find the love from self set free;



Bless moth - ers, fa - thers, guard - ing well, with con - stant love as  
 our chil - dren bless in ev - 'ry place that they may all be -  
 in all our hearts such love in - crease that ev - 'ry home, by

sen - ti - nel, the homes in which your peo - ple dwell.  
 hold your face and, know - ing you, may grow in grace.  
 this re - lease, may be the dwell - ing place of peace.

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## Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**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 into hell.  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 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.**

## Prayers of the People

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

*A brief silence.*

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, **hear our prayer.**

P 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.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

P 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, **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, **hear our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.  
 God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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