
Worship & Holy Communion
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 6, 2024 9:30 a.m.



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?

In God's Service

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jane Harris
Ministers:	All Baptized People of God
Music:	Joe Chodur
Reader:	Dennis Marsh
Ushers	Dennis & Nancy Marsh

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have special prayer requests, you would like included in the Prayers of the Church, please write them on a purple slip from the table by the offering plate in the Narthex. The prayers will be brought forward during the Offertory.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN

All Are Welcome

ELW 641

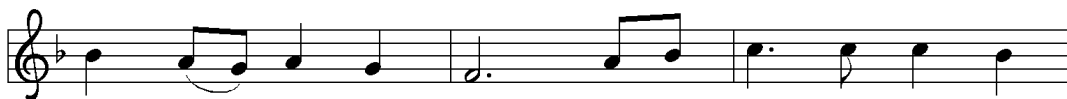
Vs 1,4 5



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 -



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.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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GREETING

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

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

How Great Thou Art

ELW 856

Vs 1

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed*

Refrain

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!*

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

The assembly is seated.

BLESSING OF SCHOOL KITS

P: We call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to us.

C: **Give ear to our voices when we call to you.**

P: We offer these School Kits for your blessing,

C: **That they may increase wisdom, learning and knowledge in your children.**

P: Bless the pencils and pens,

C: **That by using them, children will learn to write.**

P: Bless the rulers and pencil sharpeners,

C: **That they will enable a journey of learning.**

P: Bless the notebooks, erasers, crayons and scissors,

C: **That they will enable creativity to flow into our world.**

P: Bless the backpacks and all their contents,

C: **That the children who receive these kits might carry with them a love of learning.**

P: Lord, give instruction to the wise and they will become wiser still;

C: **Teach the righteous and they will gain in learning.**

CLOSING PRAYER

God of all knowledge, we dedicate these kits in your name, for our neighbors' good and for the sake of our world. May those who receive these gifts know your deep love for them and for all people. Bless the items in these School Kits and ensure that they help to meet the needs of our neighbors around the world. Watch over the teachers and educators around the world. Watch over the teachers and educators who will instruct the children as they use these materials. Let knowledge and wisdom spring forth in many communities as a result of these gifts. And may all be done to your glory. In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

RING HIS PRAISES BELL CHOIR

Joy

Genesis 2:18-24

Created for relationship

Psalm 8

You crown us with glory and honor.

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

God has spoken by a Son

Mark 10:2-16

Teaching on marriage

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: (Please read responsively)

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,
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!

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 *The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

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."¹⁰ Then 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."¹³ People 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."¹⁶ 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.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON



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: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

The assembly stands

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 (*PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY*)

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

A brief silence.

P: God of our ancestors, we give thanks for the church in all times.

C: **May we listen for the prophets of this age who bear messages that stir the church toward renewal and justice.**

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.

C: **Reveal the ways we can work alongside creation for the health and well-being of all.**

P: Sovereign God, we give thanks that you are mindful and benevolent to even us, mere mortals.

C: **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.**

P: Restoring Lord, grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick and suffering.

C: **Work through medical professionals to diagnose, ease pain, and give life to all who seek their wisdom and experience.**

P: Unifying God, humans were created for relationship with the earth, its creatures, and one another.

C: 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.

P: God of resurrection, you prepare a place in the kingdom through Christ's death and resurrection.

C: We give thanks for the saints who have taken their place at your heavenly banquet

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685

Vs 5

Take my will and make it thine;

It shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it is thine own;

it shall be thy royal throne.

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.

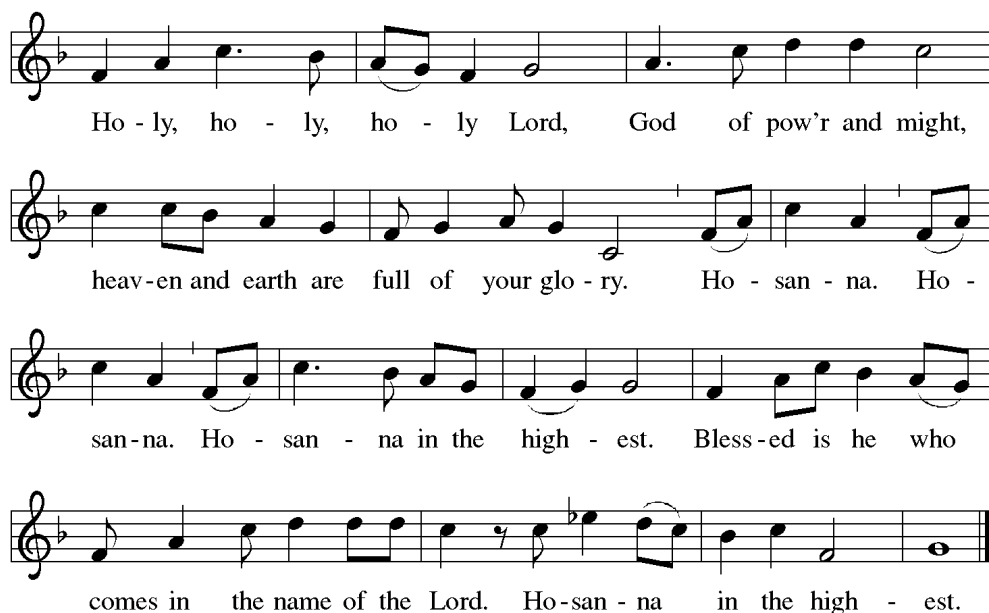
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Each side will be ushered forward down the center aisle. Those on the pulpit side will kneel at the communion rail at the front and fill into the back. Those on the lector side will kneel at the communion rail at the back and fill in to the front. Pastor will distribute the elements from the pulpit front and around the back. Communion is continual. Return your cups to the trays by the pews.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table.
(The assembly is seated)

COMMUNION MUSIC

Accompanist Choice

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Bind Us Together

WOV 748

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Calendar

This Week:

Sunday, Oct. 6 9:30 am Worship/Communion @ SP
10:30 am Fellowship
10:30 am Joint Council Meeting

Monday, Oct. 7 9:00 am Quilting OS
9:30 am Quilting SP

Tuesday, Oct. 8 Noon Worship Planning SP

Wednesday, Oct. 9 9:00 am Community Kitchen OS
9:30 am M & M's/WELCA SP
2:00 pm Anniversary Committee Meeting
OS
5:00 pm Ring His Praises Bell Choir
Practice SP
6:30 pm Bible Study SP

Next Week:

Sunday, Oct. 13 9:30 am Worship/Communion @ OS
10:30 am Fellowship
2:00 pm 2/4 Stitchers SP

Monday, Oct. 14 9:00 am Quilters OS
9:30 am Quilters SP
4-6 pm Chili Drive Thru SP

Wednesday, Oct. 16 9:30 am M&M's SP
5:00 pm Ring His Praises Bell Choir
Practice SP
6:30 Bible Study SP

Announcements

For the members of St Paul – if you would like to donate flowers for worship like the person that bought flowers in honor of the Atar Guild it is really very easy. All you need to do is call our Church Secretary Valerie (641-423-7749) and let her know which **month** you would like to place flowers. She will take care of the details of ordering and delivery. The cost is \$40 which covers an entire month. Checks should be made payable to St Paul Lutheran Church and put a note in the memo line “flowers”. If you would like to donate in memory or honor of a specific occasion or person let Valerie know and it will be printed in the bulletin. Thank you for your consideration to provide flowers for Sunday worship!

The following message is for all members of both churches. We often post pictures of our events on each church’s Facebook page. If you prefer your picture, not be posted please let Pastor Jane, Marilyn Martell or Diane Murphy know. We understand that not everyone wants their picture posted and we would like to be respectful of your preferences. Thank you.

Please be sure to sign **friendship registers** located at end of pews.

Reminder: the deadline for turning in announcements for the bulletin is Wednesday by 10 a.m.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and if you’d like to wear a pink ribbon all month

there’s a small basket of ribbons in the Fellowship Hall (of both churches) for you to take. It’s a reminder to get screened, so tell your friends/family members to set up their appointments!

St Paul WELCA will be holding a **scrapbooking/craft weekend**, beginning Friday, October 11 from 4:30 pm till midnight and Saturday, October 12 from 7 am to midnight. Meals provided-Friday night supper, Saturday breakfast and supper. The cost is \$45 per person.

Northeast Iowa Synodical Women's Organization Fall Field Trip

Who: All women are invited, but you must RSVP to Chris VanDeventer at cdvandeven@gmail.com or phone 515-320-2877 by October 14th.

What: The Fall Field Trip includes tours of the Grotto of the Redemption at West Bend, lunch at the Wagon Wheel in West Bend, and tours of the P.O.W. Museum in Algona and the Algona P.O.W. Nativity Scene.

Cost: \$5.00 for the POW Museum; the other two are fee-will donations; lunch on your own. **When:** Saturday, October 19, all day.

Where: Car pools will meet at 'hubs' and travel to West Bend for the first tour at 10:00 am, lunch at 11:15, and the Algona tours in the afternoon. Our hub is at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church parking lot; we'll leave there by 8:15 a.m.

Why: Have fun and fellowship with other Christian women! It's a celebration!

If you feel drawn to kneel during the service, please feel free to lower the kneelers and use them.

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for serving coffee hour and the Community Kitchen. **Please help where you can.**

Contact information for Pastor Jane: phone number is 641-242-0337 and her email address is janeharris2010@gmail.com if anyone in our church family wanted to contact her.

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