

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Kingdom Belongs to Little Children

October 22 & 23, 2022

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

“Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God” (Luke 18:16). Take these words of Jesus to heart! No matter your age, no matter your life’s journey, when you trust in the Lord Jesus as your King and Savior, our Father in heaven sees you as His precious child! “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God” (1 John 3:1). Come unto Jesus this day, dear children of God! Draw close at His gracious invitation. Be comforted by the assurance of His pardon. Listen to the voice of His living and active Word. Be filled with His presence at the feast He has prepared. Enjoy all the benefits of being a child of God! The Kingdom belongs to you!

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,
always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason
for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #794 “The Lord, My God, Be Praised”

The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield New blessings on my way.

1 continued

The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heaven;
The Father’s own dear Son, whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith The highest heav’nly good.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son In love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart And gives my spirit pow’r,
Help, comfort, and support In sorrow’s gloomy hour.

(Rise) The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the everliving,
To whom the heav’nly host Their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are adopted as God’s sons and daughters and drawn into His kingdom. By means of His Word and Supper, we gather to receive our Savior’s mercy and then respond to Him in thanksgiving and praise. Because of our sins of thought, word, and action, we are unworthy of the grace we receive. Therefore, at our Lord’s invitation, let us come before our heavenly Father in humility and faith, seeking His pardon for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Received into the certainty and security of His eternal kingdom, be assured that you belong to Him—He is your Father, and you are His children! As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

2

Refrain: *This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready
to hear than we to pray

People: **and always ready to give more than we either desire or deserve.**

Pastor: Strengthen us in the certainty of the forgiveness of sins and life
everlasting in your heavenly kingdom,

People: **that, as your children, we may love and trust in you all our days;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 4:1–15*

(Cain and Abel bring their offerings to the Lord.) Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." ² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you

angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it." ⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³ Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴ Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18* (The Lord will bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom.)

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. ¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 18:9–17* (The kingdom of God belongs to the children who come to Jesus.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighteenth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” ¹⁵ Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Jesus Loves the Little Children” TOSBB 19

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world;
Red and yellow, black and white, They are precious in His sight;
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

SERMON HYMN #605 “Father Welcomes”

Refrain:

**Father welcomes all His children To His fam’ly through His Son.
Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.**

Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. *Refrain*

In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured;
Those who are baptized and believe Shall be born again. *Refrain*

Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with Him.

Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. *Refrain*

SERMON

“Childlike Faith in a Grown Up Culture”

Luke 8:9-17

(Rise)

NICENE CREED

**People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our fellowship folder located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord of our salvation, bless us with childlike faith and great trust in you, your Word of Truth, and the promises given us through Jesus Christ.

People: **Fill us with your Holy Spirit that we more fully believe the truth, follow your Word, and live secure in your arms as your children.**

Pastor: Almighty Father, we come to you at the gracious invitation of your Son. May we receive your gifts and grace as little children.

People: **Deliver us from our own sinful flesh, the world and the devil who work to turn us away from you. Grant us humility to pray, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, be merciful to your Church here and in every place. Strengthen the bonds of your people in love and encouragement.

People: **Defend our pastors from arrogance and pride, and strengthen them in the faithful preaching of your Word, that both your holy Law and your precious Gospel would be proclaimed and your children be united in saving faith.**

Pastor: As your Son welcomed infants, give us a deep care for the children entrusted to us, that we would defend their lives even before birth. Instill in parents a desire and commitment to bring their little children to Jesus.

People: **Bless families to come to Sunday school, Bible classes, confirmation classes and to our Lutheran School. Preserve them in the faith and teach each of us in humility to receive the kingdom of God like a little child.**

Pastor: Lord of life, we give you thanks and praise for the gift of life and the memory of loved ones who have passed on. Bless and be with Chester and Carole as they remember their mother, Lucille, who would have just celebrated her 100th birthday.

People: **Grant us all the cherish our loved ones and give us hope of the reunion we will enjoy in the life of the world to come.**

Pastor: O Lord, you do not delight in wickedness or let the boastful stand before you. Give the leaders of the nations wisdom to govern in accordance with your will.

People: **Keep them mindful of the stewardship that they hold on behalf of others, that they may fulfill their duties with diligence and humility.**

Pastor: God of mercy, we praise you that you deliver our souls from death and our feet from falling. Care for those who are near death. Come to the aid of everyone in need including Fred, Shirley, Bob, Noah, Debra, Tom, Jill, Paulette, Shirley, Gloria, Janet, Brian, Steve, Norma, Vern, Amy, Brian, Cathy, Vern, Elaine, Dorothy, Cindy, Don, Richard, Helga, Carol, Sarah, Debbie, Mary, June, Jerry, Shirley and Sarah.

People: **Preserve them from despair, and give them a confident hope in the resurrection promises of our risen Lord.**

Pastor: Grant that all who come to the holy altar this day would receive the very body and blood of Jesus in repentance and faith to their abundant blessing.

People: **Grant us to kneel in faith and trust of the great sacrifice our Lord have made for our salvation.**

Pastor: O Lord, if we trust in ourselves for righteousness, we are lost and dead in our sins. Yet you mercifully draw us to yourself in repentance and hear the cries of those who trust in your Son. Grant us humility, that we may not exalt ourselves or treat our brothers and sisters with contempt. Rescue us from every evil, and bring us into your kingdom as your beloved children. To you alone be all glory, O Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: **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.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #570 "Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

HYMN #594 "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity!

Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation, I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled, All your might has come unraveled,
and, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!

Death, you cannot end my gladness; I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit paradise!

Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.

There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!

HYMN #563 "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in that great day,
Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty,
Was also shed in love for me.

Lord, I believe, were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.

When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.

Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, who in love and mercy sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank you that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. Strengthen us in the certainty of our Savior's work to save us that we may live securely as children in your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them,

People: for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

Pastor: As His children, receive your Father's blessing: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #651 "I Love Your Kingdom, Lord"

I love Your kingdom, Lord, The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved With His own precious blood.

Beyond my highest joy I prize its heav'nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.

I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev'ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye And graven on Your hand.

For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers ascend;
For them my cares and toils be giv'n Till toils and cares shall end.

Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield And brighter bliss of heav'n.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lector
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Russell Hurst
Olivia Kukor

Scripture Readings for next week:

Revelation 14:6-7

Romans 3:19-28

Matthew 11:12-19