



October 6, 2024

**20th Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Holy Communion**

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+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Benediction Medley arr. M. Hayes
(Blest Be the Tie that Binds with God Be with You 'Til We Meet Again)

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands. *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 creates, redeems, and sustains us
 and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth,
 and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ,
 God forgives you all your sins.
 The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness
 and keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN Blest Be the Tie That Binds ELW 656

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds
 our hearts in Christian love;
 the unity of heart and mind
 is like to that above.

- 2 Before our Father's throne
 we pour our ardent prayers;
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
 our comforts and our cares.

- 3 We share our mutual woes,
 our mutual burdens bear,
 and often for each other flows
 the sympathizing tear.

- 4 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
 and sin we shall be free;
 and perfect love and friendship reign
 through all eternity.

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.

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

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE STORY TIME

Children may leave worship with the teachers for Bible Story Time. They will return during the Hymn of the Day.

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**.

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 by verse)

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**

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**.

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.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 175

We all sing

The musical score consists of two systems of vocal parts. Each system has a soprano line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The melody is simple and repetitive, with the soprano line featuring a mix of eighth and quarter notes, and the bass line providing a steady accompaniment with chords and single notes. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the same melody.

If we love one another, God lives in us* and God's love is perfected in us. *Repeat Alleluia.*

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 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 ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.'⁹ 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.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY All Are Welcome

ELW 641

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,

a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain*

3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain*

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger

bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain*

- 5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain*

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

A 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.**

A *Creator of every creature on earth, direct our lives toward the renewal and sustaining of cattle, birds of the air, animals of the field, and those who share our homes. Reveal the ways we can work alongside creation for the health and well-being of all.* Renew and strengthen the work of all those working to bring relief and support to those suffering from the devastation of Hurricane Helene. Provide hope and healing in the midst of overwhelming loss and grief.

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. Let your healing peace reign on warring lands, including Russia and Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Sudan, and Haiti.

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

A Restoring Lord, grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick and suffering, especially Freda, Sandy, Nancy, Charlie, Susan, Patricia, Rusty, Nancy, Jean, Terry, Lee, Denise, Larry, Patti, Bob, Joan, Robin, Ann, Pamela, Bill, Marge, Donna, Marge, Callum, Krista, Paul, Charles, Steven, Tracey, Johanna, Carole, Todd, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts.

(Pause for silence)

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.**

A Gracious God, we give thanks for those who have been appointed to serve on the call committee and entrusted with the work of discerning a new pastor to guide the congregation of Faith Lutheran Church. Grant them wisdom, patience, and the direction of your Holy Spirit, that they may exercise right judgment, and so serve you and the mission of your people here.

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

A God of our yesterdays and tomorrows, as we, along with the people of Grace and Zion Churches, celebrate the blessings of our unique congregational histories in these October days, while at the same time lean expectantly into our new life together as Faith Lutheran Church, fill us with grateful hearts and abundant trust in your gracious goodness and guidance. Empower us together to be a vibrant servant community boldly proclaiming your Good News of healing, hope and new life. And keep us always open to your ever present life giving Spirit.

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.**

A 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.

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

CHOIR ANTHEM *For the Beauty of the Earth* words by F.S.Pierpoint;
music by J.Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain*

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Refrain.

For each perfect gift of thine To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine, Flowers of earth and buds of heaven: *Refrain.*

OFFERTORY HYMN The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing ELW 531

St. 1 and 2

GATHERING

531

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

The Feast Is Ready



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
 2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
 3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
 peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
 poor his pur - a - disc. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
 he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
 the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1920

MUSIC: Graham Kendrick

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THE FEAST IS READY

LM and refrain

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

DIALOGUE

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

ELW 193

Holy, Holy, Holy *Great Thanksgiving*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly 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 - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Per Harling, b. 1948
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GREAT THANKSGIVING

O God most mighty,
 O God most merciful,
 O God our rock and our salvation,
 hear us as we praise,
 call us to your table,
 grant us your life.

We praise you, O God.

When the earth was a formless void,
 you formed order and beauty.
 When Abraham and Sarah were barren,
 you sent them a child;
 When the Israelites were enslaved,
 you led them to freedom.
 Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,
 and the psalmists cried out for healing,
 and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

We bless you, O God.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
 He was born among the poor,
 he lived under oppression,
 he wept over the city.
 With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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 death, we cry out Amen. **Amen**
 Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen**
 Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen**
 O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
 O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
 O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
 O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,
 O God our strength and our song,
 you show us a vision of a tree of life
 with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.
 Grant us such life,
 the life of the Father to the Son,
 the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
 life in you, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the altar railing receive the Meal today. Please fill in along the railing from the pulpit to lectern sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive the Meal. The Meal will be served continuously. After you have received the Meal and after a quiet prayer of thanksgiving you may return to your seats via the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available as an alternative. Please ask. White grape juice, in the center ring of each serving tray, is available as an alternative to the wine. Praise God for the life giving presence of the crucified-risen Christ in the bread and wine of this holy meal!

Come, the feast is ready! Jesus welcomes you!

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God***ELW 195****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.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
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(Please remain seated)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God all mighty,
God most merciful
✠ bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN If You But Trust in God to Guide You ELW 769

- 1 If you but trust in God to guide you
with gentle hand through all your ways,
you'll find that God is there beside you
when crosses come, in trying days.
Trust then in God's unchanging love;
build on the rock that will not move.
- 2 What gain is there in anxious weeping,
in helpless anger and distress?
If you are in your Savior's keeping,
in sorrow will he love you less?
For Christ who took for you a cross
will bring you safe through ev'ry loss.
- 3 The Lord our restless hearts is holding,

in peace and quietness content.
 We rest in God's good will unfolding,
 what wisdom from on high has sent.
 God, who has chosen us by grace,
 knows very well the fears we face.

- 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving,
 offer your service faithfully.
 Trust heaven's word; though undeserving,
 you'll find this promise true to be.
 This is our confidence indeed:
 God never fails in time of need.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, October 6, 2024

Presiding Minister: Pastor Les Swenson

Musician: Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Assisting Minister: Jill Little

Lector: Arlene Creswell

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Tina Beaudoin, Gerald Beaudoin, Carol Emond

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, October 7, 2024

4:00 p.m. Kids Choir

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

6:45 p.m. Hand Bell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, October 10, 2024

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (Youth Room)

Friday, October 11, 2024

3:30 p.m. Pumpkin Truck Unload

Saturday, October 12, 2024

8:00 a.m. Faith Lutheran Tag Sale

11:30 a.m. Pumpkin Sale Begins

Sunday, October 13, 2024; 21th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

Church Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: churchoffice@standrewct.org

The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor, phone: 860.857.9362

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music