

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



October 03, 2021

10:00 a.m.

## INTRODUCTION

*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 sending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?*

## PRELUDE



+ GATHERING +

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor (P) Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

**Congregation (C) Amen.**

P Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God our comforter:

**C like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

P All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**C Amen.**



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and  
 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the  
 4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor  
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,  
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in  
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:  
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -  
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:  
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite  
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
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## GREETING

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

C And also with you.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON



### 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).*

<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."

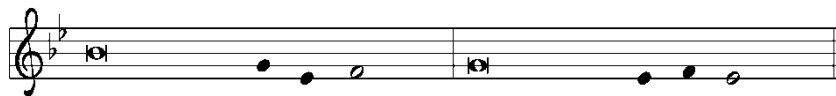
<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Reader        The word of the Lord.

**C**            **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 8

*We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader    O | LORD our Lord,  
            how majestic is your name in | all the earth!

**C**        you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of  
in- | fants and children;  
            you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the  
foe | and avenger.

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

**C     <sup>4</sup>what are mere mortals that you should be mind- | ful of them,  
          human beings that you should | care for them?**

L     <sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them little less | than divine;  
          with glory and hon- | or you crown them.

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

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

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

L     <sup>9</sup>O | LORD our Lord,  
          how majestic is your name in | all the earth!

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**C     Amen.**

## **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.*

<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>25</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.”

Reader           The word of the Lord.

**C               Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

### 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.*

P The holy gospel according to Mark, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*





1 Be - lov - ed, God's cho - sen, put on as a gar - ment  
 2 With - in, call forth Wis - dom, to dwell in you rich - ly;  
 3 Be - lov - ed, God's cho - sen, put on as a gar - ment



com - pas - sion, for - give - ness, and good - ness of heart.  
 let peace rule your hearts and that peace be of Christ.  
 com - pas - sion, for - give - ness, and good - ness of heart.



A - bove all, be - fore all, let love be your rai - ment  
 And from the heart's cham - ber, be - lov - ed and ho - ly,  
 A - bove all, be - fore all, let love be your rai - ment



that binds in - to one ev - 'ry dis - so - nant part.  
 let sing - ing thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er rise.  
 that binds in - to one ev - 'ry dis - so - nant part.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
 Music: ANDREW'S SONG, Robert A. Hobby, h. 1962  
 Text © 1994 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
 Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**A** Let us confess our faith.

**C** 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**

*Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy,*

*Congregational response: hear our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

## **OFFERING**

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

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, 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 voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957  
Music: Dwight Liles  
Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

OFFERING  
PM

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.
- C** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**+ SENDING +**

**BLESSING** *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

**P** People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ✝ one God, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SENDING HYMN**      **840**      *Now Thank We All Our God (vs. 1 & 2)*

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
 the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,

who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;

with countless 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 ever more.

## DISMISSAL

- P We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:
- C to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.**
- P Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
- C Thanks be to God.**

+ + +

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**FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
BY DONNA AND ROB SCHIFFER,  
IN MEMORY OF DONNA'S MOTHER,  
NANCY SABLAN.**

### Calendar for October 3 - 10

Oct.	3	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
	6	Wed.	noon	Bible study (online)
	10	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

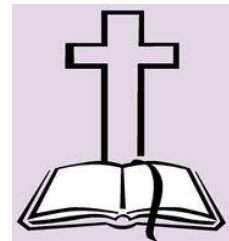
### Next Sunday's Readings, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost:

[Amos 5:6-7, 10-15](#)

[Psalm 90:12-17](#)

[Hebrews 4:12-16](#)

[Mark 10:17-31](#)



Serving	October 3	October 10
Presiding	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
Preaching	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
Assisting Minister	Kirsten Ebbesen	Jennifer Dritt
Lector	Colleen Holdcraft	Martin Guttenplan
Cantors	Susan Hehn Jen Reece	Rudy Hehn Susan Hehn
Altar Guild	Beth Alexander	Beth Alexander Erin Kenney
Counters	Kirsten Ebbesen Susan Warren	Audrey Post Billie Reardon
Announcements	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom

### PRAYER REQUESTS

***For the sick:*** Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor), being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Gerhard Hofer (brother-in-law of Ridy Hofer).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Stephanie Barber; Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member), child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl).

***For health and protection:*** For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel, EMTs, the millions of unemployed people, etc.; for the unaccompanied children entering the US, including those “unaccounted for”.

***For prisoners:*** Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

*Other concerns:* Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

*Church concerns:* St. Stephen's Congregational Council; The Florida-Bahamas Synod Council, all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

*World concerns:* For all recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:** Now that we are back to in-person worship service, we are in need of more worship assistants, mainly Cup Ministers. If you are interested, please contact Lori in the office.

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2021:** Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service and signing up for the 2021 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$35, and you can place that in the offering plate.

**RSVP FOR NEXT WEEK:** Remember to use the Sign-up Genius to reserve your spot for worship service (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45a4a62ea7fbc16-sunday>). The deadline is noon on the Friday before worship. The calendar has dates available throughout the summer.