



“...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.”

~Mark 10: 14-15

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – October 4, 2015

PO Box 411
420 Beaver Street
Mars, PA 16046-0411
www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830

email:office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Pastor's cell: 412-585-1628

Pastor's email: pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Matt Claus, Pianist

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – October 4, 2015

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?

Today we commemorate Francis of Assisi (d. 1226) and Theodor Fliedner (d. 1864).

***Francis of Assisi** was born into the family of a wealthy merchant, and gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation. This spirit is evident in Francis's hymn, Canticum of the Sun, a translation of which we sing as our closing hymn, All Creatures Worship God Most High. Inspired by Francis's love of creation, we celebrate*

***Theodor Fliedner** helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.*

PRELUDE: *Variations on Bradbury – Victor Labenske*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose name is majestic in all the earth,
who rescues and heals in every time of trouble,
who does all things well.

Amen.

Let us come before God, seeking forgiveness and life.

Steadfast and saving God,

have mercy on us.

We confess to you all the ways

we turn from you and harm one another.

In your compassion,

forgive our sins and heal our hurts.

Bring forth from us a harvest of righteousness,

the fruits of gentleness and peacemaking,

the sheaves of wisdom and justice;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

In the name of + Jesus, the Son of God,
receive mercy and find grace in your time of need.
Your transgressions are forgiven;
God's love is healing balm for your wounds.
Rejoice, for God raises you up to new life in Christ.
Amen.

***GATHERING SONG #641: All Are Welcome**

***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.

***GLORY TO GOD**

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



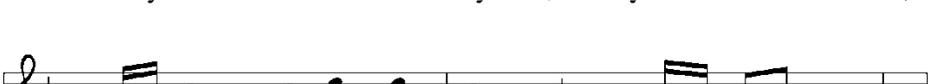
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



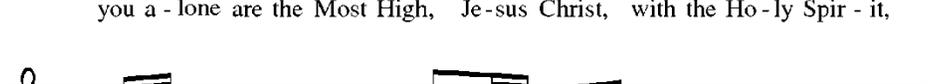
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***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.

TEMPLE TALK: “Stewards of the Earth”

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).

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 8

The cantor sings the refrain, and all repeat it.



You crown us with glo - ry and hon - or.

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 in- | fants 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 mind- | ful of them,**

human beings that you should | care for them? R

⁵Yet you have made them little less | than divine;

with glory and hon- | or you crown them.

⁶**You have made them rule over the works | of your hands;**

you have put all things un- | der 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!

R

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.

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.

⁵Now 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 cantor sings the Alleluias, and all repeat them.



Verse (cantor): If we love one another, God lives in us and God’s love is perfected in us. (1 John 4:12)

***GOSPEL READING: 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.’ ⁷For 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.”

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.

CHILDREN’S SERMON SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #640: *Our Father, by Whose Name

***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**

Made alive with God in Christ, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

Holy and loving God, through the cross of Christ, continue your redeeming and unifying work among your people. Show us how to live well with each other as one family. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen the bonds between humans and the animals who work with them: on farms, in households, and in emergency situations. Teach us to value all animals. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Walk faithfully with those who find great joy in relationships and with those who experience the pain of broken relationships. Make the church a place where all people may come to know loving companionship. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lift up your children who are bent and broken in times of crisis or long periods of suffering, especially Susan, Frieda, Jim, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, David & Ellen, and those we remember aloud and in our hearts. By your presence, restore their hope. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide and direct sisters and brothers in Christ who are engaged in specialized ministry for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bless you for the lives of the saints, especially Francis of Assisi and Theodor, whom we commemorate today, through whom you have revealed your love for the world. Continue to reveal your covenant life through us until the last day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gather these concerns and all who are in need into your abundant care, O God, remembering your promise of mercy, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN #840: Now Thank We All Our God

(Please stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward.)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace,

the eyes of all wait upon you,

and you open your hand in blessing.

Fill us with good things at your table,

that we may come to the help of all in need,

through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

***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**

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.

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

COMMUNION SONG: *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.

COMMUNION HYMN #656: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.
Amen.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God,
that you welcome us to your table
and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst.
By your gifts of word and holy meal,
strengthen us to take up the cross
as we go about our callings in this world,
following after Jesus Christ, our servant Lord. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

Like children in the arms of Jesus, receive blessing:
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG #835: *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* – Lowell Mason

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Chris Dishong
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Usher: Todd Niklewicz
Attendance Last Week: 71
Weekly Budgeted Need: \$2,755.44
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$110,217.69
YTD Actual Expense: \$103,417.65

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Sally Foster
Communion Assistant: Denise Hager
Acolyte:
Usher: George & Jan Leikauf
Attendance Last Year: 43
Last Week's Giving: \$1,408.00
YTD Receipts: \$105,430.29

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #39383.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress. Reproduced by permission.