

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

John 3:17

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – October 7, 2018

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*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? 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

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – October 7, 2018

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 Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787. Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.

PRELUDE: *Prelude in C – J.S. Bach*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIVING IN GRATITUDE FAITH TALK

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the† holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.
Source of all life,

**We confess that we have not allowed
your grace to set us free.**

We fear that we are not good enough.

**We hear your word of love freely given to us,
yet we expect others to earn it.**

**We turn the church inward,
rather than moving it outward.**

Forgive us. Stir us.

**Reform us to be a church powered by love,
willing to speak for what is right,
act for what is just,**

**and seek the healing of your whole creation.
Amen.**

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.

Our sins are forgiven,

✠ God's love is unconditional,
and we are raised up as God's people
who will always be made new,
in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN #462: *Now We Join in Celebration

***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**



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
I 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.
☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
III 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.

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.
 ☐ 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.
 ☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth,
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

*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.

FIRST READING: Genesis 2: 18–24

A reading from Genesis.

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



You a - dorn us with glo - ry and hon - or.

¹O | LORD our Lord,
how exalted is your name in | all the world!
²**Out of the mouths of in- | fants and children**
your majesty is praised a- | bove the heavens. R
³You have set up a stronghold against your | adversaries,
to quell the enemy and | the avenger.
⁴**When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,**
the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,
⁵what is man that you should be mind- | ful of him,
the son of man that you should | seek him out?
⁶**You have made him but little lower | than the angels;**
you adorn him with glo- | ry and honor; R
⁷you give him mastery over the works | of your hands;
you put all things un- | der his feet:
⁸**all | sheep and oxen,**
even the wild beasts | of the field,
⁹the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea,
and whatsoever walks in the paths | of the sea.
¹⁰**O | LORD our Lord,**
how exalted is your name in | all the world! R

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

A reading from Hebrews.

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.

^{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

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

*GOSPEL READING: John 3:1-14

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel of John brings us an encounter between Jesus and a man by the name of Nicodemus. In this story, Jesus provides a blessing and promise that is the heart of the gospel.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON

****HYMN OF THE DAY #655: Son of God, Eternal Savior***

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

Longing for God's will to be fulfilled among us, we pray persistently for the church, the world, and all people in need.

Holy God, send your blessing out into the world through missionaries, evangelists, and servants of your church. Through them spread good news to all who need it as you did through Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, whom we commemorate today. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We praise you for the animals of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and all the works of your hands. Let our care for all you have made reflect your desire for the health of all creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rule the nations of this world with the same grace you employ to align planets, stars, and moons. Where there is disorder, move us toward righteousness and justice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Deliver your care to your children who feel unworthy of care. Bend down low to lift up people who struggle to find others who will embrace them in time of need. We pray especially for Ruth Ann, Jean, Karen, Amy, Anne, Harry, Ruth, Pastor Storm, Frieda, Kim, Bill, Francis & Grace, David & Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our heart. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring reconciliation among this community. Heal relationships that are broken. When we face division, open our eyes to signs of new life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Along with all the saints, form us into a holy and loving community in which people can find abundant compassion and peace. Through us bring others into your unbreakable covenant. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enfold all things in your compassion, O God, and bring us into your life through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM – *If Only I Believe*

I come unto Christ down on my knees. Then I rise and begin to see what He sees. He knows who I am, and what I can be, and He will walk with me. Though creator of worlds and author of all, yet He still knows of the sparrow's fall. He has power to calm the troubled sea, yet His love and strength He offers me. His promise is sure, His grace I'll receive, if only I believe. Though at times my weakness might make me fear, as I call in humility I know he'll hear. His grace is sufficient. He is there all along. With Him I will be strong. Though creator of worlds and author of all, yet He still knows of sparrow's fall. He has power to calm the troubled sea, yet His love and strength He offers me. His promise is sure, His grace I'll receive, if only I believe.

***OFFERTORY HYMN :** *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful*

☐ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray,
Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
our selves, our time, and our possessions.
Use us, and what we have gathered,
in feeding the world with your love,
through the one who gave himself for us,
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.
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:

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.

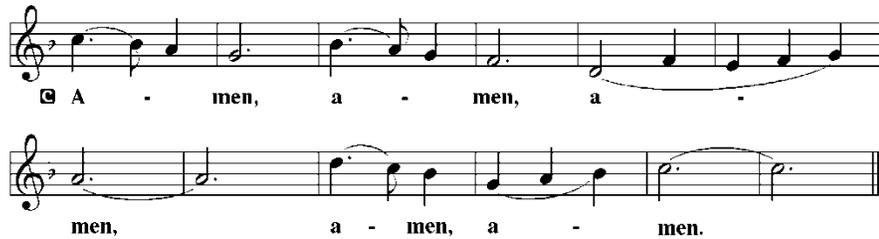
We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
whom you sent in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word,
inseparable from you.
Through him you created all things,
and in him you take delight.
He is your Word,
sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot
 and was shown forth as your Son,
 born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.
 It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will
 and won for you a holy people;
 he stretched out his hands in suffering
 in order to free from suffering those who trust you.
 It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,
 in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
 to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,
 to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,
 taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:
 Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This is my blood poured out for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,
 we lift this bread and cup before you,
 giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
 to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you:
 Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;
 gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
 fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
 that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.
 Through him all glory and honor are yours,
 Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
 in your holy Church both now and forever.



Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with you.

In response to Jesus’ invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God’s sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN #738: *God Created Heaven and Earth

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Holy and compassionate God,
in bread and wine you give us gifts
that form us to be humble and courageous.
May your words come to life
in our serving and in our witness,
that we might speak a living voice
of healing and justice to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church;
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

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

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Fugue in C* – J.S. Bach

The flowers this week are given by Cindy & Dave Knauff for the glory of God.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Dave Knauff
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher: Clarence Strabel
Attendance Last Week: 47
Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,088.92
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$
YTD Actual Expense: \$

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Missy Kramer
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector: Denise Hager
Usher: John Fritz
Attendance Last Year: 61
Last Week's General Giving: \$ 1,151.66
Last Week's Designated Giving: \$ 130.61
2018 YTD General Giving: \$ 109,086.87
2018 YTD Designated Giving: \$ 16,035.16
2018 YTD Receipts: \$ 125,122.03

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