

Welcome to Worship at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI  
Pentecost 20 - October 10, 2021

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

**Hymn #500 - "For Christian Homes, O Lord, We Pray"**

**For Christian homes, O Lord we pray,  
That you might dwell with us each day.  
Make ours a place where you are Lord,  
Where all is governed by your Word.**

**We are the children of your grace;  
Our homes are now your dwelling-place.  
In you we trust and daily live;  
Teach us to serve and to forgive.**

**United in a bond of love,  
We lift our eyes to you above.  
From you we gain the strength to live,  
The wish to share, the joy to give.**

**Protect us and our loved ones dear  
From pain and sorrow, want and fear;  
Yet when we must our burdens bear,  
"Your will be done" shall be our prayer.**

**And when you call us all to rest,  
Then will we have a home more blest,  
See all our care and sorrow cease,  
And find with Christ eternal peace.**

**Confession of Sins:**

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant

us forgiveness.

**C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **First Lesson: Genesis 2:18-24**

The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is a suitable partner for him.” Out of the soil the Lord God had formed every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them. Whatever the man called every living creature, that became its name. The man gave names to all the livestock, and to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal, but for Adam no helper was found who was a suitable partner for him. The Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. As the man slept, the Lord God took a rib and closed up the flesh where it had been. The Lord God built a woman from the rib that he had taken from the man and brought her to the man. The man said, Now this one is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She will be called “woman,” because she was taken out of man. For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will remain united with his wife, and they will become one flesh. (EHV)

### **Psalm 139b**

**Refrain: I will praise you, O Lord, for I am wonderfully made.**

**O LORD, you created my inmost ‘being;  
You knit me together in my ‘mother’s womb.**

**I praise you because I am fearfully and wonder’fully made;  
Your works are wonderful, I know that ‘full well.**

**My frame was not hidden ‘from you;  
Your eyes saw my unformed ‘body.**

**Refrain: I will praise you, O Lord, for I am wonderfully made.**

**All the days or’dained for me  
Were written in your book before one of them ‘came to be.**

**How precious to me are your ‘thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the ‘sum of them!**

**Were I to ‘count them,  
They would outnumber the ‘grains of sand.**

**Glory be to the Father and ‘to the Son  
And to the Holy ‘Spirit,  
As it was in the be’ginning,  
Is now, and will be forever. ‘Amen.**

**Refrain: I will praise you, O Lord, for I am wonderfully made.**

### **Second Lesson: Hebrews: 2:9-11**

But we look to Jesus (the one who was made lower than the angels for a little while, so that by God’s grace he might taste death for everyone), now crowned with glory and honor, because he suffered death. Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. (EHV)

**Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. I will proclaim your name to my people; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Alleluia.

### **Gospel: Mark 10:2-16**

Some Pharisees came to test him and asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He replied, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.” But Jesus told them, “He wrote this command for you because of your hard hearts. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will

become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.” In the house his disciples asked him about this again. He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. If she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” Some people began bringing little children to Jesus so that he would touch them. But the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said, “Let the little children come to me! Do not hinder them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen I tell you: Whoever will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the little children in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.  
(EHV)

### **The Apostles’ Creed:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Hymn #503 - “*Oh, Blessed Home, Where Man and Wife*”**

**Oh, blessed home, where man and wife  
Together lead a godly life,  
By love their faith confessing!  
There many a happy day is spent;  
There Jesus gladly will consent  
To tarry with his blessing,  
To tarry with his blessing.**

**If they have given him their heart,  
The place of honor set apart  
For him each night and morrow,**

**Then he the storms of life will calm,  
Will bring for ev'ry wound a balm,  
And change to joy their sorrow,  
And change to joy their sorrow.**

**Oh, Lord, we come before your face,  
In ev'ry home bestow your grace  
On children, father, mother.  
Relieve their wants; their burdens ease.  
Let them together dwell in peace  
And love for one another,  
And love for one another.**

**The Sermon:      Mark 10:13-16  
                          “Let The Children Come To Me”**

**Parents**, do you know where your **children** are? Those of us who **have** children understand **completely** what is behind that question. **Children** - especially **young** children - are very **quick**, and they are very **trusting**. They have the tendency to just **run off** toward **anything** that strikes their interest, whether it's **dangerous** or **not**. In a world where child **abductions** have become more and more prevalent, parents need to keep their eyes **glued** to their children, in order to make sure that they are physically **safe**. As **Christian** parents, we can also look at that question in a **different** way - in a more **important** way - because we know that the **most** important concern for **all** children is that they are safe from **sin**, from the evils which surround them in this **world**, and from the temptations of the **Devil**. We know that in order to be **spiritually** safe, every child needs to be in the arms of **Jesus** for **strength** and **protection**, and every child needs to regularly hear the **Word** of Jesus to **preserve** and to **strengthen** their faith.

So with that in mind, let's ask the question once again: **Parents**, do you know where your **children** are? Are your children **safe** in the arms of **Jesus** where they can sit and listen to His **Word**? What about the children of our **friends** and **relatives**? What about the kids who play on the same **sports team** with our children, or the children who live in our **neighborhoods**? Are they all **safe** in the arms of Jesus? Are they all regularly listening to His **Word**?

Where **are** the children of our world, and where are they **headed**? In recent years we've seen fewer and fewer children in our **congregation**, in **part** because couples are choosing to **have** fewer children than in the past. Even as we look

around at the children in our **community**, it **seems** like fewer and fewer of them even **care** about learning about **Jesus**. We may not **know** where the children are **spiritually**, or where they are **headed**, or the **causes** behind their **apathy**, but there's one thing we know for **sure**. We know where **Jesus** is, and we know what **Jesus wants**. Jesus is **watching over** the children of this world, and He wants to **bless** them with His love. So, He tells **us**, as He told His **disciples**: **Let The Children Come To Me**.

In our text for today, people were **bringing** little children to **Jesus** in order to have Him **bless** them. But Jesus' disciples **scolded** the parents for bringing their little ones to Jesus. Maybe they thought that Jesus needed **rest** (and it's **hard** to rest around little children), or maybe they thought that Jesus had more **important** things to do (because little children **aren't** that important), or maybe they thought that the children were too **young** to receive a blessing from Him (as if you have to be a certain **age** before Jesus can bless you). But **whatever** they were **thinking**, they were **wrong**. And Jesus **told** them so. He said, "*Let the little children come to me! Do not **hinder** them, because the kingdom of **God** belongs to such as these.*"

This is a clear **command** from our Lord Jesus. Jesus **wants** the children to **come** to Him, because He knows that they **need** Him. The Bible is very **clear**. It teaches us that **all** children are born with a **sinful nature**, even though **outwardly** they often **appear** to be completely **innocent**. Jesus said, "*Whatever is born of the **flesh is flesh**,*" and King David confessed, "*Certainly, I was **guilty** when I was born. I was **sinful** when my mother conceived me.*" But in His **mercy**, our Lord Jesus wants to **bless** all people - **including** little children. When Jesus died on the cross He paid for the sins of **all people** - old and young, male and female, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican (Independents too). Jesus **paid the price** which the heavenly Father had demanded, and He earned the **forgiveness** of sins, the right to be called God's **children**, and the gift of eternal life in **heaven**, for all people. Jesus **loves** children, and He **wants** them to **come** to Him. So, when His disciples tried to shoo them **away** from Him, Jesus immediately **corrected** them by saying, "*Do **not hinder** them,*"

Jesus **repeats** that message to us **today** as well. Parents have the **responsibility** to raise their children according to **God's will**. They can **decide** which TV shows their children watch, and which **movies** they can see. They can **prevent** their children from doing things which will be **harmful** to them. But the one thing which parents must **not** prevent their children from doing is **coming to Jesus**, and listening to His saving **Word**. It's important for parents to **bring** their children to Jesus, not just to **send** them to Jesus. That parental **example** is **vital**,

because children - even **little** children - can clearly see what we view as **important** for our own lives. And if something **isn't** important to **us**, why should it be important to **them**?

Jesus said, "*Let the little children come to me! Do not **hinder** them,*" The LORD established the **family** as the basic building block of **society**, and He instructed **fathers**: "*Do not **exasperate** your children; instead, **bring them up** in the training and instruction of the **Lord**.*" Jesus also gave His **entire** family of believers the commission to, "*Go and make disciples of **all nations**, (and that includes little children) - **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching** them to obey **everything** I have commanded you.*" **Baptism** is the **first step** in bringing our children to Jesus. It's God's way of giving us His **Holy Spirit**, and of pouring out His **grace** on our children. And it's a step which needs to be **followed** by regular **worship** and **Bible study** in order to keep **strengthening** the precious **faith** in **Jesus** which we receive in baptism.

But Jesus tells us even **more** in order to get our full cooperation. Concerning the little children He said, "*The **kingdom of God** belongs to such as these.*" God's **kingdom** is His rule of grace and salvation in our **hearts**. Just like an **earthly**, God **blesses** His people - but **God's** blessings are the forgiveness of **sins** - and **safety** from our enemies, **Satan** and **death** - and the **joy** of knowing we've been **saved** and we're on our way to **heaven**. God **gives** His kingdom to us through His **Word**. God's **Word** announces that His Son **fought** the Devil, and **destroyed** his power. God's **Word** tells us that Jesus lived in perfect **obedience** to His heavenly Father, in order to **earn salvation** for us. And God's **Word** tells us that Jesus willingly **died** to pay for our sins, and that He **rose** again for our justification. It's that **same** **Word** of God through which He **gives** us the gift of the **Holy Spirit** - so we can have a saving **faith**, and enter the **eternal** kingdom of God.

Let's take just a moment to **examine** that faith. Faith is simply a **hand** which **receives**. It comes to God **empty-handed** - not bragging about personal **good works**, or exceptional **thinking**, or some kind of an ability to **decide** - but simply receiving **God's gift** of His **love** in Jesus. In our text, the little children came to Jesus with **nothing** but what they **were** - weak, lowly, and **dependent** children. They didn't come to **impress** Him, but rather they came to receive **His impression** on them. They came without **hesitation**, and they came without **doubts**, and in **childlike faith**, they were **safe** in the loving and steady hands of **Jesus**.

In fact, Jesus went on to say, "*Truly I tell you, anyone who will **not** receive the kingdom of God **like a little child** will **never** enter it.*" Those who seek to enter

God's kingdom other than with a **childlike** faith will **not** enter it. Those who **brag** about their **good works** or high **moral** character will **not** enter it. Those who rely on their **intellect** or making the right **decision** for God will **not** enter it. The kingdom of God gives entrance only to those, who **like little children** simply **receive** from Jesus what **He** worked for - what **He** obtained by shedding His **blood** on the cross. Those who rely only on **Jesus** and **His** wisdom and **His** goodness and **His** decision for them, **will enter** into God's kingdom. In our text, the children who were **brought** to Jesus were **helpless** little **babies** - they couldn't even **walk** - and Jesus said about them, "*The kingdom of God belongs to such as these.*"

Jesus **held** those children in His arms, and He told them about His **love** for them. And Jesus wants **our** children to be just like **those** children, he wants **all** the children of our families and neighborhoods to have what **they** had. In fact, He wants **all** of us - no matter what our **age** happens to be - to be just like those children in our text. In His kingdom, Jesus offers us a full and free **pardon** for all our sins. We simply need to **believe it**, and when we **do**, we are receiving God's kingdom **like a little child**. It doesn't **matter** if our sins are **too terrible**. It doesn't matter if we're not **good enough**, and that we don't **measure up** to God's demands. **Everyone's** sins are too terrible - **everyone** isn't good enough and doesn't measure up to God's standards. But our salvation doesn't **depend** on **any** of **us**. It depends on **Jesus**. He takes away **our sin**, and gives us **His perfection**. And as we **trust** in **Him** with childlike **faith**, we **receive** the forgiveness which He **earned** for us. Believe in **Jesus**. When we **hurt**, He will **heal** us - when we are starved for **love** and **attention**, He will **provide** it - when we need **shelter** from storms and troubles of life, He will **protect** us. **Children** of God, we are **safe** for **all eternity** in the loving arms of Jesus. Jesus said: **Let The Children Come To Me**, so let's **share** that loving Savior with **all** the children of the world. Amen.

### **Prayers:**

Dear God, teach us to live lives of loving service to **You**, out of **gratitude** for Your **love** - a love which moved You to sacrifice Your **Son** for our sins. Through His **death**, You have made us to be members of Your **family**. Therefore, help us to be completely **dedicated** to You, freeing our **energies**, our **abilities**, our **time**, and our **possessions** - yes, all that we **are** and all that we **have** - from a life of serving **self**, to a life of serving **God**.

Lord, You have made us Your **stewards** in a **special** way, entrusting us with Your holy **Word**. Teach us that this Word - meant for our own continual **use** - is also ours to **share** with others, especially the members of our **family**, that they may learn of the Savior's **love** for them, and believing, be **saved**. Help us determine



what portion of our **time** we will give in personal witness to the Gospel. Help us determine what portion of our **energies** and **talents** we will use for God's work in the congregation. And help us determine what portion of our earthly **possessions** we will use to support the ministry of the divine Word, both in our **local** congregation, as well as in our **Synod**. Give our **parents** the ability to train their **children** in Christian stewardship, so that even from tender **youth**, they will have a desire to carry out the work of the Church, and to share the responsibility for preaching the Gospel.

O Holy Spirit, **ble**ss the offerings of time, talent, and treasure that we make to God for His kingdom. Let them be a delightful **privilege**, and self-evident **fruits** of our personal **faith**. And since only offerings given out of love for **Christ** are acceptable to You, **increase** our love by a diligent use of Your **Word**, and reception of Your Holy **Supper**. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**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.**

**Hymn #449 - "Children of the Heavenly Father"**

**Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in his bosom gather;  
Nestling bird or star in heaven  
Such a refuge ne'er was given.**

**God his own doth tend and nourish;  
In his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them;  
In his mighty arms he bears them.**

**Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord his children sever;  
Unto them his grace he showeth,  
And their sorrows all he knoweth.**

**Though he giveth or he taketh,  
God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**The Blessing:**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.  
C: **Amen.**

**Hymn #504 - "*Bless Our Loved Ones, Holy Father*"**

**Bless our loved ones, Holy Father;  
Hear our anxious prayer;  
By your mercy keep them always  
In your care.**

**Jesus, Savior, let your presence  
Be their light and guide;  
Keep, oh, keep them in their weakness  
At your side.**

**When in sorrow, when in danger,  
When in loneliness,  
In your love look down and comfort  
Their distress.**

**May the joy of your salvation  
Be their strength and stay!  
May they love and may they praise you  
Day by day!**

**Holy Spirit, let your teaching  
Sanctify their life;  
Send your grace that they may conquer  
In the strife.**

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
God forever true,  
Bless them, guide them, save them, keep them  
Close to you.**