

# *19th Sunday after Pentecost*



**How to receive the kingdom of God**

*October 3, 2021*



# Ascension Lutheran Church

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*All are welcome!*

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 50 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community, communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

## Front Cover:

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

# Welcome to Worship

## Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit.

*P* Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**All Amen**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our comforter,

**All 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.

**All Amen.**

## *Kyrie and Hymn of Praise*

*P* Kyrie eleison

**All** Lord, have mercy.

*P* Christe eleison:

**All** Christ, have mercy.

*P* Kyrie eleison:

**All** Lord, have mercy.

*Refrain*

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**1. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

**We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain***

**2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.**

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain***

**3. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Ending***

*Ending*

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth,  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

With One Voice, Setting 5 Bread of Life  
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## *The Greeting*

*P* The Lord be with you.

**All** And also with you.

## *Prayer of the Day*

P Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another.

**All 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.**

[You may be Seated](#)

## *A Reading from Genesis, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter*

*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.

*Genesis 2:18-24*

L The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God!**



## *A Reading from Hebrews, the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> chapters*

*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>2:5</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.”

*Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12*

L The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God!**

## Gospel Acclamation

[Please stand in body or spirit.](#)

♪ ♪ Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. ♪ ♪  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

## Gospel Reading

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

*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.*

<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.

**Mark 10:2-16**

*P* The Gospel of our Lord.

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

*You may be Seated*

*Sermon*

*Pr. Gordon Young*

*Hymn of the Day*

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## **Bind Us Together**

*Chorus*

Bind us together Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together Lord, bind us together Lord, bind us together with love.

*Verse 1*

There is only one God, There is only one King.  
There is only one body, That is why we can sing. *Chorus*

*Verse 2*

You are the fam'ly of God, you are the promise divine.  
You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine. *Chorus*

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*Apostles' Creed*

*You may be Seated*

*P* Joining with the saints across the ages, let us confess our faith with the words of the 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*

**L** Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

♪ ♪ Change my heart oh God, make it ever true ♪ ♪  
Change my heart oh God, may I be like You.

*(each prayer petition ends with)*

**L:** Lord, in your mercy,      **All:** You hear our prayer.

### *Sharing the Peace*

*In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the peace of our risen Lord by "speaking" that peace through sign language.*

**P** Christ become peace with you.

**All** And also with you.

### *Offering*

*While we still will not physically pass the offering plates we will continue to have the plates available at the entrance to receive your offerings and will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.*

♪ ♪ Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, ♪ ♪  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

CCLI Song # 20285

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### *Offertory Prayer*

*P* God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert  
and manna to rain from the heavens.

**All** **Accept the gifts you have first given us.**  
**Unite them with the offering of our lives**  
**to nourish the world you love so dearly;**  
**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### *The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution*

*P* The Lord be with you

**All** **And also with you.**

*P* Lift up your hearts.

**All** **We lift them to the Lord.**

*P* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*P* 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.

## *The Lord's Prayer*

*P* Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:

**All** 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.

## *The Invitation*

*P* All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

## *Sharing the Meal*

*P* The body of Christ broken for you.

**All** Amen

*P* The blood of Christ shed for you.

**All** Amen

## *Post Communion Blessing*

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

**All** Amen

# *Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements*

## Benediction

Please stand as you are able.

*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.

**All Amen.**

## Sending Song

### I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

- 1 I'm so glad Jesus lifted me. (3x)  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.
- 2 Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me. (3x)  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.
- 3 When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me. (3x)  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

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## Dismissal

*P* <sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all  
circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God.**

Readings for next Sunday,  
October 10<sup>th</sup>

**First Reading:**

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

**Psalm:**

Psalm 90:12-17

**Second Reading:**

Hebrews 4:12-16

**Gospel:**

Mark 10:17-31

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