

**WELCOME!**

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE:** Thaxed

arr. by Charles Callahan\*

## HOLY BAPTISM

P: In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors: We present Mackenzie Lee Norman for baptism.

P: Mackenzie, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

Mackenzie: I do.

P: As you receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and participate in the holy supper,

to grow in the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,

to study the holy scriptures,

and continue in faith and prayer,

so that you may trust God,

proclaim Christ through word and deed,

care for others and God's creation,

and work for justice and peace.

P: Do you promise to do all that you can to continue growing in the Christian faith and life?

Mackenzie: I do.

P: David and Lynn, do you promise to support Mackenzie in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

*[The congregation will please rise as the pastor addresses the whole assembly]*

P: People of God, do you promise to support Mackenzie and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

**C We do.**

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**C: I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**C: I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**C: I renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

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

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in

which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the water of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*[The congregation may be seated]*

P: Mackenzie Lee Norman, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Mackenzie with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*[The pastor anoints the newly baptized at the altar, saying these words:]*

P: Mackenzie, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**C: Amen.**

*[The pastor gives a lighted baptismal candle to the baptized, saying the following:]*

P Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*[The congregation welcomes the newly baptized with applause]*

## **INVOCATION, CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*[moment of silent confession]* Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our +Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

## **HYMN 656 "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"**

### **APOSTOLIC 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.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Generously pardon and give peace to your faithful people, O Lord, that being cleansed from every sin, we may be free and glad to

serve; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Genesis 2:18-24**

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." 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. 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. 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. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 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." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

R: The Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: Hebrew 1:1-4, 2:5-12**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 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. 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, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while

lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, 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, 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. 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. 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, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go?

C: **You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!**

P: The Holy Gospel according to the tenth chapter of Mark.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her

husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. 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. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.      C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**ANTHEM** [Chancel Choir]    "O Love, How Deep"      by Gordon Young

**SERMON**      Pastor Seth Jersild

**HYMN 640 "Our Father, by Whose Name"**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*Response:* P: ...Lord in your mercy,    C: **Hear our prayer.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**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 -



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C:** 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.

### HOLY COMMUNION

*All baptized Christians who believe that Christ is present in the wine and bread for forgiveness, life, and salvation are welcome to partake of communion. Please indicate to the server if you would prefer to receive grape juice. All children and adults who prefer to receive a blessing instead of communion are welcome to come forward. Please indicate you would prefer to receive a blessing by keeping your hands folded.*

### BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

### HYMN 824 "This Is My Father's World"

### DISMISSAL

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C:** Thanks be to God!

**POSTLUDE:** This is My Father's World

arr. By Albin Whitworth

*\* The prelude is an arrangement of a popular English hymn tune called Thaxted. The melody is from the Jupiter movement of Gustav Holst's orchestral suite entitled The Planets, composed in 1917. The tune is called Thaxted because that is the name of the English village where Holst lived.*

# Listening for the Promise

## Weekly Devotional

19th Sunday after Pentecost – October 3, 2021

*“So they are no longer two but one flesh.” (Mark 10:8)*

This passage can cause people to become nervous, squeamish, and sometimes defensive. Maybe that’s why Jesus’ critics chose this topic and “tested” (vs. 2) him with a question about divorce and remarriage. They wanted to make him squirm, and to embarrass and discredit him. What better way to do that than to get into a debate about divorce? Jesus does not wrestle with them but rather refocuses on God’s intentions in creating marriage in the first place.

Let’s attempt to think theologically about marriage instead of focusing primarily upon the “rules” of divorce and remarriage. Today, some tend to think of marriage as a means of fulfilling our personal desires, of getting more out of marriage than giving. Jesus speaks of marriage as revealing something about God and his intentions for us. Divorce is a serious matter that causes great pain and anguish. If marriage is what God intends, then we can see why divorce causes such pain, even when divorce seems to be the best option. And because of Jesus’ concern for children, we can see why caring about children caught up in divorce should be a major concern.

Another major concern is care for the victimized, the hurting, and the vulnerable. It’s not so much about judging those caught up in the difficulties of divorce or letting people off the moral hook too easily. Jesus responds to their question not by talking about divorce and remarriage, but by talking about marriage. He doesn’t say much on the grounds for divorce or remarriage (one sentence), but speaks more of God’s purposes for marriage (five sentences). God’s intention from the beginning was a love relationship with humanity, and humanity in a love relationship with one another. In Genesis, God, the man, and the woman easily had conversation with one another and were in relationship. The man and the woman were created by God to be together and to be in union as one flesh. But things didn’t work out as God originally intended as the woman and the man mutually disobeyed God and were cast out of the garden.

That disorder is not what God intended for us. And that’s what Jesus says in his response to the critics. Jesus speaks about marriage, about God, about the God’s intent in thinking up the male, the female, and marriage in the first place. **Amen.**