

Let the
little
children
come to me

MARK 10:14



Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

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The Rev. James N. West, Interim Pastor

October 5 & 6, 2024 Lectionary 27

Preparing to Hear Today's Readings

In our gospel, Jesus spoke to the predominate attitude about divorce which had become dangerous. Jesus said the prevailing attitude of Jewish men was “hardened.” Because of “your hardness of heart,” he warned, “you have sought out an obscure legal loophole to justify your desire to get on with your life, instead of paying attention to the more fundamental truths about the sanctity of marriage.”

Simply put, “hardness of heart” is that all too common adult state in which grownups persist on a course of action or way of thinking that prevents them from learning something basic, something foundational about human life. In that regard, Jesus counsels us to be more like children – open, trusting and willing to learn. Maybe “softness” of heart is what Jesus is calling for?

Gathering

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

Preservice Music

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn "All Are Welcome"

No. 641

Greeting

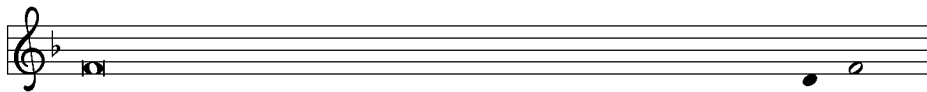
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie



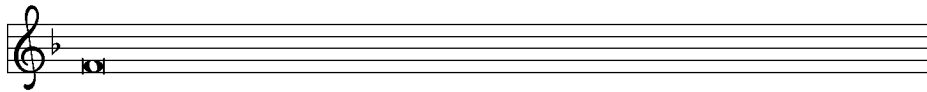
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



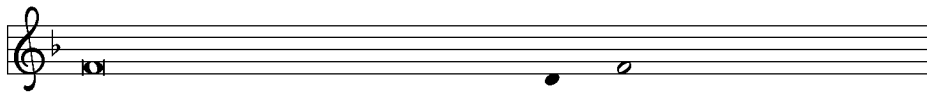
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



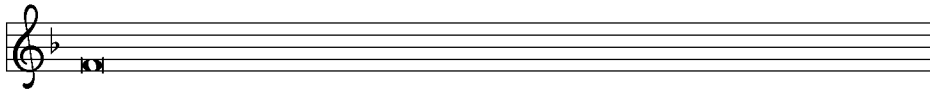
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



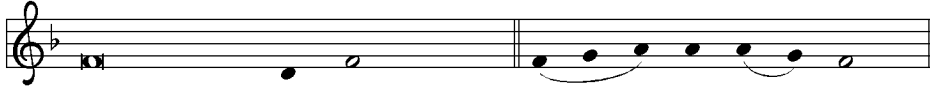
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



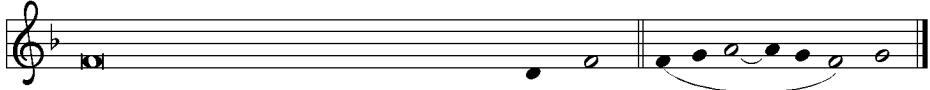
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Hymn of Praise

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

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

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.”

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: Psalm 8

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 infants 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 mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**

⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶**You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under 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!

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Quoting from the psalms, this passage 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? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

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.’ ⁷‘For 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.

Sermon: “The *Very Good*”

Hymn of the Day “Our Father, by Whose Name”

No. 640

Apostles’ Creed

Together with the whole church,
we confess the faith into which we were baptized.

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

Challenged by God’s Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of our ancestors, we give thanks for the church in all times and places and cultures. May we listen for the prophets of this age who bear messages of grace and mercy that stir the church toward renewal and faithfulness. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, encourage your church as we respond to the vast human suffering in the wake of Hurricane Helene, and help us to mend what has been broken. May we be generous bearers of your eternal love. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, we give thanks that you are mindful and benevolent to even us, mere mortals. Accompany our leaders when hardness of heart gets in the way of peace between people and nations – especially as the Middle East teeters on the brink of a regional war. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Restoring Lord, grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick and suffering especially those we name in our hearts or aloud. Bless and guide the work of medical professionals as they diagnose, ease pain, and provide healing to all who seek their wisdom and experience. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Unifying God, humans were created for relationship with the earth, its creatures, and one another. Forgive us when division threatens companionship, mutual support, and unity among us. May your love inspire us to build supportive communities of faith where all are cherished. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of resurrection, you prepare a place in the kingdom through Christ's death and resurrection. We give thanks for the saints who have taken their place at your heavenly banquet. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **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 Song "Let Streams of Living Justice"

Veres 2 No. 710

**For healing of the nations,
for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers,
God grant us grace to mend.**

**Weave our varied gifts together;
knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us
till our thread of life is run.**

**O great weaver of our fabric,
bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance,
light our colors with your sun.**

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

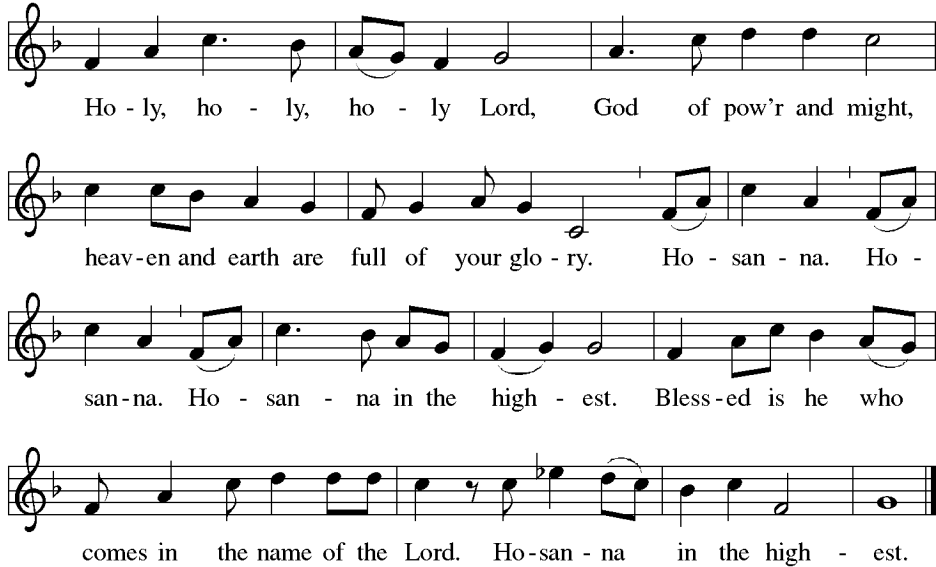
The Great Thanksgiving

The Great Thanksgiving is a four-line musical score in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. Each line consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. The notes are as follows:
Line 1: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. Lyrics: The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Line 2: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. Lyrics: Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Line 3: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. Lyrics: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Line 4: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. Lyrics: 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

We give you thanks and praise , O God,
for your faithfulness and love surround us
keeping us safe and secure
Through your Son, you formed the earth
and created men and women in your image to be one, as you are one.
Through your prophets you spoke to our forebears,
but now you have spoken to us through your Son, Jesus.

Our Lord's Words of Institution

We remember how Jesus took little children into his arms.
How he lifted them up and blessed them.
How he pointed to their trust and faith
as a sign of your reign within our hearts.
Now we lift this bread and cup before you,
giving thanks for your fidelity and faithfulness.
And so we ask you,
send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of your church,
gather into one all that share this bread and wine
that we may praise you in all the stages of our living. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom
And teach us to pray:

**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

Jesus welcomes you to his table full of grace. Come!
Thanks be to God.

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.

Special Music “Come What May” by We Are Messengers

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God,
you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.
Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

God all mighty, God most merciful
✠ bless you, keep you, and fill you with Christ’s peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn “Now Thank We All Our God”

No. 840

Dismissal

Go in peace, following Christ Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

+ + +

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Readers/Communion Assistants

Oct 5 Tim & Kerri Moyer

Oct 6 Bill & Jan Layton

Oct 12 Cindy Solarczyk

Oct 13 Carter & Laura Bower

Oct 19 **HELP WANTED**

Oct 20 Carter & Laura Bower

Oct 26 Kevin Oleksa

Oct 27 Ray Leverknight

Ushers

Oct 5 **HELP WANTED**

Oct 6 **HELP WANTED**

Oct 12 **HELP WANTED**

Oct 13 **HELP WANTED**

Oct 19 Linda Barnhart & Pat Bittner

Oct 20 Dave & Missy Raho

Oct 26 **HELP WANTED**

Oct 27 Mayket Family

Altar Guild

October – Matt Hockensmith Family





Backyard Ministries Hat/Glove Collection

Mt. Calvary will be collecting hats and gloves for the children of Coopersdale. Please take a labeled bag, fill it, and return it to the bin in the narthex. There is also a donation bin to provide a monetary donation, instead of purchasing items available in the narthex.

Thank you for your continued support!



We are currently looking to form an **Emergency Response Team** here at Mt. Calvary. Members of our new Response Team will be trained church volunteers that will help provide protection and assistance to our congregation in case of any emergency. If you can help volunteer, please contact Ray Leverknight, or the church office.



ONE DAY ONLY - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024
SHOP 8AM - 11PM

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