

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-1676

Sunday, October 3, 2021
19th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

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?

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

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.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *How Firm a Foundation* 796

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Let the Whole Creation Cry 876*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

The assembly is seated.

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.” 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM : Psalm 8 *You crown us with glory and honor. (Ps. 8:5)*

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 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.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 10:2-16

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.

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.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: God When Human Bonds Are Broken 603

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

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

A brief silence.

A: Holy One, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout history. Empower those discerning a call to ministry and all seminarians (*specific individuals known to the congregation may be named*), that they continue to be formed for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You have established a diverse and beautiful creation. Revive declining species and preserve endangered lands. Cultivate in us a sense of wonder for the world you created. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You desire for us not to be alone and to live in community with one another. Strengthen relationships between nations and peoples, that we celebrate and support one human family. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You share in our experiences and struggles. Bless all who live with any mental or physical disability. Inspire creative communities, spaces, and environments that are accessible and hospitable. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us (*especially*) and remind us of their continued role in this community of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of reconciliation, in this time of fractured families, great divisions, and animosity give wisdom, endurance, and grace to those who seek peace, forgiveness, and unity. We ask your blessings on the Lutheran World Federation as they continue to unite Lutherans around the globe in your service. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: You promise eternal life to all your children. Thank you for the people of faith who have gone before us. Strengthen our trust we have in you. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Our Offerings

CHOIR ANTHEM *How Beautiful*

OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,

you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.

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.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are quarter notes, mostly beamed in pairs. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has a double bar line in the middle. The second staff also has a double bar line in the middle. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

**PREFACE BY PASTOR
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

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;
you encircled the globe with air;
you created fire for warmth and light;
you nourish the lands with water.
You molded us in your image,
and with mercy higher than the mountains,
with grace deeper than the seas,
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.
That also we, estranged and dying,
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,
the first-born of your new creation.
We remember his life lived for others,
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.
We await his coming,
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,
whose breath revives us for life,
whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God,
receive our praise and petitions,
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,
and fill us with your blessing,
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

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.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Remember Me*

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.

Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* 543

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Announcement

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate during the receiving of the offering. We practice “open Communion” here at St. John meaning that all who believe in the “real presence” of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving “The Body of Christ”.

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Luke Antolick, Charlie Dunne, Joanne Fisher, David Kuehl, Bud Long, David Mitchell, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Kathy Neal, Ruth Nice, Jean Ann Snyder, Shane Snyder, John Truax, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jake Cordrey, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

Special Thanks to this week’s helpers: Lector—Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers—Deb Heydrich, Ron Brundick; Head Usher – Dawn McClosky; Teller –Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor –Betty Allen

Next week’s helpers Lector – Karen Aucker; Assisting Ministers – Bill Ely, Jr, Ken Dougherty; Head Usher – Dawn McClosky; Teller – Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor—Betty Allen; Flowers– Joyce Braucht

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored in memory of loved ones by Dave and Christine Barner.

The altar flowers are to the glory God for His blessings as with our son Shane. Happy Birthday! Love Mom and Dad.

The Lutheran Church Women’s Prayer Chain is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597

Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659

Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

“DAVID” playing at Sight and Sound !! August 6, 2022 -- Children 10 and under \$125.00; Adults \$190.00. Fare includes bus, play, meal, tip for driver and fund raiser for Luke Antolick. Payments may be made during the course of the year! Thank You! Joyce Braucht.

Download the **VANCO** app from your app store for your cell phone. This feature is also available on our web site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. People were asking if they could give electronically by debit/credit card. Now this feature is available. If you have any questions, contact Pastor or Scott Mitchell.

VANCO Text: Simply send a text message to 570-865-1101 with the amount you would like to contribute (example: 25). Within a few minutes, you’ll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card holder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email. For future giving, send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically! You can even text “repeat” to make it a recurring donation. VANCO Text is one of the fastest, easiest ways to give. We hope you enjoy this new way to share your generosity and we thank you for supporting your church.

THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

Sunday, October 3 , 2021

19th Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts
- 9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service
- 7:00 p.m. NA meeting

Monday, October 4, 2021

- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- Boy Scouts
- 7:30 p.m. N/A meeting

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

- 7:00p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

- 10:00 a.m. Worship atTrinity Episcopal Church
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. N/A meeting

Thursday, October 7, 2021

- 4:00 p.m. Pack Boxes

Friday, October 8, 2021

- 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Food Distribution

Sunday, October 10, 2021

20th Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts
- 9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service **APPLE DUMPLING ORDERS DUE**
- 1:00 p.m. Youth Bike Ride, meet at Jersey Shore DCNR parking lot.
- CROP WALK**
- 7:00 p.m. NA meeting



Elementary and Middle School Youth

Join us for a bike ride Sunday, **October 10**, 1:00 p.m. at the Waterville Parking lot. We will take a ride from Waterville to Jersey Mills and back and then go for ice cream. Bring your bikes, your parents, and enjoy a Fall afternoon.

Calling all High School Youth!

Join us Monday evening, **October 25**, 6:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran, 229 South Broad Street. Dinner provided.

Topic: "Fun with Finance" Mrs. Heydrich will led us on some practical skills such as understanding paycheck deductions, paying bills, how to write a check, budgeting, interest in and interest out.

Card Shower – Stella and Jim Bard will be married 65 years on October 26. To celebrate this anniversary with them we invite you to send them a card congratulating them on their 65th anniversary. Mail the cards to:

Mr. & Mrs. Jim & Stella Barnard
502 Pinecreek Ave
Jersey Shore PA 17740-9216

We extend our sympathies to the family of David Kuehl who died on the evening of September 30, 2021. Plans for his funeral service will be made available as soon as we have the information.