

EYES LIKE THEIRS

Beth gave birth to her son at four in the afternoon. Because of some initial breathing troubles, the baby was whisked away to the Intensive Care Unit while Beth was wheeled to the recovery area. It wasn't until three in the morning, that the baby was able to leave the ICU. The nurse brought him to Beth, placed him in her arms and left them alone.

The city was still dark that early summer morning. There was quiet outside her window except for a trickle of traffic and the sound of hospital employees coming and going with the change of shifts. Just another day beginning.

But Beth knew nothing was ordinary about this day. She smiled at her son, held him close and whispered a thousand promises to him. He looked up at her with sleepy eyes, seeming to rest on every one of her promises.

Time spent with children teaches us the unwieldy truth that everything we do and say is being observed very carefully. They look to us for the answers about how things work, what is right and wrong, how to speak and how to love. Whether we deserve it or not, they believe in us passionately, unflinchingly.

Jesus' holy heart melted as he looked into the innocent, trusting eyes of the children around him. He loved them, well-behaved or not—we can tell because he told us that how we welcome children shows how we welcome God's own self (Mark 9:37). He was fiercely protective of them—we can tell because he warned us that it would be better to be violently drowned than to knowingly interfere with a child's belief (Mark 9:42). He knew children have great lessons of faith to teach us—we can tell because as he gathered those children into his arms, he said that he longed for all of us to look at him with eyes like theirs.

Forum on the Churchwide Assembly



East Side member Ty Inglis, who is also Treasurer of the South Dakota Synod, was a voting member of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis. He will lead two forums on the actions of the Assembly today — 9:00 am & 10:30 am — which will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Ty will give a brief summation of the actions of the Assembly and will then answer questions from those attending.



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PENTECOST 18

October 4, 2009 – 8:00 am & 9:30 am

(You are encouraged to use the time in the sanctuary during the Prelude for silent meditation and prayer; please enjoy conversation with others in the narthex or fellowship hall following the service. Please also be sure your cell phone or pager has been turned off. Thank you so much.)

PRELUDE

Connie Dienert, Guest Organist

WELCOME - ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** 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.
- C** Amen.
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P** Most merciful God,
- G** we confess that we are in bondage 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.

- P** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.
- G** Amen.

HYMN 858

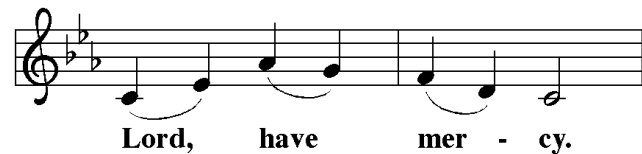
“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

THE 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.
- G** And also with you.

THE KYRIE

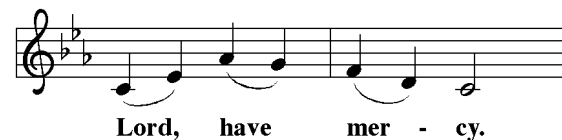
- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



- P** 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.



THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- P** Loving God, in this meal you sustain the weary and heal the broken. May the gift of your word made flesh, the body and blood of Christ, inspire our tongues to praise you and proclaim to the entire world the Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- G** Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- G** Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
- G** Thanks be to God!

HYMN 656

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

POSTLUDE

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name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all 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**

THE DISTRIBUTION

We sing hymns [488](#) and [468](#)

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord, and His Real Presence in the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper.

THE BLESSING

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

☑ **Amen.**

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☑ **Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.**



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.

☐ 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 gracious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

This Is the Feast

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.**
- Almighty 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 will reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- Amen.**

THE PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

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 SANCTUS

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the

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.

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE (Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer)

WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

THE THANKOFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY "Festive Voluntary" Henry Purcell

THE OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me
Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your Holy Spirit from me
restore unto me the joy of your salvation
and uphold me with your free spirit.

THE OFFERING PRAYER

☞ God of majesty:
☞ in your might you have created all things, and you entrust to our care what you have made. Receive our offerings, and make them a sign of our dedication to provide for the needs of all people and creatures, in the name of the one who sustains all things by his word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE 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 Fai "ish" (man) and hV'êai "ishshah" (woman).

¹⁸Then the 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.

☞ This is the Word of the Lord. ☞ Thanks be to God!

PSALM 8 (read responsively)

¹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—
²you 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,
⁴what 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.
⁶You 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,
⁸the 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!

THE 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.

^{1:1}Long 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. ^{2:15}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.

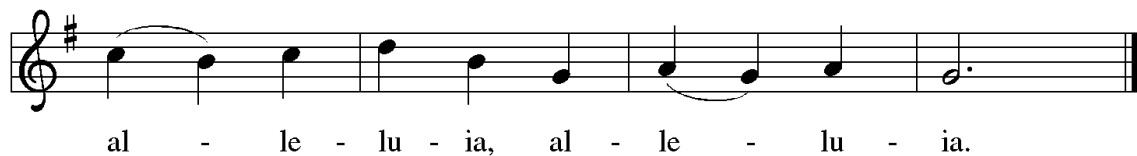
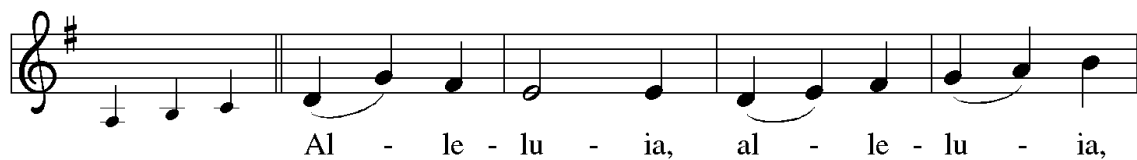
¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call 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."

☒ This is the Word of the Lord.

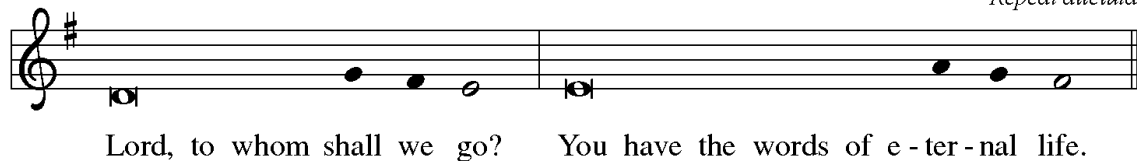
☑ Thanks be to God!

THE ALLELUIA VERSE

THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Mark 10:2-16*



Repeat alleluia



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.' ⁷For 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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"How Great Thou Art"

arr. Craig Courtney

Dr. Darlene Fett, Accompanist

THE SERMON

Pastor Lon Kvanli

HYMN 509

"God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"

THE APOSTLES' CREED

☒ God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

☑ 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;