

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [LECTIONARY 26]

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

SABBATH REFLECTION

“Dearest Jesus, We are Here”

–J. S. Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***INVOCATION**

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

Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

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.

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** “For the Beauty of the Earth”ELW # 879

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.; Public Domain

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.
(end)**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

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.

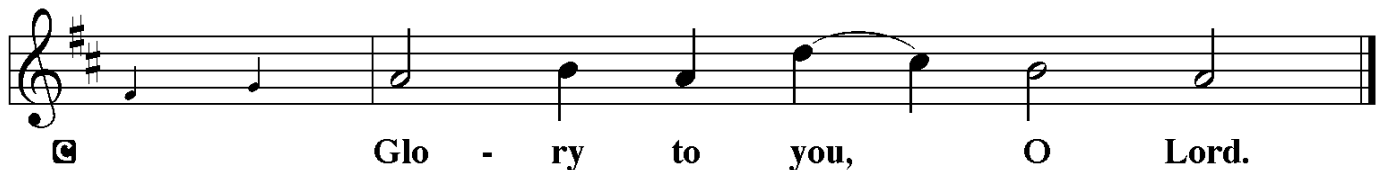
Amen.

CHILDREN'S HOMILY

TEACHING MOMENT

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

The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter.

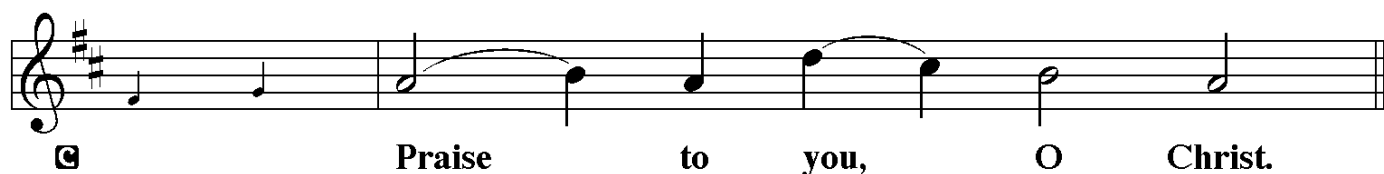


²Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” ⁵But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he 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.



HOMILY “Boundary Crossings - Again” Pastor Dave Helfrich

***SONG OF THE DAY** "Build a Longer Table" ACS # 1062

Text: David Bjorlin, © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. One License #-701897

(sung to the same tune as "Now the Green Blade Riseth")

**Build a longer table,
Not a higher wall,
Feeding those who hunger,
Making room for all.**

**Feasting together,
stranger turns to friend,
Christ breaks walls to pieces;
False divisions end.**

**Build a safer refuge,
Not a larger jail;
Where the weak find shelter,
Mercy will not fail.**

**For any place
Where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall,
Freeing all inside.**

**Build a broader doorway,
Not a longer fence.
Love protects all people,
Sparing no expense.**

**When we embrace
Compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences:
All are welcome here.**

(end)

***APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us 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;
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

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

A brief silence.

Holy Lord God, we pray for Your church in the world. We pray for guidance and wisdom for our church leaders. We pray for your Holy Spirit's creative presence among congregations as they find ways to safely reach out to those in need and struggling. Bless our ministries and help us all to be your instruments of grace and mercy to one another.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You have established a diverse and beautiful creation. Revive declining species and preserve endangered lands. Bring restoration and healing to lands in pain from recent floods and hurricanes. Cultivate in us a sense of wonder and good stewardship for the world you created.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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. You share in our experiences and struggles. We especially lift up to you those struggling with and from Covid-19. Bless and bring your healing presence to them, and to all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

***EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Cradling Children in His Arm”

–Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Johannes H. V. Knudsen, 1902-1982

Text © 1976 Johannes H. V. Knudsen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*Cradling children in his arm,
Jesus gave his blessing.
To our babes a welcome warm
he is yet addressing.
Take them, Lord, give life anew
in the living waters!
Keep them always near to you
as your sons and daughters!*

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

It is indeed right, our calling 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:

SANCTUS



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.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

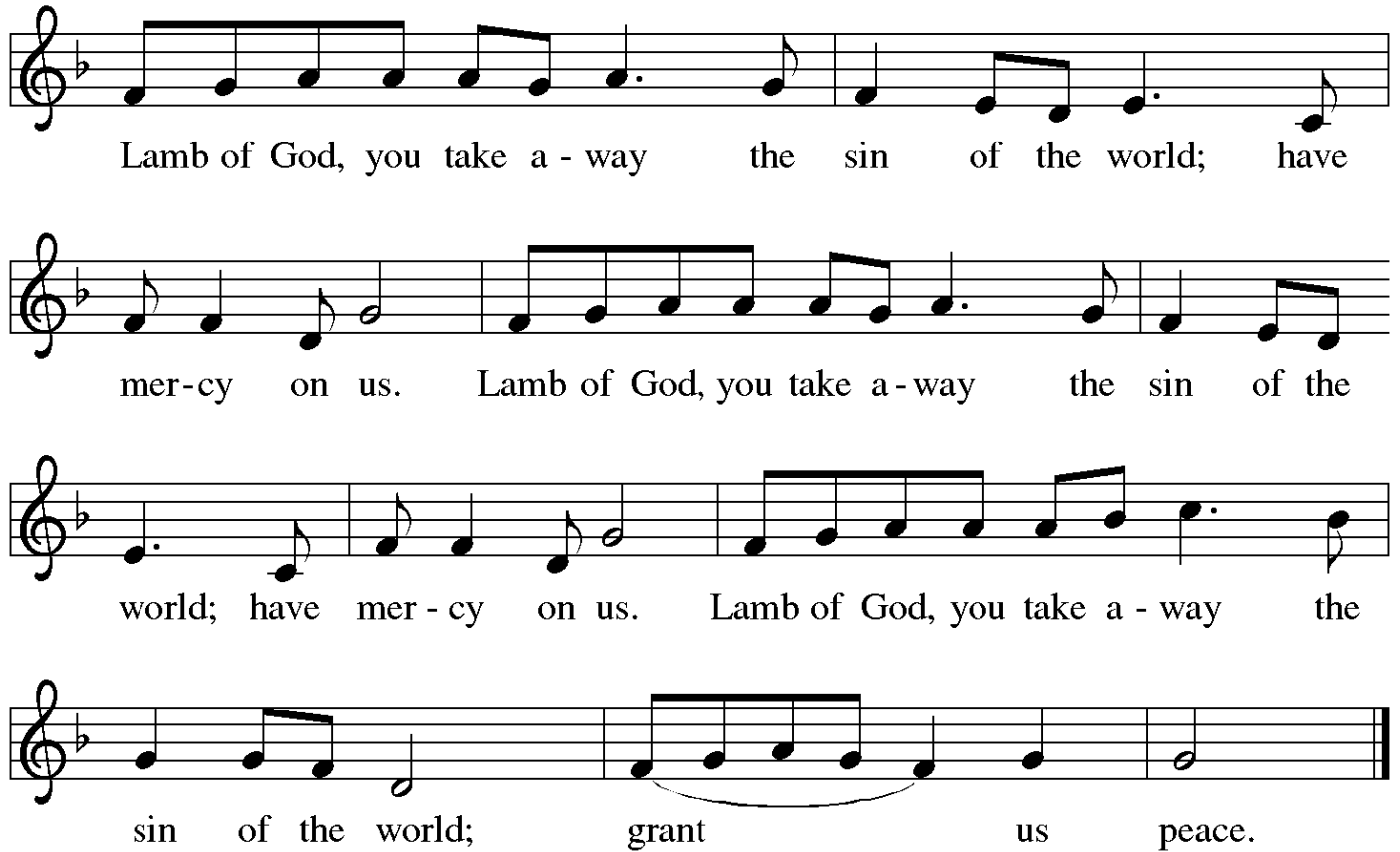
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven.**

**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**

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

We will commune by pew sections. Please follow your usher's directions.

For all of those watching online and all who are gathered in this space, please pray for one another.

COMMUNION SONGS

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

ELW # 656

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.; Public Domain

**Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The unity of heart and mind**

Is like to that above.

**Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.**

**We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.**

**From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.**

(end)

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878; Public Domain

**Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;**

**Who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,

And keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,

The one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

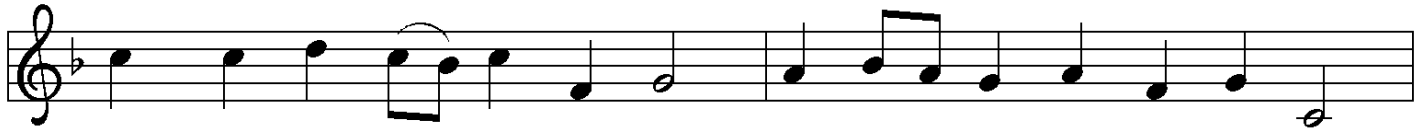
(end)

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

Amen.

CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

*SENDING PRAYER

*BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

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

Amen.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Gigue”

–J. S. Bach

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Used by permission. All rights reserved

Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com.

Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #21774.