



**NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
October 3, 2021

**MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
34 E. Orange Street  
Shippensburg, PA 17257-1993  
Web Site: [memluth.org](http://memluth.org)  
E-mail: [office@memluth.org](mailto:office@memluth.org)  
717-532-4614

**Welcoming all  
Reaching out in love  
Growing together in Christ  
Worshiping and serving in Jesus' name**

**The Rev. Dr. Christopher Suehr**  
717-532-4614 or 724-989-8106 or [pastor@memluth.org](mailto:pastor@memluth.org)  
*Office hours are Monday and Wednesday: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm*  
*Tuesday and Thursday by appointment*

**Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone, complete the connection card and place it in the offering plate.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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?

## **GATHERING**

*In order to keep us all safe for the time being there will be no singing of the liturgy or the hymns because the spread of the virus is greatly increased by singing.*

## **WELCOME**

**PRELUDE** *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"* - Burkhardt

*Please kneel or sit*

## **CONFESSION AND 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 whose love never ends.

*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 out of greed and apathy.**

**Rescue us from our sin, gracious God.**

**Hear us when we call out for help.**

**Lead us to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of + Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. With happy hearts, receive the forgiveness of all your sins.

**Amen.**

*Please stand*

**GATHERING HYMN** *“Let the Whole Creation Cry”*

**ELW 876**

*The organist will play the hymn but we will not sing. Please read the words as she plays. Even in our silence the meaning of the hymn will be present to us.*

*Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high!"  
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty king!"  
Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;  
sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice.*

*Servants striving for the Lord, prophets burning with the word,  
those to whom the arts belong add their voices to the song.  
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law, to the glorious circle draw;  
all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"*

*Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud and bold,  
and let children's happy hearts in this worship take their parts;  
from the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll:  
"Holy, Holy, Holy One; glory be to God alone!"*

**GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *“Glory to God”*

**READ TOGETHER**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**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

### 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).*

<sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>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.

<sup>22</sup>And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>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.” <sup>24</sup>Therefore 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

8

**READ RESPONSIVELY**

<sup>1</sup>O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

<sup>2</sup>**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.**

<sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

<sup>4</sup>**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?**

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

<sup>6</sup>**You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:**

<sup>7</sup>all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

<sup>8</sup>the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

<sup>9</sup>O 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.*

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>2:5</sup>Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. <sup>6</sup>But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? <sup>7</sup>You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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, <sup>12</sup>saying, "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.**

*Please stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia.** When we love one another, God lives in us and God's love is perfected in us. **Alleluia.** (1 John 4:12)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 10th chapter.

**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.*

<sup>2</sup>Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" <sup>3</sup>He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" <sup>4</sup>They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." <sup>5</sup>But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' <sup>7</sup>'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." <sup>10</sup>Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup>and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." <sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup>And 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.**

*Please be seated*

## SERMON

*Please stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *"God, When Human Bonds Are Broken"*

**ELW 603**

*The organist will play the hymn but we will not sing. Please read the words as she plays. Even in our silence the meaning of the hymn will be present to us.*

*God, when human bonds are broken and we lack the love or skill to restore the hope of healing, give us grace and make us still.*

*Through that stillness, with your Spirit come into our world of stress, for the sake of Christ forgiving all the failures we confess.*

*You in us are bruised and broken: hear us as we seek release from the pain of earlier living; set us free and grant us peace.*

*Send us, God of new beginnings, humbly hopeful into life. Use us as a means of blessing: make us stronger, give us faith.*

*Give us faith to be more faithful, give us hope to be more true, give us love to go on learning: God, encourage and renew!*

## **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 into hell.  
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 One, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout history. Empower those discerning a call to ministry and all seminarians, that they continue to be formed for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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, **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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*(Everyone is to remain in their pew for the passing of the peace. To share the peace with someone sitting near you, share a slight bow, wave, or cross your arms with hands touching the opposite arm, a gesture of embrace.)*

*Please be seated*

**BELL CHOIR OFFERTORY** *“Blest Be The Tie That Binds”*  
- Douglas E. Wagner

*The Ushers will collect the offering*

## **OFFERTORY**

*Please stand*

## **MEAL**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**



## **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.**

## **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**

*Read Together*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of**

**power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Reveal yourself to us Lord in the breaking of the bread.

**As once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

*Please be seated*

### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward by the center aisle at the usher's direction. If you choose to have wine for communion, take an empty cup from the usher. If you prefer grape juice, receive a pre-filled cup at the altar. If you or a child has never received the sacrament, fold hands to receive a blessing instead. After receiving communion or a blessing, you may choose to remain at the altar for extra time in prayer. When you return to your pew do so by the side aisles. Please deposit the empty cup in the basket.*

*Please stand*

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” ELW 543

*The organist will play the hymn but we will not sing. Please read the words as she plays. Even in our silence the meaning of the hymn will be present to us.*

*“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”*

*“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure. Here  
you heard my dear Son’s story, here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”*

*“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit’s power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”*

*Please be seated*

### POSTLUDE “Cortege” - Young

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS004243. 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. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.*



**Jackie Bishop  
Peg Commerer  
Dorothy Coy  
Charles Fleming  
Robert Florig  
Evelyn Fuller  
Delores Henry**

**June Hile  
Bernita Killian  
Jeanne Naugle  
William Porter  
Dorothy Railing  
Betty Reilly  
All Caregivers**

**Church Staff**

**Pastor  
The Rev. Dr. Christopher Suehr**

**Organist  
Nancy Fogelsanger**

**Choir Director  
Blaine Shover**

**Bell Choir Director  
Kathy Kerr**

**Parish Coordinator  
Amy Piper**

**Youth Director  
Stacy McCole**

**Preschool Director  
Shirley Perry**