

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Family of God
October 3 & 4, 2015
LWML Weekend

AS WE GATHER

There has been much to say of late about family. What makes a family? How is this gift of God faring in our society today? Family has its beginnings in the Garden of Eden when God joined Adam and Eve as husband and wife. From that first marriage came the blessing of children. Today we explore what it means to be children in the family of God. In particular, like the little children in our gospel reading, what it means to be found in our Savior's arms.

Today is LWML Sunday

We give thanks to our God for the work of His servants, Lutheran women around the world, who serve their Lord through gathering mites, participating in some in-gatherings for those in need, and in our congregation, the making of quilts. The love of Jesus Christ is clearly shown in the time, energy, and devotion of our sisters in Christ in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. May God continue to bless their work!

WELCOME

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #605

"Father Welcomes"

Refrain:

**Father welcomes all His children To His fam'ly through His Son.
Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.**

Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. *Refrain*

In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured;
Those who are baptized and believe Shall be born again. *Refrain*

Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with Him.
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. *Refrain*

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Ephesians 3:14–19*

Pastor: For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,

People: from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

Pastor: that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being,

People: so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—

Pastor: that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

People: may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

Pastor: and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,

People: that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Hebrews 2:14–15*

Pastor: People of God, you have been called into God's family. Yet at times, we have chosen to act like children of the world. Let us confess our sins.

People: Father, we confess that we were born in sin. We confess our selfishness in our thoughts, in our words, and in our deeds. We confess that we have despised the families you have given us. We confess that we have despised your family. For all our sins, we beg your forgiveness.

Pastor: In your Baptism, God Himself adopted you into His family. There, He washed every sin from you and put His name on you. You were baptized into the death of Christ and buried with Him and raised to new life, to love all people and especially the family of God. As an ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Refrain: *This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. *Amen. Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Father in heaven, you refuse to let us go, but paid the price to make us your children. We received full assurance of this in our Baptism. Help us to keep daily repentance and a life that pleases you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 2:18–25* (God creates the first family.)

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason

a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 2:1–13* (Jesus becomes one of us, so we can be part of His family.)

We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet." In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 9:30-37 & 10:13-16*

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it. They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #863 "Our Father, by Whose Name"

Our Father, by whose name All fatherhood is known,
Who dost in love proclaim Each family Thine own,
Bless Thou all parents, guarding well, With constant love as sentinel,
The homes in which Thy people dwell.

O Christ, Thyself a child Within an earthly home,
With heart still undefiled, Thou didst to manhood come;
Our children bless in ev'ry place That they may all behold Thy face,
And knowing Thee may grow in grace.

O Spirit, who dost bind Our hearts in unity, Who teachest us to find
The love from self set free, In all our hearts such love increase
That ev'ry home by this release May be the dwelling place of peace.

SERMON

In His Arms

Mark 9:30-37, 10:13-16

(Rise)

NICENE CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

Pastor: . . . let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #622 “Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared”

Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared This feast for our salvation;
It is your body and your blood, And at your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed, We come to you for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.

Although you did to heav’n ascend, Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in your presence they behold your glory, all excelling,
And though your people shall not see your glory and your majesty
Till dawns the judgment morning.

Yet, Savior, you are not confined To any habitation;
But you are present even now Here with your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning.

We eat this bread and drink this cup, your precious Word believing
That your true body and your blood Our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true, All things are possible with you,
For you are Lord Almighty.

Though reason cannot understand, Yet faith this truth embraces:
Your body, Lord, is even now At once in many places.
I leave to you how this can be; Your Word alone suffices me;
I trust its truth unfailing.

Lord, I believe what you have said; Help me when doubts assail me.
Remember that I am but dust, And let my faith not fail me.
Your supper in this vale of tears Refreshes me and stills my fears
And is my priceless treasure.

Grant that we worthily receive your supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving for our sins, May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for your grace And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.

For your consoling supper, Lord, Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev’ry place The world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be A blessed comfort unto me
When living and when dying.

HYMN #544 “O Love, How Deep”

O love, how deep, how broad, how high, Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take Our mortal form for mortals’ sake!

He sent no angel to our race, Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame, And to this world Himself He came.

For us baptized, for us He bore His holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp He knew; For us the tempter over threw.

For us He prayed; for us He taught; For us His daily works He wrought,
BY words and signs and actions thus Still seeking not Himself but us.

For us by wickedness betrayed, For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death; For us He gave His dying breath.

For us He rose from death again; For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

All glory to our Lord and God For love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore Forever and forevermore.

HYMN #595 “O Blessed Spring”

O blessed spring, where Word and sign Embrace us into Christ the Vine;
Here Christ enjoins each one to be A branch of this life-giving Tree.

Through summer heat of youthful years, Uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
Sustained by Christ’s infusing rain, The boughs will shout for joy again.

When autumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their heavy harvest hold,
Then through us, warm, the Christ will move With gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.

As winter comes, as winters must, We breathe our last, return to dust;
Still held in Christ, our souls take wing And trust the promise of the spring.

Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree, Be praised for this blest mystery;
That Word and water thus revive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O God the Father, who loves his dear Son, we thank you that in this Sacrament you have given us what we need: pardon and peace. You have made us your children; keep and preserve us in your family, and in this Supper also strengthen us as one family in you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #725 “Children of the Heavenly Father”

Children of the heav’nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e’er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne’er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

Preacher

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Liturgist

Pastor Harold Bender

Lectors

Jodi Drew, Marc Stefanic, Carri Wolcyk

Acolytes

Laura Quigley, Michael Matusewic, Bree Rudig

Organist

Roger Gottschalk

Music Coordinator

Kim Woller

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