

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Crossroads (ELCA)**

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**Sunday, October 7, 2018  
Season after Pentecost  
Holy Communion**

*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?*



LET YOUR GUARD DOWN,  
LET GOD IN,  
BE AMONG FRIENDS

## WELCOME . . .

We are privileged to have you as our guest in the Lord's house this morning. We pray that the time you share with us will be meaningful for you and that God will bless you through it. If you have a question that is not answered here, please don't hesitate to ask someone around you.

**Registry:** Please take time to complete the registry/attendance sheet found in the pew in the black folder at the center aisle. It is important to us that we know who is worshipping with us today. Thank you.

**Worship:** This booklet is our order of worship for today. Hymns are found in the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" hymnals located in the racks on the back of the pew in front of you. Everything else is printed in this booklet.

Our worship includes **Holy Communion**. As Christians in the Lutheran heritage, we believe that our Lord Jesus is physically present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine we receive. However, if you believe that Jesus' body and blood were given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins, you are welcome to commune with us, regardless of your faith background. A white grape juice is available at the center of the tray for those who do not wish to receive wine. Gluten-free wafers are available for those with gluten sensitivity.

If you desire to receive communion but are unable to come forward to the communion rail, inform the usher of such and communion will be brought to you.

. . . WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

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Ministers:	The people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Crossroads
Pastor:	Pastor Creighton
Greeters:	Dwayne and Paige Borgman Family
Accompanist:	Kathy Westerfeld
Acolytes:	Hannah and Haley Barker
Assisting Minister:	Pauletta Meyer
Reader:	Pam Narwold
Communion Assistant:	Tara Lay
Sound System:	Adam Mack
Offering Counters:	Curt Wehr and Gary Westerfeld
Altar Committee:	Gary Westerfeld

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## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the † holy Trinity, the one who fashions us,  
the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Source of all life,

**we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.**

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, † God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new,  
in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
 with ever joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,  
 the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,

who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878  
 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTTE, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

## **GREETING**

*The presiding minister and assembly greet one another.*

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

**And also with you.**

## **KYRIE**

ELW p. 203

*A Kyrie may be sung in dialogue between an assisting minister and the assembly.*

♪ **Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.  
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

♪ **Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

♪ **Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.  
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

ELW p. 204

♪ **Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

♪ **Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**

♪ **Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

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.*

## **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).*

A reading from the second chapter of Genesis.

<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: Psalm 8

*The psalm is read responsively by verse.*

<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.*

A reading from the first and second chapters of Hebrews.

<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.**

*The assembly stands to acclaim the gospel.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW p. 205

**♪ Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.**

**Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.**

**Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

## **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.*

The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

## **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.**

## **SERMON**

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

## Blest Be the Tie That Binds



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;  
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.

Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

## 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**

*The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer.*

Longing for God's will to be fulfilled among us, we pray persistently for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, send your blessing out into the world through missionaries, evangelists, and servants of your church. Through them spread good news to all who need it. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We praise you for the animals of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and all the works of your hands. Let our care for all you have made reflect your desire for the health of all creation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Rule the nations of this world with the same grace you employ to align planets, stars, and moons. Where there is disorder, move us toward righteousness and justice. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Deliver your care to your children who feel unworthy of care. Bend down low to lift up people who struggle to find others who will embrace them in time of need. We pray especially for those listed in the bulletin and prayer book, and those we name aloud or in our hearts at this time. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Bring reconciliation among this community. Heal relationships that are broken. When we face division, open our eyes to signs of new life. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Along with all the saints, form us into a holy and loving community in which people can find abundant compassion and peace. Through us bring others into your unbreakable covenant. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray and all for whom we have forgotten or neglected to pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*

OFFERING PRAYER

*After the table is set, the assisting minister leads a prayer.*

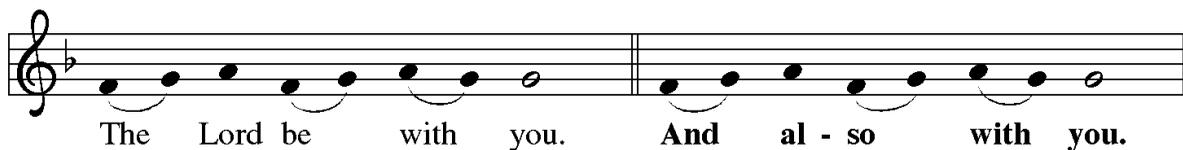
Let us pray together.

God of life,

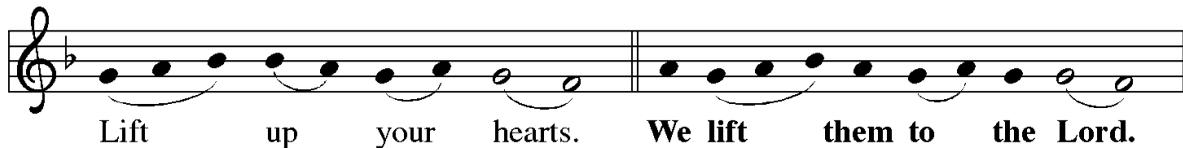
**you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

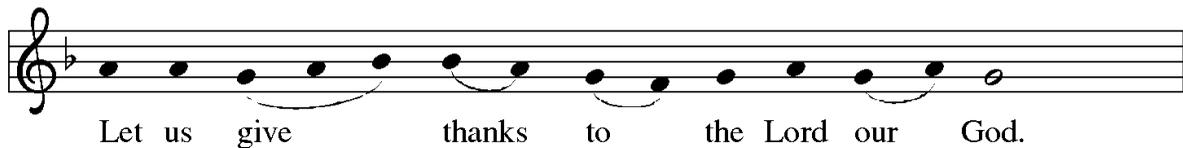
*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*



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.

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...  
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW p. 207

**♪Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heav'n 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, hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

*The presiding minister continues.*

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,

and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the holy spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

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

## **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**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly in invitation.*

*The assembly is seated.*

*All are welcome at Christ's table! If you are a visitor and receive communion at your home church, you are invited to do so here. Everyone is invited to receive communion or a blessing.*

## **COMMUNION SONG**

ELW p. 208

**♪O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**♪O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**♪O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

## 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.

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

*After Holy Communion has been distributed, the assembly stands and the presiding minister may say:*

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

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION:

**ELW 884**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

*The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer after communion.*

Let us pray.

Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

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.  
**Amen.**

## For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.  
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

**DISMISSAL**

*The assisting minister may address the assembly.*

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**



**Our members at St. Andrew's:**     Julia Siebert                     Ruth Thackery

**Our Partner Churches:** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States and St. John Lutheran Church, Bellaire

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**Today:**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, **welcome** to this house of worship! May our praise and prayers be pleasing to God, and may we be eager recipients of his Word.

Today is **CROP Walk**. It's not too late to support a walker, or just make a donation. One fourth of the monies collected go to local food pantries.

**This Week:**

Office Hours – Monday	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Pr. Creighton's office hours – Monday – Thursday	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Monday –**

Leisure Ladies	1:00 PM
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**Tuesday -**

SEIC Clergy meeting	10:00 AM
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**Wednesday –**

M'rita Moms	6:15 PM
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Choir practice	7:30 PM
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**Sunday -**

Sunday School	9:00 AM
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Worship Service	10:00 AM
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**Upcoming Events / Announcements:**

There are numerous **events taking place** in Batesville and the surrounding area in the next few weeks. Please see the bulletin board for more information about them.

St. Louis church is sponsoring a community blood draw on Tuesday, October 16 at the Knights of Columbus hall. See bulletin board for more details.

The Food Pantry is beginning to **collect items for the holiday baskets**. They are asking us to collect 300 canned fruits and/or vegetables each month for both October and

November. Please consider assisting with this vital community ministry. Your generosity and cooperation are greatly appreciated by our neighbors in need.

**Fall Family Fun Night**, Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Hosted by Gene and Mary Lou Krieger. Details posted on the bulletin board and the October Exemplar.

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### *Who Would Jesus Bless Today?*

Many Bibles include a heading before the latter part of today's gospel reading (Mark 10:13-16) that says something like "Blessing the Children" or "Jesus Welcomes the Children." In reading such a heading, we might begin to imagine a sentimental scene in which Jesus is surrounded by cute, adorable children. When we think about children being blessed in our churches today, we might imagine children gathering around the altar or at the front of the worship space for a children's time, in which the pastor or worship leader would say a prayer with them and give them a blessing. The parents and others may also be gathered just behind the children, smiling in adoration of these young ones.

However, we cannot view the scene from Mark's gospel with only our modern understanding of the role and place of children in society. The life of many children in North America is one of relative privilege, with carefree days in which they often experience the care and love of grown-ups. Jesus, by bringing the children to him, identifies himself with those who were among the most vulnerable and helpless in society. In ancient times, children often were treated like property. They had few protections from those who would treat them badly. But Jesus came into the world for ones such as these children. Who, in our communities, is in the place of the children of ancient times? As Christ's church, do we provide a place of welcome and care for the most vulnerable and weak in our society?

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