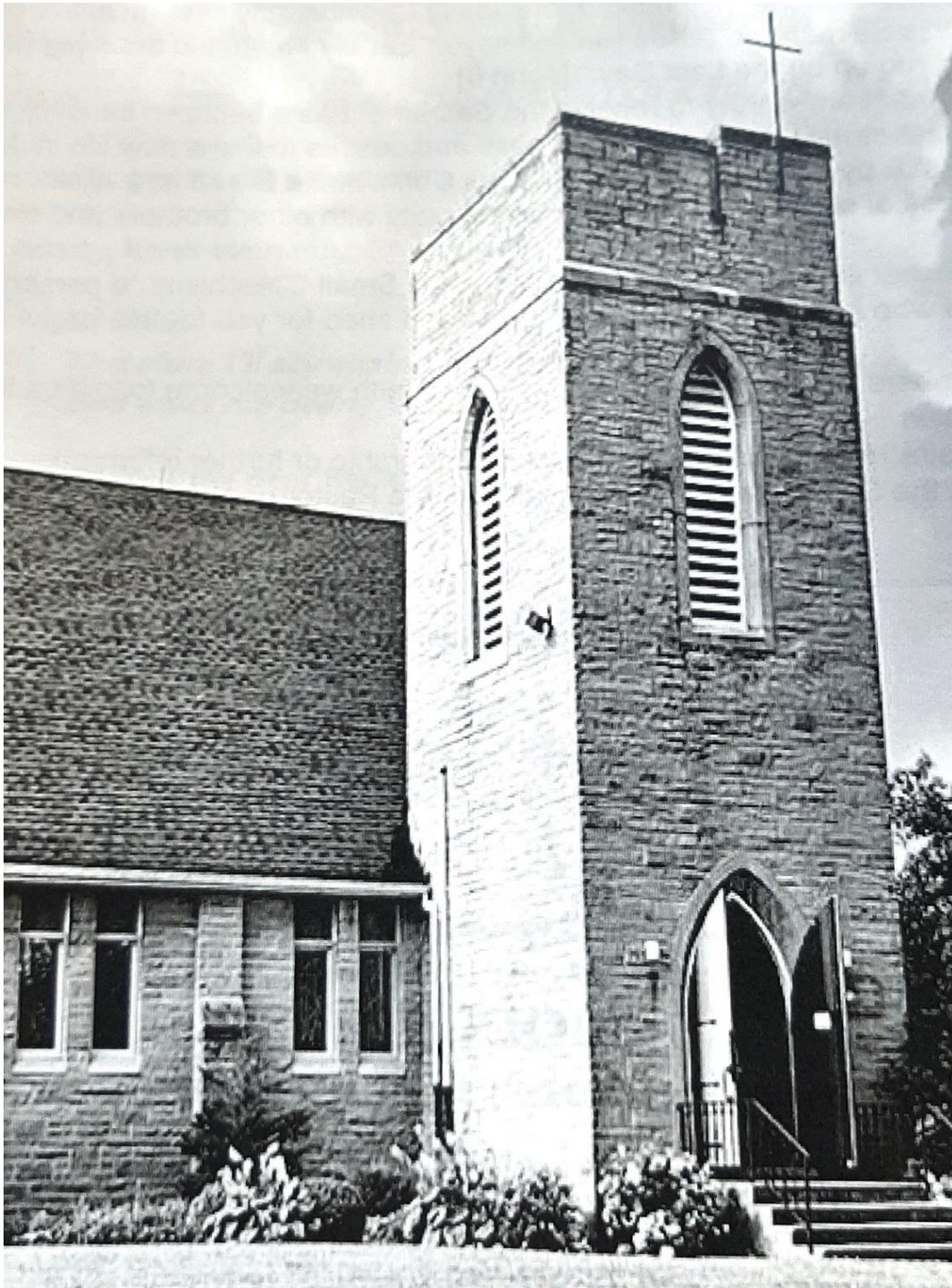


Christ Lutheran Church - St. Catharines

The 20th Sunday after Pentecost
October 6th, 2024



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Christ Lutheran Church – St. Catharines
140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, ON
L2R 1W1

Phone: 905-685-8294
Church Website: www.christlutheransc.ca

Romans 10:15 - - *How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday – 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

| | |
|--|---|
| Pastor: Rev. Todd Hoeffs | 289-362-0113 pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com |
| Deaconess: Louise Gondosch | 905-329-8579 parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca |
| Business Manager: Emily Fernando | 905-685-8294 business.manager@christlutheransc.ca |
| Secretary: Bronwyn Goodburn | 905-685-8294 secretary@christlutheransc.ca |
| Facebook | www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC |
| CLChurch YouTube channel | Christ Lutheran Church-YouTube (<i>link</i>) |
| Pastor Todd's YouTube channel | "Gathering the Scattered" (<i>link</i>) |
| Seminarian Augustine Aylin, Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary Colloquy Student Fieldworker | |

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH – ST. CATHARINES!
We're glad you've joined us for worship!

Please be aware that our Worship Services are ***recorded and posted on YouTube and Facebook***. There is, although very slight, a possibility that your image might be posted. If you have any concerns, please either speak to the Elder on duty or alternatively seat yourself more towards the back of the sanctuary or along either of the outside aisles. May our gracious and loving Lord bless you as you worship Him. We pray we all remain safe and healthy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIPPING

I praise you for the power of the resurrection, which demonstrates your power over all things. Lord, thank you for the gift of everlasting life. No matter what happens today, Lord, I need not fear because I have the hope of eternity with you. Jesus, forgive me for doubting instead of trusting you. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS

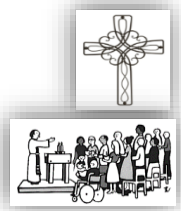
| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Monday: Psalm 55: 1-15 | Wed: Job 15: 1-35 | Friday: Hebrews 4: 1-11 |
| Tuesday: Job 11: 1-20 | Thurs: Psalm 22: 1-15 | Saturday: Matthew 15: 1-9 |

Musician – Louise Gondosch + **Reader** – Howard Bogusat + **Greeter** – Bronwyn Goodburn

ALSO HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

- Monday: 10 – 11 AM Luther Manor Bible Study
1 PM "Sewing Circle"
7:30 PM Choir Practice
- Tuesday: 9:30 – 10:30 AM Prayer Meeting
9:30 – 11 AM Precious Moments
- Wednesday 1 – 2 PM Bible Study "Wednesday in the Word"
7 PM – Church Council Meeting
- Thursday: 10 – 11:30 AM SOUL
7:15 PM Promise Band Practice
- Sunday: 9 – 9:30 Bible Study (Mark Gospel Readings)
9 – 9:50 AM Sunday School and Coffee Hour
10 AM – Thanksgiving Creative Communion

October 2024 Worship Schedule



- October 13th – Thanksgiving Creative Holy Communion
- October 20th – Scripture & Song Mission Service
Mary Martha LWML Sunday (Band)
- October 27th – LSB Setting 3 Communion Reformation Day

YOU ARE INVITED!! EVERY SUNDAY!!



***COFFEE & TEA TIME
CHRIST CAFÉ DOWNSTAIRS
SUNDAYS FROM 9 – 9:50 AM
ALL ARE WELCOME.***

Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please contact Judy Mason

A donation has been made to the Nicaragua Mission Fund by William Pink in memory of Greg Munz.



Flowers have been placed on the altar this morning by Pastor John & Linda Makey to the glory of God and in celebration of their 49th Wedding Anniversary on 10 October.



This week, we learn how God provided "A Merciful Substitute". God had blessed Abraham with the son he had waited for his entire life; yet now God asks the seemingly impossible – sacrifice your son to Me. By faith, Abraham takes Isaac to the mountain, trusting God, who was able to raise his son from the dead. Abraham completes the test, and God provides the sacrifice.

PRECIOUS MOMENTS: We invite you to bring your "Precious little one" Tuesday mornings between 9:30 - 11:00 am. During our time together we play, sing songs about Jesus, read and learn Bible stories, make a special craft and have a snack. This year we are also adding a devotion time for 'Moms.'" We meet downstairs in the church nursery. The coffee and tea are always on and you will be greeted with friendly smiles. Feel free to drop in.

The Board of Directors is calling a Special Resolution - Member's meeting on Sunday October 20, 2024, after the Sunday Morning Service. The proposed resolution that we are seeking member ratification will be posted at the back of the church on the bulletin board, but is focused on amending our incorporation articles to include levels of membership and to allow for increased numbers of directors.



It is NOT too late – please RENEW or obtain your Seminary Guild membership. Your \$10.00 helps to support the needs of the students at the Seminary with gift certificates for books in first year, their first clerical collar, a portable communion set when they graduate, pantry items as needed, and so much more. Please prayerfully consider supporting our pastors of the future in this small way. **Please contact Gail Julie.**

BOOK LAUNCH PARTY! Saturday, October 19th, from 2-4 pm at Heritage Christian Book Store. Join in the excitement of meeting the Author of "**The Christmas Elephant**" a nativity story; Maria Antonia (daughter of Pastor and Jill Munoz). Free activities for kids, elephant cookies and so much more!



LWML-C/MARY MARTHA EVENTS



Tuesday, October 15th at 7 PM – Bazaar planning
Sunday, October 20th, at 10 AM -LWML-C Sunday
Saturday, November 16th at 9 AM – Christmas Bazaar
Tuesday, November 19th at 7 PM – Warm feet for the Street packaging
Tuesday, December 17th at 7 PM – Christmas Pot Luck
Everyone at Christ is welcome to attend.

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR this year will be held on
Saturday, November 16th, 9AM to 2PM.

*****Save the date*---Please note that it is *2 wks. earlier this year*****

Support our efforts to raise funds for various Missions *around the world and* help for our Community.

***Please start spreading the word to help us advertise & plan to attend!

***It's not too early to make items or gifts for the Craft Table.

***Any items you may have for the "Nearly New" Tables may be brought in any time now and placed in the back-room downstairs. Please bring only good quality items (*not white elephant*) in nearly new or gently used condition.

They should be packed in a box or tied bag and placed neatly on the cupboard or shelves that are labeled Bazaar.

***Monetary donations also gratefully accepted (cash or cheques made out to Mary Martha Society)

***More details to follow but if you have any questions, please contact Carole Pink or any of our M.M./LWML ladies.

Last Sunday's Attendance – September 29th, 2024: 93

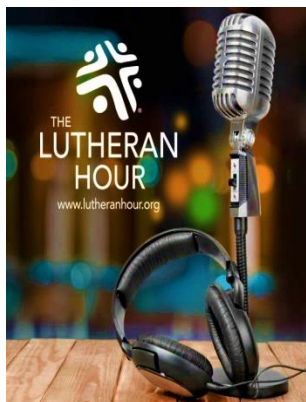
WEEKLY OFFERINGS

| | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Weekly need</u> | <u>Last Sunday</u> | <u>2024-09-29</u> | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | | | | <u>YTD</u> | <u>+ / (-)</u> |
| Current | 303,899.00 | 5,844.21 | 3,888.00 | 140,359.34 | (87,564.91) |
| LCC Missions | 17,500.00 | 336.54 | 53.00 | 15,311.86 | 2,186.86 |
| Property Improvements | | | 10.00 | 3,869.50 | |



November 23rd, 2024

Yes, it will be one year already on November 23rd that our family: Kareem, Hamida, Ameer, and Asser arrived in Canada. The Fellowship Committee and your Refugee Committee are planning a first anniversary dinner for our family on that Saturday. Please keep tuned for further details. Everyone is welcome.



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRY SERMONS: *These highly regarded sermons are broadcast each Sunday morning on 99.5 FM WDCX, Buffalo, at 10:30 A.M. Check the website for participating stations or you can listen any time to a podcast or MP3 or read the text at www.ill.ca.*

They are a worthwhile addition to your regular observance of the Lord's Day and a particularly helpful alternative if you know you will be unable to attend our regular Worship Service at Christ Lutheran Church for any reason. The Lutheran Hour speaker is Rev. D. Michael Zeigler.

WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN?

Another Project Connect booklet from the Lutheran Hour. It talks about the Bible's answer to these questions: **1. Why do pain and suffering exist? 2. What benefit can possibly come from my troubles? 3. What has God done to deal with the evil and pain in this world?**

There are some interesting statements such as: "Pain is God's bullhorn to rouse a deaf world." "God allows trials to come to us so we become refined and more compassionate people. Our problem is that often we do not want to be improved." Jesus was the man who was treated more unfairly than anyone else in history. Jesus Christ is the only God with scars. Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God and care called according to His purpose." If you don't see this booklet in our display rack please ask Pastor John.



THANKSGIVING DONATIONS / DISPLAY FOR THE SEMINARY!!!

As we do each year in thanks to God for His rich blessings to us, we are gathering food, both produce & non-perishable goods to use in our Thanksgiving Display (October 14th). We display these things as a way of focusing our attention on God's abundant blessings to us. We will then donate the food items to the Seminary Pantry, and so we multiply our thanks because of their thankfulness to God for our generosity. **Please place in the collection bin at the back of the church. Thank you!**

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

There are plenty of phish in the sea.

Don't be one of them!



Please be aware there have been e-mails sent out in Pastor Hoeff's name that are Phishing Scams.

Ways to prevent Phishing yourself from Phish net:

- Be very careful about not replying to any such spam mails that ask you to confirm or update any information about your account.
- Do not follow any links that come with the spam mails, which will lead you to websites that ask for conformation of your account information.
- Never copy an unknown link from these kinds of spam mails and paste them on your web browsers. These links are made to look very humble by the phishers, but they will actually land you to some scam and fraud sites.
- Be careful about opening or saving any document or attachment that comes with spam mails. Do not trust these kinds of e-mails even if they appear to be sent by some authorized entity.
- Never ever send your confidential information about your account in an e-mail.
- It is better to be protected from these scams by using firewall, anti-spyware and anti-virus software. Make sure to update this software regularly for security of your PC.
- Do not respond to those scam mails, which even seem to offer sound business or ask you to avail a refund. The fraudsters often sent you phone numbers so that you call them up for business purpose. They use Voice over Internet Protocol technology. With this technology, their calls can never be traced.
- The church will NEVER ask for money or gift cards via an e-mail.

**CONCORDIA
ROCKS
BONSPIEL**

Saturday Nov. 23, 2024

- \$50 per curler
- Williamsford Community Centre, 112 Salter St., Williamsford, Ontario

- Draws at 8:30 & 10:00
- catered lunch awards at 3:30
- novices welcome
- all proceeds for CLTS Student Aid Fund

Reserve your spot by emailing Carol
carollc1952@gmail.com or text 226-668-4353

Calling all curlers (and the curling curious)! Register for the first ever **Concordia Rocks Bonspiel. Saturday, November 23, 2024** at the **Williamsford Community Centre** (112 Salter St, Williamsford, Ontario, close to Owen Sound). 2 games, 2 draws, lunch, refreshments, prizes, and a whole pile of fun. Draw 1 @8:30 and Draw 2 @10:00. All proceed to the Student Aid Fund of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines. Novices are welcome! Registration \$50.00/curler. Limited to the first 32 curlers. For more info visit: www.concordia-seminary.ca. Reserve your spot by emailing Carol at carollc1952@gmail.com or text 226-668-4353

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SPOKEN MATINS

Adapted from Lutheran Service Book order of Matins

The 20th Sunday After Pentecost

October 6, 2024 + 10 AM worship

FIRST SONG *"All Hail The Pow'r Of Jesus' Name"*

**All hail the power of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all,
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all.**

**O seed of Israel's chosen race, now ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all,
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all.**

**Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all,
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all.**

**O that with yonder sacred throng, We at His feet may fall,
We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all!**

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792, sts. 1-4; J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts. 5-6
Music: Oliver Holden, 1765-1844

CORONATION
868686

<https://gccsatx.com/hymns/all-hail-the-power-of-jesus-name/>

SPOKEN MORNING PRAYER SCRIPTURE RESPONSES

O Lord, open my lips!

And my mouth will declare Your praise.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Make haste to help me, O Lord.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son + and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in
the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Praise to You, O Christ!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessed be God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

O Come, let us worship Him!

PSALMODY



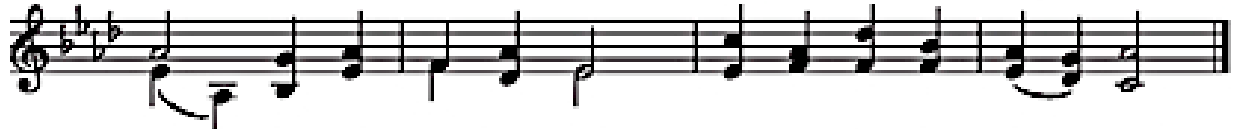
1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing, Al - le - lu - ia, A - men!
2. Come, lift your hearts on high, Al - le - lu - ia, A - men!
3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia, A - men!



Loud praise to Christ our King, Al - le - lu - ia, A - men!
Let prais - es fill the sky, Al - le - lu - ia, A - men!
Life shall not end the strain, Al - le - lu - ia, A - men!



Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore His throne re - joice;
He is our Guide and Friend, to us He'll con - de - scend;
On heav - en's bliss - ful shore, His good - ness we'll a - dore,



praise is His gra - cious choice, Al - le - lu - ia, A - men!
His love shall nev - er end, Al - le - lu - ia, A - men!
sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al - le - lu - ia, A - men!"

William E. Hickson, 1836
adapt. Christian Bateman, 1843

MADRID
66 66 D

Traditional Spanish melody, 18th cent.
arr. David Evans, 1927

Blessed be God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

O Come, let us worship Him!

PSALM 128

Blessed are all who have holy reverence for the Lord and live his way.

They will certainly eat what their own hands have provided.

Blessings to you! May things go well for you!

A wife will be like a fruitful vine inside the home.

Your children will be like young olive trees around your table.

This is how the Lord will bless the person who worships him.

May the Lord bless you from Zion

so that you may see Jerusalem prospering all the days of your life.

May you live to see your children's children.

Let there be peace in Israel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Gracious God and Father, Whose almighty power is made known most greatly in showing mercy and pity, so give unto us the fullness of Your grace that we may be partakers of Your Heavenly Treasure; we ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SCRIPTURES

The Old Testament: *Genesis 2: 18-25*

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' 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 each living creature, that was its name. 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. 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. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 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.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: *Hebrews 2: 1-13*

Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the message declared through angels was valid, and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, how can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? It was declared at first through the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him, while God added his testimony by signs and wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, distributed according to his will. Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, 'What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour, 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, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. 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. 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, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE *[spoken together]*

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good,
for His never-ending love lasts forever. Alleluia!**

The Holy Gospel: *St. Mark 10: 2-16*

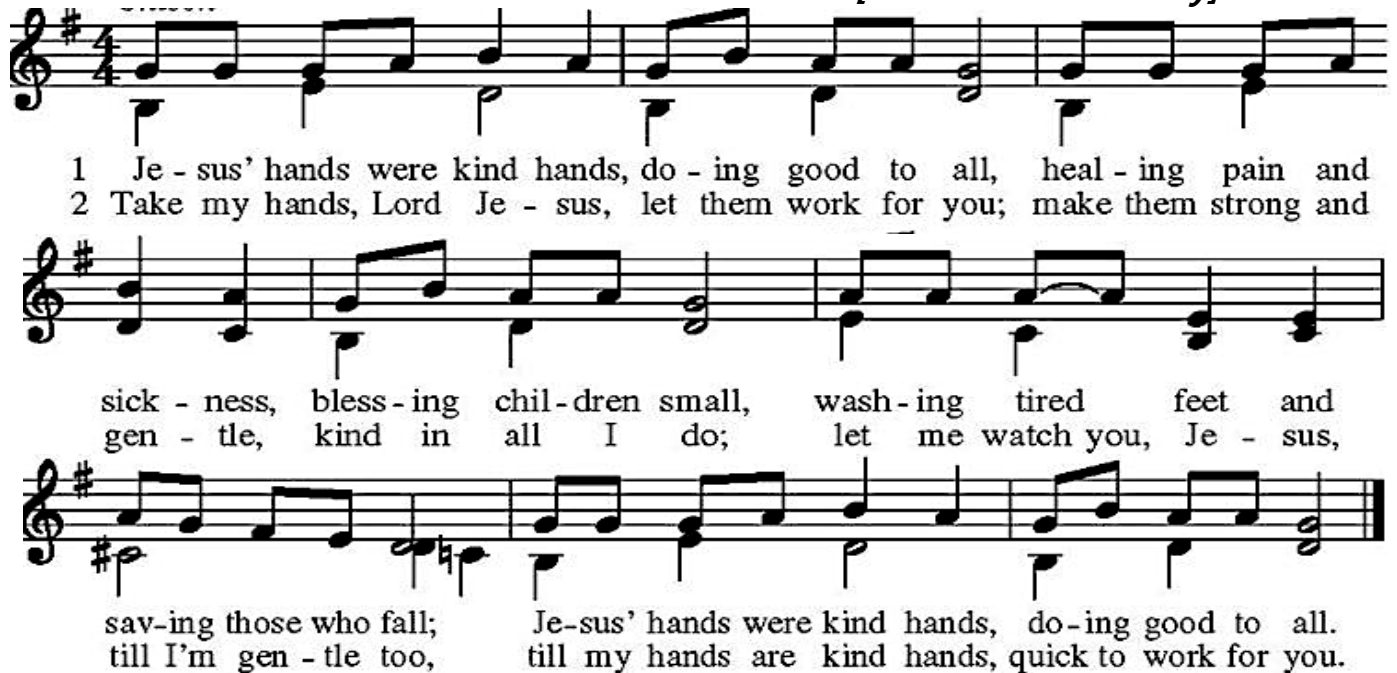
The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So

they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.' People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. 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. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S LESSON

GOSPEL SONG. *"Jesus' Hands Were Kind"* [Claire De Lune melody]



1 Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all, heal - ing pain and
 2 Take my hands, Lord Je - sus, let them work for you; make them strong and

sick - ness, bless - ing chil - dren small, wash - ing tired feet and
 gen - tle, kind in all I do; let me watch you, Je - sus,

sav - ing those who fall; Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all.
 till I'm gen - tle too, till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

WORDS: Margaret Cropper (1886-1980)
 MUSIC: French melody
 Words © 1979 Steiner & Bell Ltd. (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)

AU CLAIR DELA LUNE
 11.11.11.11.

<https://www.hopepublishing.com/find-hymns-hw/hw4154.aspx>

MESSAGE

TE DEUM PRAISE HYMN

"We Praise You, O God"

www.Hymnary.org LW

1. **We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
 in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
 We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
 we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**

2. **We worship you; God of our fathers, we bless you;
 through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
 When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
 and with your help, O Lord, struggles we win.**

**3. With voices united our praises we offer,
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord beside us, Your strong arm will guide us,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.**

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.

Tune: *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, Haarlem, 1626; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958

KREMSER

12 11 12 11

THE OFFERING *is received* & THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Gracious Father; we pray for the growth of Your kingdom of grace and forgiveness, that we live out our identities as Your dear children, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the Christian Church, both here and assembled in congregations throughout the world, that we be one as our God is one, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Teach us to see ever more clearly that life and happiness, health and daily bread, peace of heart, forgiveness of sins, and the promise of life forever with You are gifts of Your divine grace. Continue Your mercies toward us, our fellow believers, and all humankind. let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all those who are married, all parents, guardians, children and every member of all families, that we live out our unique vocations in joy, peace, protection and prosperity, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all public servants, including those who serve in the government and in our armed forces, that they would find refuge in the strong arms of the Saviour, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who suffer in heart, mind, and body (especially we remember...), that they find restoration in Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Father, we are Your family. Help our lives reflect who You are and what you have done to make us Your own. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come...

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. And I pray that You would keep me this day, also, from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please

**You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things.
Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe have no power over me. Amen.**

BLESSING

Let us praise the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, + be with you all. **Amen.**

LAST SONG *"Shine, Jesus, Shine"*

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the
2 Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence, from the
midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the
shad - ows in - to your ra - diance; by the blood I may
World, shine up - on us; set us free by the truth you now
en - ter your bright - ness. Search me; try me; con - sume all my
bring us. Shine on me; shine on me.
dark - ness. Shine on me; shine on me.
Shine, Je - sus, shine; fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry.
Blaze, Spir - it, blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, riv - er, flow; flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy.
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

TEXT and MUSIC: Graham Kendrick, 1987
Text and Music © 1987 Make Way Music (admin. Music Services)

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE
Irregular
CCLI# 1296903

<https://www.firstpreswh.org/daily-devotional/lord-the-light-of-your-love-is-shining-shine-jesus-shine-hymn>

“Let the Little Children Come to Me¹”

You are very special to Jesus, just as special as the children whom He met when He was on Earth! Take a moment to imagine yourself as one of the children Jesus held in His arms. That's how close He is to you now. He will always be there for you!



¹Look up Mark 10:14-16.

Let the Little Children Come to Me

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | U | K | E | G | L | E | E | R | N | E | M | B | A |
| E | J | A | I | S | B | U | S | Y | E | I | B | M | C |
| E | P | S | R | C | E | E | D | U | R | E | T | G | I |
| A | K | O | R | M | L | O | H | D | D | A | S | O | Y |
| O | H | N | H | A | M | O | F | V | L | C | A | R | E |
| M | E | L | M | K | R | E | B | C | I | T | E | H | E |
| L | G | O | A | U | N | M | S | T | H | O | S | T | K |
| K | O | V | T | S | E | O | S | C | C | S | E | I | I |
| S | D | E | T | U | E | L | W | F | O | L | E | A | D |
| K | D | E | H | S | A | E | T | S | K | M | O | F | S |
| E | R | S | E | E | T | O | H | E | A | V | E | N | O |
| G | L | K | W | J | E | B | L | E | S | S | E | D | M |
| E | L | B | I | B | L | D | B | E | L | O | N | G | S |
| R | O | H | I | E | T | O | E | D | M | A | R | K | K |

- ARMS
- LET
- CARE
- GOD
- MATTHEW
- BIBLE
- KIDS
- CHILDREN
- BELONGS
- HEAVEN
- COME
- KNOW
- JESUS
- MARK
- HOPE
- BLESSED
- LUKE
- FAITH
- LOVE
- BUSY

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1041236/>

REV. TODD HOEFFS

Pentecost 20

Genesis 2, Hebrews 2, Mark 10

WOULD YOU KNOW MY NAME IF I SAW YOU IN HEAVEN

October 6, 2024

What God joins people shouldn't separate.

Yet we are well aware how humans tear things apart.

Even without wanting to do so.

Israel-Gaza, Lebanon, Westbank, Ukraine and Russia,

Destruction is easier than building.

One of my dear clergy friends in Winnipeg is beginning this path in his marriage.

His wife asked for a separation. Leading to divorce.

The pain, hurt, anger, shock. A form of PTSD, death, loss.

He's like a brother to me.

I do a lot of listening and praying.

When 2 become 1 the pulling apart of that unity is catastrophic.

Those of you who've experienced this know better than I.

God is the creator, we are made in His image.

God is the potter, we the clay.

God is the planter, we His Vineyard.

God is the weaver, we His unique fabric.

God joins, humans separate.

When Jesus deals with this in Mark's Gospel the Pharisees are testing Him.

They detest Jesus' ministry among the unsavouries the religious league deem unfit.

Pharisees want division:

They hate Jesus' popularity.

Love and hope is dangerous to their agenda.

So, is divorce allowed?

In our Lord's Biblical world and culture,

individuals don't get married.

Families get married.

Each family offering a spouse to match values.

A divine fusion of community honour.

It has political and economic ramifications.

Marriage is not a matter of "falling in love."

It's all about "honoring one's parents."....

Divorce, then, entails the dissolution of these extended family ties.

A challenge for family of the former wife and likely result in family feuding.

Ancient culture works on the honour/shame system.

Entire families are disgraced, no matter the reason.

In spite of this, divorce becomes a common, simple process.

At that time women and children have no rights.

A man can simply write on a piece of paper,
"She is not my wife, and I am not her husband."
He gives her the paper and kicks her to the road.
A woman can never initiate a divorce in the ancient world.
In Mark's passage, Jesus speaks of this human "uniting" language 4 times.
Leaving parents and uniting with wife—

The 2 *become 1 flesh.*'

... *no longer two, but one...*

Therefore, what God has *joined together*, let no one separate"

This is Genesis 1-3.

The human creation "ha-adam" is male/female.

Both, and, not isolated and separate.

Male and female not interchangeable, but similar and compatible.

That's the old Hebrew understanding of the Old Testament act of creation.

God's Word made Adam by splitting him from the dirt to create a new side—

The old Hebrew word here -- "*tsele*" -- a building term.

Like 2 sides of one building.

Humans are 2 sides of one creation.

God takes the human and makes a suitable helper.

"Helper" here is a wonderful term.

It's not subordinate, or demeaning, or diminishing, or servile.

It's not like when Archie Bunker in All in the family explains

why women should earn less than men for the same job:

"it's a well-known fact, men are worth more...cuz God made Eve from a rib,

A cheaper cut!

Uh.....no.

Doreen Korchok [most of you know well from LWML] told us a seminary students
Way back in 1996:

Man might be the head, but woman is the neck, guiding, turning, helping.

"Helper" is significant and strong.

God is a helper to Israel.

In fact, Moses says God is his helper in conquering Pharaoh.

Neither is stronger or weaker than another.

Each has unique gifts to share and enjoy.

God makes them bone of bone, flesh of flesh.

When God joins this they each share the same inner nature and intimacy.

This is where we have our understanding of Holy Communion today.

It is a divine and mysterious inner intimate communion with our God –

Where He comes to dwell within us to fill us with His strength and life.

When God joins this in people, differences eventually diminish.

Like when old couples start to look alike. It's kinda true.

They are alike and not alike.

The woman makes it possible for the man to do what he could never do alone.

The woman will do what she could not do alone.
Even though this union also unites families, still –
For this reason, a man leaves his father and his mother and joined to his wife.
This may not be physical, but emotional and sacrificial.
The man's first loyalty separates from his home life and is given to his wife.
Most often marriages dissolve
BECAUSE this leaving from family to focus on a new home life isn't fulfilled.
Focus is too often on the self and what the self needs apart from the spouse needs.
When divorce happens,
None of us should divide ourselves into the right and wrong side.
The impact, pain and collateral damage of divorce reaches out and touches all of us.
And the truth is... sometimes divorce is necessary and the best possible,
yet still very painful solution.
When my family and I lived in Alberta from 2000-2012, it held the highest rate
Per capita for divorce.
It's still high.
10 of every 1000 people divorce.
Stats reveal when women get better jobs that pay well,
they're less reliant on men for income.
Also couples work apart and away from home for long periods of time and grow apart.
It's a sad reality.
But God can still heal through this.
Forgiveness in Christ is always the answer for hope.
Even for people not married or joined together, we all divorce things in our lives.
We cut ourselves off from those we disagree with.
We live in a cancel culture, which is understandable but also hurts.
Ties are cut between people constantly.
This is one reason why the Hebrews epistle author warns us:
..."we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard [from God's Word],
lest we drift away from it."
The farther people drift away from the Scriptures, the farther they drift from God
And His gracious promises to help and uphold us.
So when the religious leaders try to expose Jesus,
they go to Moses' allowance for divorce.
Moses **allowed** divorce -- because of the hardness of human hearts,
because of human sinfulness and brokenness.
We have been created to be together.
God doesn't want us as islands.
He loves all kinds of families and blesses them.
Jesus focuses on embracing the **unity** of partners
as part of God's creative design – a unity that is all gift.
Humans dirty the family home with sin and selfishness,
Grace and mercy is Jesus' way.

From this Jesus turns to welcome children.

How strange? Or not --

Little children, those perceived as a nuisance, as less than,
as those not wanted, as the least of these –
those who represent the most vulnerable in that culture –
Jesus receives and loves them.

Jesus shows that **all, all** are worthy of God's love.

Those suffering the pain and brokenness of divorce
are precisely some of the "least of these"

who receive the kingdom in their dependence on God's love.

Children here are given as models for receiving God's kingdom.

Trust and love and welcome and acceptance.

They don't ask who or why they just hug and love.

This is new and amazing.

Women and children are of highest human value.

They are protected and cared for in ways beyond our understanding.

We all need protection because evil exists and works to undermine our unity.

Satan wants us all as islands, divide and conquer.

God is different from us and HIS love in sending us Jesus has no limits.

God's love is always going to be broadening our thinking,

Expanding our understanding and the way we live in relationship to others.

That we live in **loving** relationship and not brokenness.

He desires that we all have love, compassion, and mercy

for the needs of the "little ones"

whether they be children or the poor or disabled

or refugees seeking life or the sick and infirmed or the abused,

or the divorced, the widowed, the isolated –

any who are considered other and the least.

Those Jesus lifts up.

When we fail or fall, Jesus forgives and forgives and forgives.

Even for those who are unmarried or widowed.

We may wish cut and run away when life is hard,

God doesn't.

We may deserve divorce from God,

He never cuts ties.

We as the holy church, the scattered gathered together, are Jesus' Bride.

We are married to Him by faith and His shed blood.

Jesus is the Living Word, the perfect man, the new human--

The Last Word on our future and eternal life.

Rather than filing for divorce, God files for **forgiveness**.

Jesus pays the price when we move away from His grace.

Jesus dies for us when we evade His Way.

Jesus draws close to us in our faith when we chase after negative passions--

Jesus willingly suffers the punishment for the heartache we cause.
By suffering on the cross, divorced from the Father, alone, bleeding, dying,
Jesus joins us together.
We are washed clean.
We are knitted together.
We walk together as one people not always agreeing but agreeing to remain as one.
We will all be together in Heaven one day when we depart this life....
So in His name may we get along in this life
To the honour of our God and the good of those Who see Jesus in us.
May no one separate.
Amen.



"Having finished the children's sermon,
I now invite anyone over 55 to come forward
for our senior sermon."