

## Old Testament Reading:

### Genesis 2:18–25

<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." <sup>19</sup>So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens 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 livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept 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;  
she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man."

<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

### Epistle: Hebrews 2:1–13

<sup>1</sup>Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. <sup>2</sup>For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, <sup>3</sup>how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, <sup>4</sup>while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

<sup>5</sup>Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. <sup>6</sup>It has been testified somewhere,

"What is man, that you are mindful of him,  
or the son of man, that you care for him?"

- <sup>7</sup> You made him for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned him with glory and honor,  
<sup>8</sup> putting everything in subjection under his feet."

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. <sup>9</sup>But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, 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>For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup>For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, <sup>12</sup>saying,

"I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will sing  
your praise."

<sup>13</sup>And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again,

"Behold, I and the children God has  
given me."

### Holy Gospel: Mark 10:2–16

<sup>2</sup>Pharisees came up and in order to test [Jesus] asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

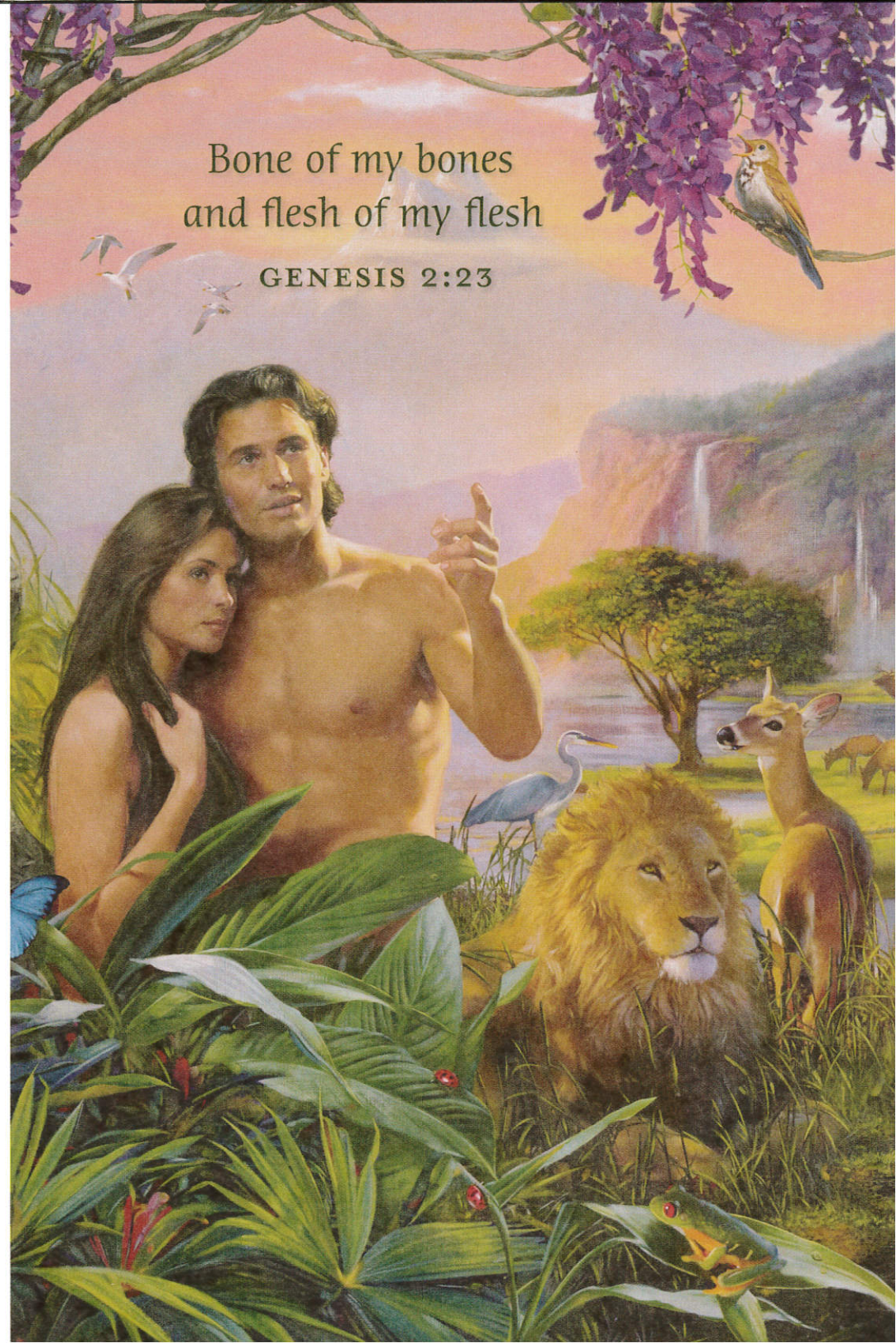
<sup>3</sup>He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" <sup>4</sup>They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." <sup>5</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' <sup>7</sup>'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and they shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

<sup>10</sup>And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>And 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>And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. <sup>15</sup>Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." <sup>16</sup>And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.



**About the Cover:** Adam was not made to be alone. Even before the fall, the Lord established marriage as a beautiful gift between a man and a woman. Neither is the Christian Church alone. This blessing of marriage was given as a sign of the eternal and unbreakable marriage between Christ the Bridegroom and His Bride the Christian Church. Christ has taken on our human flesh and has given Himself for us on the cross in order that we might be with Him forever.





**St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)**

**8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254**

**815-989-2025**

**October 6, 2024**

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

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*Divine Service Setting Four (Lutheran Service Book, p. 203)*

**Hymn of Invocation 905 Come, Thou Almighty King**

**Invocation and Versicles (p. 203)**

**Introit**

*Psalm 127:3-5; antiphon: v. 1a*

Unless the LORD builds the house,  
those who build it labor in vain.

**Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,  
the fruit of the womb a reward.**

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior  
are the children of one's youth.

**Blessèd is the man who fills his quiver with them!**

**He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his  
enemies in the gate.**

**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.**

Unless the LORD builds the house,  
those who build it labor in vain.

**Kyrie and Gloria in Excelsis (p. 204)**

**Salutation and Collect of the Day (p. 205)**

P Merciful Father, Your patience and loving-kindness toward  
us have no end. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may al-  
ways think and do those things that are pleasing in Your  
sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives  
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever.

C **Amen.**

**Readings (on back of bulletin)**

**Gradual**

*Psalm 91:11; 103:1*

He will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!**

**Alleluia and Verse (p. 205)**

**Nicene Creed (p. 206)**

**Hymn of the Day 858 O Father, All Creating**

**Sermon**

**Prayer of the Church**

*After each petition:*

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

P ...one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**Presentation of the Offering**

**Service of the Sacrament (p. 208)**

*(Please see the Communion statement in the pew pads for receiving the  
Sacrament at St. John's.)*

**Distribution Hymns**

**602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives**

**646 Church of God, Elect and Glorious**

**527 O Savior, Precious Savior**

**Nunc Dimittis (p. 211)**

**Hymn to Depart 863 Our Father, by Whose Name**

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## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org  
Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org  
<https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo>

**HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE  
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

**Rev. Timothy Nerud** Pastor  
815-989-2025 (Office) 612-940-8138 (Cell)

Elder: Aaron Raschke

Greeter: Janet Bertsos

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

**WE PRAY:** Lord Jesus, Savior, who by a cross overcame sin and death and Satan and by whose cross the alienation of people to each other is healed, let the cross be our sure bridge to every person, and theirs to us, to gain in some measure again the blessed relationship originally enjoyed in Eden; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever.. Amen

### WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

### OFFICE HOURS

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday, please call ahead) 8 am—12 pm  
Pastor's hours (Monday, Pastor's day off)  
(Tuesday— Friday) please call ahead

**STREAM SERVICES** <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and on the website: [www.stjohnsgeneseo.org](http://www.stjohnsgeneseo.org).

**DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES** - use this website ([www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)) to receive daily devotions sent to your email or phone. You never have to be without God's word.

*All bulletin announcements need to be in the Office by Wednesday mornings.*

### ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Sunday school—5 Adult Bible Class—10 Worship—36

## OFFERING

Offering last Sunday \$1,550.00  
Weekly giving needed per 2024 Budget \$4,481.54

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

Today	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Elders' meeting
Mon-Wed	Pastor @	CID Pastoral Conference
Tuesda	6:00 pm	Council meeting
Saturday	8:00 am	Work Day @ church
Next Sunday	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship
		LWML Sunday

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."  
Psalms 122:1*

**MARK 10:6** – “But from the beginning of creation ...” In recent years our country, along with most (formerly) Christian nations of Europe, have lost their way when it comes to marriage. We have ignored the fact that it is God who created us. We always go off-the-tracks when we forget that He made us and that everything good in this world comes from His hand. In big things and in small things, in the life of a nation or the life of an individual, things go dreadfully wrong when we ignore the Creator's instructions for life.

**ATTENDANCE BOOK**—We ask everyone attending this morning to sign the red attendance book found at the end of each pew, then pass it back.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by Mike and Dayla Blair in celebration of their marriage this past Thursday. May the union of these two last for many years and bring all praise and glory to God for His great love shown them.

**PHONE NUMBER CHANGE**—The church phone number is changed. Please make a note of this change. **The new church number is: 815-989-2025.** This will connect you to either the church office or Pastor's office.

**CHRISTIAN LIVING**—**Mark 10: 2-16:** Children are precious in the eyes of Jesus and so are sinners who are lost in their sin. What an encouragement for us to be actively working in sharing the Good News with children and others who need to hear some Good News! Who needs to hear the Good News from you? Bless them with your beautiful feet today by sharing the Gospel wherever you go.

**ALL SAINTS DAY** - We will again be displaying the crosses for our loved ones who have joined the Church Triumphant on All Saints' Day. If you have a 'name' you wish included this year, please add it to the listing on the table outside the coat room.

**DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS:** The current Dollar for Missions project is for replacement of furnaces at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb, which is expected to cost some \$25,000. The Student Center was built 55 years ago. Equipment replacement like this is important so the Gospel can continue to be proclaimed and students can go on being reached there for years into the future. For more information visit <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-current-project.html>. **(Thank you to those at St. John's who consistently support the work of Missions on the District and Synodical level. You are a blessing!)**

**ALTAR FLOWERS—The 2023 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board next to the restrooms.** Cost for weekly flowers are \$30 for two arrangements. We greatly appreciate those who help with providing flowers for Sunday worship services. **Please sign up for a Sunday.**

### **PRAYER MINISTRY**

***Remember God's gift of Baptism as you pray:***

**MISSION—***Pray for parents*, that they might faithfully raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them His Word and bringing them to the Sacrament.

**ST JOHN'S—Mr. & Mrs Kurt Gehn—**We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and the righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Kurt and Kathy asking Your blessings upon them.

**ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—**O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

<b>Elizabeth Bjork</b>	<b>Paula Chapa</b>	<b>Joyce DeFauw</b>
<b>Betty Firch</b>	<b>Arlyn Helke</b>	<b>Jessica Johnson</b>
<b>Lynne Johnson</b>	<b>Linda Lundquist</b>	<b>Aaron Raschke</b>
<b>Drew Schillinger</b>	<b>Carolyn Wildermuth</b>	<b>Marilyn Woods</b>
<b>Dawn Daebelliehn</b>		

**Brandon & Shaeli Streeks & family** (Adopted Seminarian)

**Jon/Anita Clausing** (missionaries in Kenya)

**Don Eggers** ( son of friend of Marilyn Woods)

**Jodi Martins** (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

**Shandel Loenser**

**Paul Werner** (brother of Dan Werner)

**Ron Powell** (friend of Brad Gehn)

**Justin Rittenhouse** (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)

**Marty Cavato** (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)

**Ellen Bauer** (grandmother of Joel Werling)

**Don Lutz** (husband of an LWML friend of Liz Neumann)

**Carol Eggers** (friend of Marilyn Woods)

**Gary Kilstom** (friend of Brad Gehn)

**Kenneth Cullison** (son of Kevin and Stacie Rahn)

**MILITARY—**We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

**Mandy Davila** (daughter of Linda Aper)

**Luke/Nicole Thompson** (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson)

**Karl Flynn** (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)

**Casey Powers Jr.** (step son of Lisa Powers)

**Brittany Loenser** (daughter of Gabe Loenser)

**Rylie Hallendorff** (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)

### **LUTHERANS FOR LIFE**

“Having received God’s gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in His divine services to us in our congregations, we jointly put on His armor (Ephesians 6:10 -18) in the public square, proclaiming Christ and Him crucified for the forgiveness of sins, even those of babies still in the womb. In so doing, we advocate for the sanctity of life from the moment of fertilization and pray that God will use us to change the hearts of the abortion-minded in our communities.”  
*Dr. Roni Grad, Catalina Lutheran Church Life Team and National Lutherans For Life Board of Directors member – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**GENESEO INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM** invites you to participate in the Thanksgiving program November 27—December 1. Willing hosts will invite international college students into their homes for the Thanksgiving holiday. The guest will arrive in Geneseo by bus approximately 3:45 on Wednesday, November 27. They depart from Geneseo at 2 pm December 1. This is a wonderful opportunity to show the love of Christ to a stranger. For more details, contact the church office ASAP. Application deadline is November 11.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 6, 2024

Text: Mark 10:2-16 (Gospel)

Other Texts: Genesis 2:18-25 (Old Testament); Hebrews 2:1-18 (Epistle<sup>i</sup>)

### **“Marriage: To be Honored, not Broken”**

Grace, mercy and peace be yours from God our Father through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”<sup>iii</sup> Sadly, after hearing today’s Gospel, we recognize that there must have been some laboring in vain going on based upon the Pharisees’ question, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”<sup>iii</sup>

Dear Christians, let’s be perfectly clear on this issue: *Those who are in the house that the Lord is building would never be asking this question*, that is, whether it is legal for a man to divorce his wife or, the reverse, for a woman to divorce her husband. How do we know this? *Because of the Lord Jesus’ reply* to their using the civil law given by Moses to *justify* divorce.

“Because of your hardness of heart [Moses] wrote you this commandment.”<sup>iv</sup> *Because of your hardness of heart*. Fellow believers, divorce does not come from holiness, but sin; not from virtue, but vice, not from God, but the devil. It comes from hearts filled with selfishness that reject God’s Word and will. There is no doubt that this is an unpopular truth today. But honestly, it was rather unpopular already in 32 AD when our Lord spoke these words. After all, the sinful nature is always looking for an escape route, a loophole, a backdoor, or at least a potential one.

But popular or not, God despising divorce is the truth, the very Word of the Lord, and we ignore it and live contrary to it to our harm. Perhaps earthly harm. Perhaps not. After all, some people claim to be much happier after divorce. Some so much so that they claim that their newfound happiness proves that God wanted them to be divorced. *But God never wants sin*. To claim that God wanted a divorce is actually blasphemy, a direct breaking of the Second Commandment, as the holy name of God is used to justify something which God calls evil.

Yet, there’s a Pharisee us all, trying to find some sort of wriggle-room for *our* evil desires and sins. So with them we might say, “But God *did* allow for divorce, giving regulations for it. Therefore, it can’t *always* be wrong.” But such misses the truth Jesus speaks, that *from the beginning of creation* divorce was not part of the plan, but it came about later because of the fall into sin and the individual heart that is hardened in sin.<sup>v</sup>

Therefore, civil laws concerning divorce are there to do what we call the first use of the law: to put some limit on evil and some level of order into the mess, the chaos, that such evil brings. Divorce often hurts those who experience it, at least one of the two, but most definitely harms children, the extended family, and broader society. So *proper* civil laws (of which no-fault divorce is not!) then and now seek to reduce that damage as much as possible, thus they have a use. *But they are not for Christians*, as St. Paul writes, “The law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane.”<sup>vi</sup>

Now in desperation our sinful nature cries out, “But isn’t adultery a Biblical justification for divorce. Doesn’t Jesus say, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, *except for sexual immorality*’?”<sup>vii</sup> And so with this exception, we now think that we have popped a hole in this forbiddance of divorce nonsense. After all, if God actually, directly allows for divorce here, then it cannot *always* be wrong, right? But again, such thinking completely misses the mark of God’s will.

How? Because it wrongly assumes that the person who seeks the civil divorce in such a case is the one causing the divorce *by that legal action*. But that is absolutely mistaken! Again, remember “from the beginning of creation,” when God brought Adam and Eve together in the first marriage, the foundational one for all the rest to follow. As they were the only two people, by intimation all who enter marriage are to recognize that their spouse is the only other one they are to be with for “a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh.”<sup>viii</sup>

Do you see? It is not the obtaining of the divorce papers that cause the divorce in an adultery, *but it is the very act of adultery itself that was breaking of the marital union*. God’s design for sex is the lifelong marriage bond between one man and one woman. God created us to have holy and pure thoughts and desires, not lustful ones, thus such are already sinful, putting a spotlight on the original sin that corrupts and condemns us.<sup>ix</sup> Sexual immorality, such as fornication between unmarried people, is that, an *immoral breaking* of the Sixth Commandment, for it abuses God’s good gift of sexuality by using it outside of His good and holy intention for it.

But adultery is worse still, a graver sin due to both the greater damage it causes here on earth as well as to the soul of the one who commits it as it is the most flagrant violation of the Law of God and man. For even unbelievers know adultery is contemptable, realizing it to be wicked by natural law and the conscience. So how much worse when one who claims to be a disciple of Jesus, who has not only natural law and their conscience, but also the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit through the Word and so knows the fullness of God’s Law, will, and intention, still *chooses* to adulterate the one-flesh union of husband and wife, that is contaminate and degrade it, making it inferior and filthy by *purposely* adding a foreign substance, another person.

Do you understand the point? To say that adultery is the biblical justification for divorce, while seemingly true on a surface level, actually fails to recognize that the real breaking of the marital bond was not getting the legal divorce, but the hard-hearted sin of adultery, which can never be justified. Obviously no lust, but also no lack of happiness, no amount of “not feeling loved,” or anything else ever makes the willful decision to break God’s commandment okay. Should these feelings be addressed? Absolutely! But they never justify sin, whether divorce or adultery, which is the action of divorce, *since divorce is always wrong in God’s eyes*. While the desire for happiness in marriage is not wrong, surely is good, should it lead to breaking God’s Law then the desire is no longer good, but evil. It has become an idol as the love for God and the neighbor (spouse) is replaced by love for the self (i.e. selfishness). Instead, the believer is to bear the cross, pray for patience, and have faith that God will reward them for their faithfulness in an unhappy marriage. So the question is never if the divorce was justified, but is instead *whom does God hold accountable for the sin of divorce happening*.

Now here we must apply biblical wisdom, though even earthly reason can recognize it: that the platitude of “It takes two” may be true in some cases, but in others there is clearly one who is primarily at fault. To say, “Well everyone is a sinner” in those cases would be like saying the one shot and killed when burglars broke into his house kind of deserved it since, “He’s a sinner too, after all; could have been more generous.” What nonsense! Worldlings are wiser than that. So how much more should Christians be, for we know that God is the avenger of evil, the protector of the victim. As it is written in the Book of Hebrews, “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.”<sup>x</sup> He judges the immoral and adulterous, not those who had adultery committed against them. Will we claim to be wiser than God by judging the victim of another’s sin?

“What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”<sup>xi</sup> *That*, dear saints, is God’s word about marriage and, by extension, divorce. We are never to be the ones who, on any level, separate spouses. We are never to urge divorce, but staying together, encouraging them to seek help if their marriage needs it. Most directly, *we are to keep our own marriage intact*. We are never to covet the spouse of another, nor anyone who is not our spouse, and all the worse if both of these are the case. Instead we are to be content with the spouse God has given us, every husband seeing his wife as his own Eve, every wife seeing her husband as her own Adam.

Communication and conflict resolution skills are helpful; I teach such in both premarital care as well as when I work with spouses who are struggling. But just like a hammer needs a hand to use it, so these skills need a committed heart and mind to use them in a beneficial way. And that commitment is *love*, specifically *agape*, the Greek word that describes not emotions, but the willful choice to love another, the heartfelt dedication to them that leads to actions of love, the willingness to sacrifice for them even when they, at the moment, in no way deserve it.

It is this love with which God so loved (*agape*) the world.<sup>xii</sup> He chose to love us *despite us*, for we are sinful rebels by nature. He didn’t feel warm and fuzzies, but in true love He acted, sending His Son who lived a life of sacrifice for the unlovable ones who in no way deserved it, even unto death on the cross. He did such so that they (we!) who deserve to be divorced from Him in hell for our sins would instead be forgiven, washed clean in Baptism, covered in the wedding garment of eternal glory as a member of the Bride of Christ, the Holy Christian Church.

Hear what this means: All sins, including the sins of breaking a marriage, of divorce, even adultery, are not unforgivable, but are truly forgiven in Christ crucified. No, they are not okay; they must be sincerely repented over. This means changing one’s sinful ways and making amends to those whom we have harmed however we can, especially the spouse. But it also means that where there is repentance, *there is forgiveness*. It also means the one hurt is to take the long, painful, but holy road, forgiving as they have been forgiven, as that is what *true love* does. How receiving the body and blood of Christ are critical here, the pledge of God’s true forgiving love to us, the power to live that life in our own lives of repentance and forgiveness!

Oh by the way, it also means this: two Christians united in holy wedlock, can and should, together under God’s blessings, readily seek out and eagerly work for the many blessings and joys that God gives through His institution of marriage: security, love, companionship, sexual

fulfillment without shame and, if He chooses, the gift of children to be raised in the fear and knowledge of the Triune God.<sup>xiii</sup> After all, God gave marriage, and He only gives what is good!

“Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.” May God build the houses of all His children, blessing our marriages, our families, and all who are single as well, for the house of our Heavenly Father is ultimately our heavenly home. God bring us safely there. Amen!

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<sup>i</sup> Verses 14-18 are included in the optional extended reading. They are worth hearing by God’s people.

<sup>ii</sup> Psalm 127:1a. These words are the antiphon in today’s appointed Introit. Scripture quotes are from *The Holy Bible English Standard Version* (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

<sup>iii</sup> Mark 10:2.

<sup>iv</sup> Mark 10:5.

<sup>v</sup> Mark 10:6.

<sup>vi</sup> 1 Timothy 1:9.

<sup>vii</sup> Matthew 19:9 (*emphasis mine*). See also Matthew 5:32.

<sup>viii</sup> Mark 10:7-8 where Jesus is quoting Genesis 2:24.

<sup>ix</sup> Matthew 5:27-28.

<sup>x</sup> Hebrews 13:4.

<sup>xi</sup> Mark 10:9.

<sup>xii</sup> E.g. John 3:16.

<sup>xiii</sup> See Genesis 2:25 and Ephesians 6:4.



**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22B)**  
**6 October 2024**

**Collect of the Day**

Merciful Father, Your patience and loving-kindness toward us have no end. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may always think and do those things that are pleasing in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Prayer of the Church—Responsive Form**

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

Loving Father, Your Son took the little children into His arms and blessed them. Help Your saints to welcome little ones with joy, that nothing may hinder their entrance into the kingdom of God and the arms of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, You give us men to guide Your Church on earth. We ask Your blessing for Matthew, our Synod president; Michael, our district president; Timothy, our circuit visitor; and all pastors together with the many servants and treasures of Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, be near all married couples, especially those struggling in their marriages. Guard them from selfishness, lust and adultery, hardness of heart, and anything that would separate what You have joined together. Help them to reconcile with one another to live in Christ's forgiveness and Christian love. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, be near to families torn apart by adultery and divorce. Sustain and heal the wounded with Your love and work in them forgiving hearts. Give repentance to the guilty, hope in Your forgiveness in Christ, and strength to bear sincere fruits of repentance and offering restitution for wrongs committed against those whom they hurt. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, grant Your wisdom to Joseph, our president; to all public servants; and to those who work to bring peace, justice, health and protection in this and every place, that they may be strengthened and upheld in every good deed. According to Your will, bring peace to the nations and judgment upon those who refuse peace, being determined to continue in wrongful violence. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, You promise to abide with Your people and uphold them in their suffering. Comfort all who are sick and sorrowing especially Ellen, Elizabeth, Marty, Paula, Kenneth, Dawn, Joyce, Carol, Don, Betty, Arlyn, Jessica, Lynne, Gary, Shandel, Linda, Don, Jodi, Ron, Aaron, Justin, Drew, Paul, Carolyn, and Marilyn. Strengthen their faith in the midst of their trials, and grant them health and healing according to Your good and gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks to You for joining Mike and Dayla Blair in the union of Holy Marriage. Assist them and all married couples by Your grace that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their marriage vows, grow in love toward You and each other, and come at last to the eternal joys that You have promised. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, remember Kurt and Kathy Gehn. Bless them in body and soul with all things needful for this life and eternity. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord, Your Son gives us His very body and blood to eat and drink in the Supper. Grant us Your grace, that we may approach Your table with repentant hearts and a firm resolution to amend our sinful lives and grow in all that is good and holy by the help of Your Holy Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, help us by Your Spirit to fear You and walk in Your ways in Christ, that we may eat the fruit of the labor of our hands and receive Your blessing in all that we do; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Presentation of the Offering**

All the wealth of the earth, all its natural resources, are Yours O Lord, and in Your love You lend them to us. More, even as You freely give us our daily bread so You also feed our souls with the eternal Bread. Enlighten and empower us to be good stewards of Your creation and all that You entrust to us that we might faithfully serve You by supporting the Church's mission of spreading the Gospel far and near and serving our neighbor with acts of mercy, sharing with them from our bounty to help them in every physical need. We pray this through our Savior Jesus. Amen.