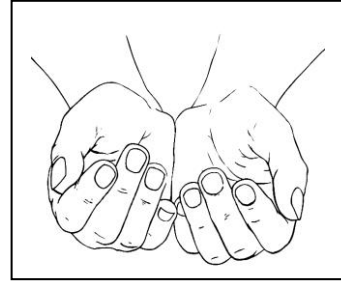


Perley Parish
Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 25
September 19th 2021

Gathering Hymn: All Are Welcome

Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;
All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.



Let us build a house where love is found In water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, All are welcome in this place.

Welcome and Announcements
Lutefisk this morning at Nora
9AM streaming will continue
Reach out

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure,
and whose live is endless. Amen
Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

God our comforter:

Like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our face away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in +Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

Prayer of the Day:

O God, our teacher and guide, your draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Baptism of Sophie Grace Pansch

Daughter of Samantha Gunderson and Kyle Pansch and sister of Riley.

Sponsors Emily Moe, DeeDee Sonstelie, Ryan Pansch, and Amy Steimann.

Psalm 54 (read responsively)

Save me, O God, by your name, and vindicate me by your might. **Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.** For the insolent have risen against me, the ruthless seek my life; they do not set God before them. *Selah.* **But surely, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.** He will repay my enemies for their evil. In your faithfulness, put an end to them. **With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.** For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

Jeremiah 11:18-20

The LORD made it known to me and I knew; then thou didst show me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more." But, O LORD of hosts, who judgest righteously, who triest the heart and the mind, let me see thy vengeance upon them, for to thee have I committed my cause.

Holy Gospel according to Mark 9:30-37 **Glory to you O Lord**

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all. Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me." The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message

Look at this key ring! Have you ever seen so many keys? They come in all different shapes and sizes. Which of these keys do you think is the most important? Well, if I want to get into my house, this would be the most important key. If I wanted to drive my car, this key would be the most important. Look at this little tiny key. Surely it couldn't be very important. Unless, of course, I needed to get into my locked suitcase. Then it would be pretty important!

It would be pretty silly to argue about which of these keys is the most important, wouldn't it? How about people? Have you ever heard people arguing among themselves about which of them is the greatest? I have! You might be surprised to know that even Jesus' disciples had such an argument. One day the disciples were walking along the road with Jesus and they began arguing among themselves. Jesus overheard them,

and when they got to the place where they were going, he asked, "What were you arguing about on the road?" The disciples suddenly got very quiet. They were embarrassed because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest.

Jesus sat down and called his disciples to him. "If anyone wants to be first," he said, "he must be the very last, and be the servant of everyone else."

Now that wasn't exactly what the disciples wanted to hear. They were hoping to hear Jesus say that they were going to have a position of great importance in his kingdom. Instead, Jesus called a little child over to him and took him in his arms. "Anyone who welcomes one of these little children also welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, also welcomes the one who sent me."

If I were to ask you, "Who is the greatest person who ever lived?" What would your answer be? Would you name a famous athlete? A movie star? A world leader? I think we would all agree that Jesus Christ was the greatest person who ever lived. Why? Because, although he was God, he gave up all of his divine privileges and became a servant.

There are a lot of keys on my key ring. One key you won't find on this key ring is the key to greatness. The key to greatness is to have a servant's heart. A heart like Jesus.

Heavenly Father, give us a servant's heart. A heart like Jesus. In his name we pray. Amen.

Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

I learned something new when I was preparing for my message this week. I learned about chickens. I have always heard the phrase "pecking order" but really didn't understand how it came about and exactly what it meant. Within the flock of hens there is always one of them that becomes dominant I learned. She will peck away at any hen that makes her angry or gets in HER way. At first the rest of the hens stand up for themselves and will try to retaliate but it doesn't take long before they give up at trying to take out the dominant one. In fact, they may even begin to turn on one another. They are frustrated that they aren't in charge and starts to take out those frustrations on each other. Thus there becomes a "pecking order" – the strongest leads, and then the next strongest will pick on the next weakest and so on and so on.

Well that's in a way like the beginning of our Gospel this morning. We talked a bit last Sunday about the magnitude of what the disciples must have felt following Jesus around as he did amazing, helping and healing miracles. And how when he begins to describe what's on the horizon for him they just can't believe it to be true. We come today with the group walking along the road and hear of the disciples trying to establish a pecking order amongst themselves in regards to their relationship with Jesus. Maybe a few felt they had a step up from the rest because they were asked to join Jesus on that mountain top during his transfiguration. Maybe a few felt a bit lesser or weaker in regards to their abilities because of the problems they had in fulfilling what Jesus had asked them to do while he was ON that mountain top. We don't really know but we do know that an argument takes place in which they begin to discuss their order of importance – who was going to be the greatest in this new Kingdom of Heaven.

Verse 33 and 34 said *“Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.”* The part that I zero in on in this passage is that none of them actually fess up to what the argument was about. Not a one of them admits it or says a word. They all keep quiet and are obviously a bit embarrassed about their conversation – at least I hope they were.

But you can't hide things from Jesus, he knew exactly what was going on and he also knew that it wasn't anything new for the disciples – they had been acting this way for some time. Jesus realizes that it's going to be another teachable moment so when they reach the house he sits them all down and attempts to explain what greatness and significance is all about in the context of the Kingdom of God.

He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Here is God's definition of being great – greatness isn't achieved by trying to be first. Greatness is achieved by being willing to be last. You don't achieve greatness – significance – by getting people to serve you but rather you being a servant to all. In order to help them understand this better Jesus goes on to give them an example – a little child who just happened to be in the house when the conversation is taking place. *“Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”*

Can you imagine this scene – Jesus' big carpenter arms wrapped around a child – most likely Andrew or Peter's child? How wonderful it would be to see this and hear the importance of true greatness compared to a relationship with a child. The teaching doesn't stop there though – Jesus has more to help them understand greatness and significance in the kingdom.

“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me,” – it's important to note and understand the significance of Jesus' phrase “in my name”. You don't welcome a child into your arms as a means to help your career or plan advance. You don't take a child up because it will you status or a good name or reputation in your community. You welcome a child out of love – and what is one of the most amazing ways that we define our God?? Of course is it love – God is love. Therefore, receiving a child in HIS name is accepting that child in love.

What Jesus is really trying to teach here is that disciples – them and us – can achieve greatness and significance in the Kingdom of God through welcoming and loving others. And we MUST do it all with no consideration about what we will get out of it or what it will do to advance ourselves. It's hard though because this world we live in teaches us to use things and people for our own personal gain at times. But God says we need to put ourselves aside – put ourselves last – and love people because they are precious to him.

Let us become servants, and rejoice, because Jesus first served us in a way that will ALWAYS astound us. We were served when he suffer and died, cleansed us from all our sins and were given a new and everlasting life. May we live our life, praising him, with the highest form of praise in the giving of our own lives to serve. *“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Amen.*

Hymn of the Day/Offering: Children of the Heavenly Father

Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;

Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.

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

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

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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen*

Prayers of the people: (Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**)

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us all to heal our environment and care for those who are affected by these natural earthly disasters. God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict – especially Afghanistan. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work for the good of all and protect those vulnerable and unable to find safety in their home or country. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God we pray for the young people of our congregations and those watching. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of compassion and healing, we lift up today Sonya and Roger, Daniel and Terry, Marlis and Kirk, Evonne and Whitney, Jaime, Anne and Brent, and all those we name silently now in our own hearts..... Help them to find care and bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems so long and often times bleak. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you. Amen

Meal

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory. **Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the**

unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Words of Institution and 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. 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 Communion:

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

After Communion Prayer:

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, hearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Blessing:

People of God you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, +one God, bless you now and forever. Amen

Sending Song: Go My Children, with My Blessing

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river

I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story,

here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure

Dismissal

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God.**

Mark Your Calendars:

Sunday, September 26th – 9AM at Kirkebo, 10AM Sunday School at Nora, 11AM Nora Service

Jesus and the Children

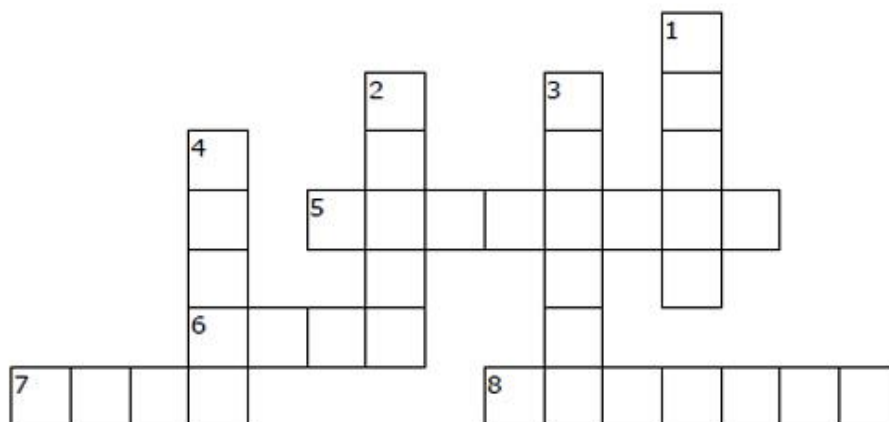


Who Is the Greatest?

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:35



Puzzle is based on Mark 9:30-37



ACROSS

5. A person or thing of the highest quality or character
6. The one coming after all others
7. A public way for the travel of vehicles, people, and animals
8. Someone who is employed to perform services for others

DOWN

1. A building where people live, especially a family
2. The one coming before all others
3. Small in size
4. A very young person

LITTLE	LAST	SERVANT	GREATEST
ROAD	FIRST	CHILD	HOUSE

Who Is the Greatest?

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:35 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Mark 9:30-37



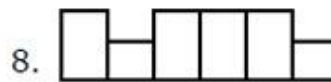
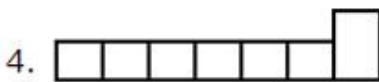
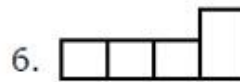
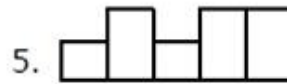
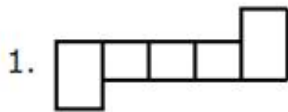
C V U L Z W W H O E V E R T S
M W M L I P F T N R E K I B B
D L W C S T R I H O U S E B W
Z Q K U G U T K R U E B Y T C
A X S J V G I L A S L K G E B
Q E P I G M E T E A T A X Y P
J A R H D Z H D Q R R Y S F T
Q K B O A F W H H G J U Q T G
F Q X V R F G U Q U G R W Q R
L A S E M D I U U I A O P D E
F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

WELCOMES	SERVANT	FIRST	GREATEST	JESUS
LITTLE	ARMS	CHILD	ARGUING	LAST
WHOEVER	ROAD	TWELVE	QUIET	HOUSE

Who Is the Greatest?

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:35 (NIV)

Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.



first	road	child	great
last	little	house	servant

Who Is the Greatest?

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:35 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



W	Y	Q	M	B	D	Z	R	U	V	K	H	C	A	L	J	N	I	S	E	P	F	G	O	T	X
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 22-18-8-19-25 _____
2. 15-14-19-25 _____
3. 8-24-14-6 _____
4. 15-18-25-25-15-20 _____
5. 13-12-18-15-6 _____
6. 12-24-9-19-20 _____
7. 23-8-20-14-25 _____
8. 19-20-8-10-14-17-25 _____
9. 14-8-4-19 _____
10. 17-14-4-20 _____

NAME	SERVANT	ROAD	GREAT	HOUSE
LAST	LITTLE	FIRST	ARMS	CHILD