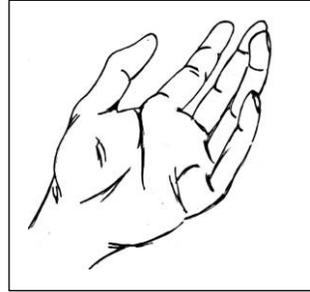


Perley Parish
Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 27
October 3, 2021

Gathering Hymn: God is Here
*God is here! As we your people
Meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
What it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
All our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit
Into open minds and hearts.*

*Here our children find a welcome
In the Shepherd's flock and fold;
Here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
Seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living
To believe and to adore.*



Welcome and Announcements

- 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:

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

Psalm 8 (read responsively)

P: O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

C: **Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

P: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

C: **what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**

P: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

C: **You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,**

P: all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

C: **the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

P: O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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^[a] there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹ 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. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ 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." ²⁴ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Holy Gospel according to Mark 10:2-16 **Glory to you O Lord**

² Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³ He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴ They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." ⁵ But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶ But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷ 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,^[a] ⁸ and the two shall

become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

¹⁰ Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹ He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹² and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

¹³ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message:

How did you get to church this morning? (Pause for responses.)

I imagine most of you came with your parents. Perhaps others came with grandparents. Some children may have come with aunts, cousins, or an older brother. Maybe a Sunday school teacher or friend brought you to church. One thing I'm pretty sure of is that unless you live close enough to walk to church, someone had to bring you here. I don't think any of you are old enough to drive your own car, are you? (Pause.) I didn't think so!

It's great that someone cared enough about you to bring you to church today. That tells me the person wanted to make sure you would learn about Jesus and His love for you.

The Bible tells us about a time Jesus was teaching his disciples, and a large crowd of other people were following Him to hear what He was saying.

As Jesus was teaching, people started to bring their children to Him so He could touch them. The disciples didn't like these children interrupting Jesus. They told the people to get the children away.

- What do you think about the disciples trying to make the children leave?

Jesus was very upset. "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them," Jesus said. "The kingdom of heaven belongs to these little ones." Then Jesus took the children in His arms and blessed them.

Let's always remember how Jesus loved the children and took them into His loving arms. We're thankful for each of you here today and thankful someone loved you enough to bring you.

Dear God, we want to love your children just as Jesus loved them. Thank you that these children here today have someone who loves them enough to bring them to Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.

Message

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

As I prepared my message for this morning I received the sweetest email from one of our members at Nora. Seems her 4 year old son had listened very well to my message last week about being Salt of the earth and how salt can actually make things sweeter. He had been adamant that he needed salt on his fruit because it would make it sweeter and looked at mom and dad like “duh” don’t you remember what Pastor Michele said in church???

Out of the mouths of babes, right?? I came across a few other fun interpretations when I was doing my research (some that a Pastor Klaus Mehrl had posted) so let’s enjoy a few: Four-year-old, Jenny, was telling her Dad about the Bible story she heard in her Sunday school class. It was the story of Jesus healing the blind man. When she got to the part where the Pharisees questioned the healed man, she said, "Oh boy, were those Ferris Wheels jealous of Jesus!"

It’s funny what they believe they’ve heard for us as we try to teach them. I’ll bet you never prayed: "Our Father who art in heaven Harold be thy name." Or "forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who throw trash in our trash baskets." Well.... Sins are a little bit like trash I guess.

One family as they were driving home from church, were happily talking about friends in the church whose child was presented for baptism that day. As they were visiting about it, their 3-year-old daughter Elizabeth asked, "What does it mean to be baptized?" Her 5-year-brother Joshua spoke up, "Oh, baptism—that’s when the preacher washes all your senses away."

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her class of five year-old’s. After explaining the commandment to honor your father and your mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "You shall not kill."

But then, children at times can say some things that are truly, deeply profound. Four-year-old Jonathan was trying to learn the Lord’s Prayer. He learned by listening at church each Sunday. On one Sunday as the family was praying the Lord’s Prayer, he could be heard above all the others, praying, "Our Father who art in Heaven, I know you know my name." "I know you know my name!" And He does! He knows me by name and He knows you by name; and our children know that He knows them by name too! He may not have the Lord’s Prayer down but he sure has the importance of it down.

You just never really know what’s going to come out of their mouths. There are many times when I sit with them for the Children’s messages that I just hold my breath on the answers I will get. They have no inhibitions and simply tell it like it is – good..... or bad.

In our gospel this morning it appears that the disciples were trying to “protect” Jesus from the children. Keep them quiet and away from the important work that Jesus was doing. Mark tells us that *“People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them”* They wanted Jesus to bless their children so brought them forward to be seen but the disciples weren’t having it. But Mark tells us that the *“disciples spoke sternly to them.”* I’m not sure what the disciples were thinking – no one can be sure – but I have to wonder if they thought they were actually protecting him from the masses so he could rest? Did they think that Jesus had more important things to do than deal with a mob of children descending on him? Were children less important in their eyes? It does seem a bit odd to me that they would

get so worked up about it. Clearly their behavior seemed a bit over the top and Jesus apparently thought so too as he made sure to clear things up quickly.

I read in one of the commentaries how there was a teacher who greeted his class each morning by taking off his hat and bowing to them. When asked why he did so he responded that they were the future in our midst. He knew that he had the ability to teach THEM to listen to others, respect others and do for others and that they would indeed be adults some day in this world. This teacher concentrated on listening – listening to his students and responding to what he heard.

Our Gospel gives us a clear mandate – a direction and need to make a place, lend a listening ear, and give them space to be in the presence of Jesus. Not just here in church but in every aspect of a family of faith can be. We are to help them grow in the knowledge of God's claims on our lives – their lives – and to learn FROM them as we share with them all that we know of the Good News and the love of God.

God's word today tells us that Jesus is not inviting us all – not just adults but the children – but is also showing us the grace of Jesus. *"People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them"*

Did you catch that Jesus wants to personally touch us – you and me. If I had to ask each of you when you think you were first touched by Jesus, most of you would say probably our baptism. However, how many of you actually remember your baptisms?? I know I don't – I was just weeks old. I know that it was in July 1966 that I received the sign of the cross on my little forehead and was told I was a child of God. That was the day that he began a good work in me and He promised, on His part, to be faithful to carry it on to completion when he would return to take me home. What he wants for me now though is to keep myself close to him and loving him and serving others so he can continue to touch me with his forgiveness and grace day in and day out.

Although Jesus' plan and desire is to touch us and bless us now and for eternity there are indeed struggles – our own sinful ways and motivations, Satan's influences – that desire for us too. They try to restrain us, keep us away from Jesus and pull us away from our faith regardless of all that He has done for us. But as children of God we are called, we are invited to be children of God of all ages and to once again concentrate on Him. Jesus – even though he knew he had no sin – gave his life for all of us who do and died on the cross that we might experience his Grace for all of eternity.

His promise to us, children of God, is that He's got great things in store for each and every one of us. If we trust in him, have confidence in him, then He's already touched you with his salvation and grace. God placed his hand on you and you and you. He saved us and he has commissioned us with great things to do. The invitation's been given and heard. *"Let the children come to me; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."* In grace, God, through the person of Jesus comes to them – comes to us – offering his unconditional love, a

ever-lasting life in his kingdom and he does it all as a free gift. And that's amazing news for all of us. Amen!

Hymn of the Day/Offering: Blest Be the Tie that Binds

*Blessed be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like that to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one
Our comforts and our cares.*

Offering Procession: We Give Thee but Thine Own

*We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

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. Holy One, you have established a diverse and beautiful creation. Revive declining species and preserve endangered lands. Cultivate in us a sense of wonder for the land and this world you created for us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

You desire for us to not be alone and to live in community with one another. Strengthen relationships between nations and a peoples, that we celebrate and support one human family. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

You share in our experiences and struggles. Bless all who live with mental and physical disability. Inspire creative communities, spaces and environments that are accessible and hospitable for all. You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us or are too far away to come and remind us of their continued role in this community of faith. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for those struggling with cancer, dementia or any of the many diseases we have in our world today. Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Sustain caregivers with energy and patience. We lift up today Sonya and Roger, Daniel

and Terry, Marlis and Whitney, Jaime, Anne and Brent, and all those we name silently now in our own hearts..... Help them to 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: How Firm a Foundation

*How firm a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
Who unto the Savior, who unto the Savior,
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?*

*Fear not, I am with thee; oh, be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, upheld by my righteous,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

Dismissal

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

Mark Your Calendars:

Sunday, October 10th – 9am at Kirkebo, 10am - Sunday school at Nora - 11am service

Sunday, October 17th – 9am at Nora, Meatballs at Kirkebo 11-2

Let the Children Come



He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.
Mark 10:14b (NIV)

Write the words in the blanks in A B C order.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

TRUTH	CHILDREN	TOUCH	KINGDOM
ARMS	BELONGS	LITTLE	BLESSED

Let the Children Come



He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Mark 10:14b (NIV)

Each line of the puzzle has one word hidden in a list of random letters. The blank space is a missing letter that belongs to that word. Fill in the missing letter.

1.	I	U	C	W	H	T	R		T	H	F	B	Y	P	D
2.	Z	V	E	F	R	N	B		E	S	S	E	D	Q	H
3.	O	K	I	N	G	D	O		F	I	X	G	W	I	X
4.	M	C	H	L	I	T	T		E	S	C	R	L	O	S
5.	E	F	F	J	C	H	I		D	R	E	N	D	X	T
6.	G	R	G	T	U	F	Z		R	M	S	O	I	B	Q
7.	X	B	E	L	O	N	G		T	P	K	V	F	R	X
8.	B	C	Z	Q	A	M	T		U	C	H	Y	F	L	P

LITTLE CHILDREN	TOUCH TRUTH	KINGDOM BELONGS	BLESSED ARMS
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Let the Children Come

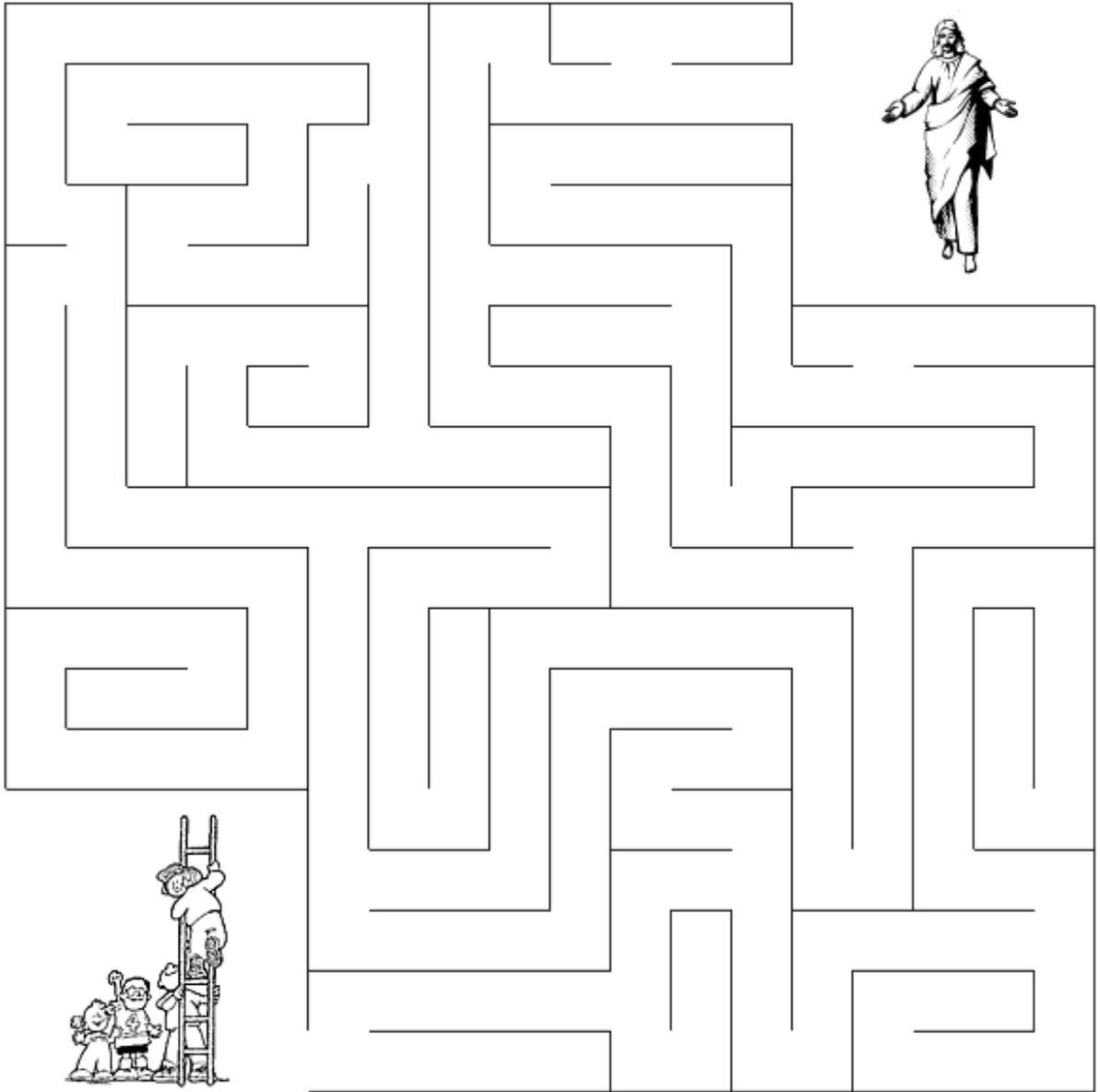


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W B U Z E F L Z J L G M O W L
 I E S T E Y T C Y M I S Y A Q
 M D J M C V A I H G O T N R K
 J Y O G V H E N N I X B T E X
 R C Y G U T J I Y R L E I L U
 R T R U T H G E S O L D H B E
 E P H E D N I G S P N V R L P
 B T Q A I I N N O U I E S E I
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

PEOPLE	JESUS	INDIGNANT	GOD	ENTER
BRINGING	TOUCH	COME	BELONGS	ARMS
LITTLE	DISCIPLES	HINDER	TRUTH	HANDS
CHILDREN	REBUKED	KINGDOM	ANYONE	BLESSED

Let the Children Come



Help the children find their way to Jesus