



*Let the children come to me;
do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that
the kingdom of God belongs.*

Mark 10:14b

Children's Sabbath

October 17, 2021

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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Church: (510) 793-6285

October 17, 2021
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
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GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

[Click here for a video of the service](#)

Today marks the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths celebration, titled "'Where Does It Hurt?': Listening to Heal Our Children" We join with the faithful across our nation and with people of every religious tradition to work for a hopeful future in which no child suffers poverty. In our rich nation today, one out of every 5 children lives in poverty. On this Children's Sabbath weekend and throughout the year to come, people of faith are responding to the reality of poverty seen in the faces of children and families, drawing on the sacred texts, teachings and traditions that call us to love and seek justice for children, and moving forward with hope to put faith into action.

PRELUDE . . . "Jesus Loves Me!" vs. 1-3

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

Please Stand.

INVOCATION

P: Come, O Creator, O Immensity of love, O Eternity of mercy. Come, and be with us and in us and beside us and over us.

All: Be as hands upon us, and fashion us for shining.

P: Be as warmth within us, and fire us for caring.

All: Be as strength beside us, and shape our lives for healing.

P: Abide in our prayers, the spoken and the unspoken;

All: and make your Word come true in our flesh; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

F1: We come with hopes –

All: Hopes for our children and for ourselves.

F1: We come with hurts –

All: Our own and the wounds of so many children and families.

F1: We come with faith –

All: We are loved as children by the Holy.

F1: We come with doubts –

All: We wonder how much suffering can exist in our world.

F1: We come for challenge –

All: We seek renewed vision and bold commitment to bring justice to all children.

F1: We come to pray –

All: To pray for children wounded by the violence of guns and poverty, and to pray for ourselves, for the strength to respond.

F1: We come to praise –

All: To praise the Holy for the gift of children. Come let us celebrate the Children's Sabbath.

CALL TO CONFESSION

All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism.

P: O God, we confess that too often our hearts are hardened to the struggles of others, including children in poverty; our hearts are narrowed in the circle of those we love, excluding children not our “own” our hearts are discouraged and too ready to give up on things that matter, like ending poverty.

All: We confess that too often our voices are silent in the face of injustice, our voices are soft in the presence of the powerful, our voices talk over those whom we want to help.

P: Forgive us, O God. Soften our hearts to love as you do, broaden our embrace to include others, and instill in us hope so that we do not lose heart.

All: Stir us, we pray, to call out injustice, strengthen our voices to speak up for change, and sensitize us to hear those unheard.

P: These things we pray in the name of Jesus

All: whose heart and voice revealed how you would have us live. Amen.

Silence for Reflection

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Hear the good news! Jesus came so that we would know that there is nothing that can make God stop loving us. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you.” We know ourselves as loved and forgiven.

LITANY . . . *by Marian Wright Edelman*

F2: Hear the cries of Your children who are ravaged by violence, poverty, racism and neglect,

All: scared, profiled, arrested, and imprisoned by those in authority

F2: ignored by those with power as they languish in crumbling schools and neighborhoods

All: labeled often by some entrusted with their education as dumb, disruptive, retarded, and failures

F2: marginalized by those who vote and are elected because they cannot make campaign contributions

All: resented by some of those forced to care for them in our often inhumane child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

F2: Hear our cries for our children, all-powerful God.

All: Fight their battles,

F2: turn the hearts and transform the actions of those who will not let our children escape the darkness of violence and drugs and poverty.

All: Open the Red Sea to their opportunity.

F2: Send them Your manna in the wilderness

All: and lead us and our children into the promised land.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

F1: Eternal God, you sent us Jesus, hope of the world, who came to us first as a child in poverty.

All: Help us to follow him through works of faith, labors of love, and steadfastness of hope to bring your love and justice to children; through Jesus Christ your Child who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

GATHERING . . . **WORD** . . . SENDING

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

F2: Send us your Holy Spirit, O God,

All: as we hear your word read and proclaimed on this Children's Sabbath day.

F2: Don't let us settle for being settled,

All: comfortable with being comforted, set at ease with an easy word.

F2: Instead, we pray that your Spirit will surprise us with new insight,

All: help us see you where we least expect you, and move us to new responses. Amen.

FIRST READING . . . *Hebrews 5:1-10*

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

F2: Word of God, word of life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

F1: The gospel reading is from the gospel according to Mark, chapter ten, beginning with the thirty-fifth verse.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL . . . *Mark 10:35-45*

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

GOSPEL RESPONSE

F1: The gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S TIME . . . *Tori Valcarcel*

HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tim*

ACT OF COMMITMENT

P: Who will touch the unwanted children, and work to see that every child enters school ready to learn, with strong early childhood experiences that are safe and nurturing?

All: We will, with the grace of God.

P: Who will believe, and act on the belief, that all children can succeed and perform at high levels?

All: We will, with the grace of God.

P: Who will work to support children, parents, teachers, and principals to make the best educational decisions possible?

All: We will, with the grace of God.

P: Who will support quality teaching and let our teachers know their work is valued?

All: We will, with the grace of God.

P: Who will see that children and schools have the resources they need to prepare every child to learn and succeed?

All: We will, with the grace of God.

P: Who will support families in times of crisis so the needs of the children will not be neglected?

All: We will, with the grace of God.

P: Who will work to involve our whole community, health care providers, police, social service agencies, neighborhood groups, voluntary organizations, and other congregations, to see that our children get what they need to learn and succeed in school and beyond?

All: We will, with the grace of God.

P: We are called to covenant with God and with one another. God will be with us as we help all children, to learn, succeed and fulfill their God-given potential.

All: Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

F2: When the Spirit flows through us, we are people of honesty and justice.

All: When Christ works within us, we are disciples of mercy and compassion. Let us be agents of God's overflowing grace as we collect today's offering.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

F1: Compassionate Shepherd, accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude

All: for the generous gifts you give us; gifts flowing from the eternal stream of your grace. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

F2: O Source of Transformation, we turn our hearts to you on this Children's Sabbath. We pray for the Church, that we become an ever more true reflection of your welcome. Lead us in our witness to your justice. Teach us to be the embodiment of your love, especially for the youngest, impoverished, and most marginalized of your beloved children. Source of Transformation, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

F1: Source of Compassion, we pray for the world, in which disease knows no boundary and suffering is a shared language. We ask that love will unite us in action that recognizes our common humanity. Give us your desire that all may live in the fullness of life. Source of Compassion, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

F2: Source of Hope, we pray for our nation wounded by disease and death, division and distrust, pain and poverty, and so many uncertainties. Instill in us calm and trust in

you that helps us reimagine our future with justice and joy for all children. Source of Hope, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

F1: Source of Strength, on this Children's Sabbath weekend, we pray especially for the children and youth of our congregations and communities. We hold in our hearts those who struggle with disrupted learning, delayed plans, disappointment and loneliness. We pray for those whose families struggle to make ends meet. We pray that this weekend will inspire new, lasting action to work with our children toward your vision of justice and joy. Source of Strength, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

F2: Source of Comfort, we pray for those who have died, especially those who died too young, too soon, from causes we could have prevented. We pray for those whose lives were lost to disease and despair, to brutality and bullying, to shootings and to suicide. Help us to be your arms of care for those who grieve and your voice to prevent unnecessary losses. Source of Comfort, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

F1: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

F1: Source of Hope, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

F2: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation we choose:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships

All: so that God may live deep within our heart.

P: May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,

All: so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

P: May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation and war,

All: so that we may reach out our hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

P: And may God bless you with enough audaciousness to believe that you can make a difference in the world,

All: So that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

F1: Remembering all of God's children, let us go in peace to love and serve God.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE . . . *"This Little Light of Mine"* vs. 1,2

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Children's Time: Tori Valcarcel

Liturgist Families: F1 – The Harren Family, F2 – The Wicke Family

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema