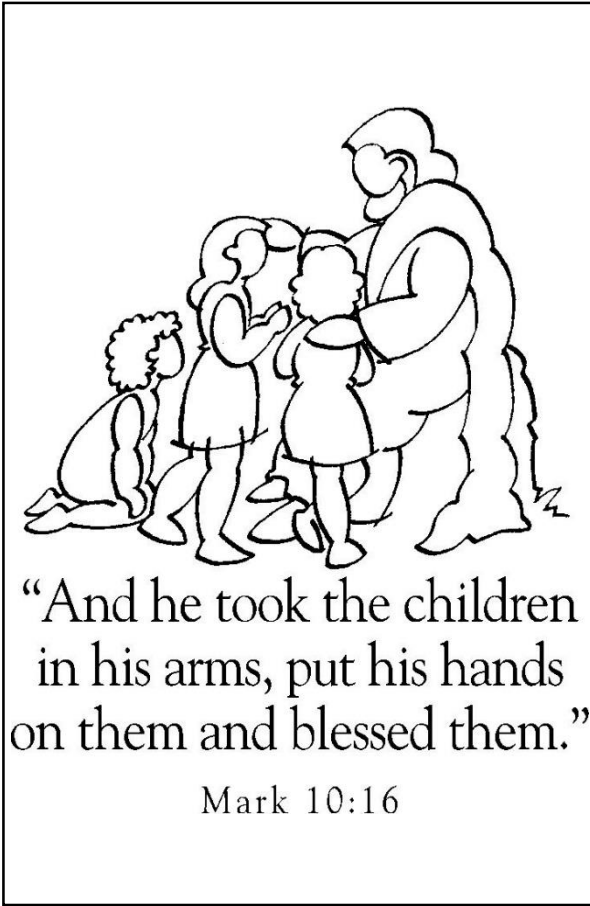


# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 6, 2024



**TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?*

**GATHERING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

*Stand*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Kneel*

**P:** Gracious God,

**C:** have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,  
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us  
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first**

**we make distinctions among ourselves.**

**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.**

**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.**

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,  
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P:** God promises to forgive our iniquity  
and to remember our sin no more.  
By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of † Jesus Christ,  
the source of eternal healing,  
your sins are forgiven.

**C:** Amen.

*Stand*

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Come, You Thankful People, Come*.....LBW 407

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*The congregation brings forward offerings of food and money.*



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest, sing songs of love and praise;  
2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,  
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise.  
the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.  
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



By him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;  
God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease;  
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.  
he crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.  
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.  
Music: WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN. Johann Steurlein, 1545–1613

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** Amen.

*Sit*

**WORD****FIRST READING: Genesis 2:18-24**

*Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other "one flesh." The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).*

**A:** A Reading from Genesis:

<sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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. <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; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

**A:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 8**

*The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*



You crown us with glo - ry and hon - or.

*Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*



<sup>1</sup> O | LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in | all the earth!—

<sup>2</sup> **you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of in- | fants and children;**

**you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the**

**foe | and avenger.**

<sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,

<sup>4</sup> **what are mere mortals that you should be mind- | ful of them,  
human beings that you should | care for them? R**

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made them little less | than divine;  
with glory and hon- | or you crown them.

<sup>6</sup> **You have made them rule over the works | of your hands;  
you have put all things un- | der their feet:**

<sup>7</sup> all | flocks and cattle,  
even the wild beasts | of the field,

<sup>8</sup> **the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea,  
and whatever passes along the paths | of the sea.**

<sup>9</sup> O | LORD our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in | all the earth! **R**

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12**

*Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God's right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.*

**[A]:** A Reading from Hebrews:

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.

<sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>2:5</sup>Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. <sup>6</sup>But someone has testified somewhere,

"What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
or mortals, that you care for them?"

<sup>7</sup>You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned them with glory and honor,

<sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now 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>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. <sup>11</sup>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, <sup>12</sup>saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

**A**: The word of the Lord.

**C**: Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Cantor:** If we love one another, God | lives in us and God’s love is perfect- | ed in us.

**C**: Repeat the Alleluias

**GOSPEL: Mark 10:2-16**

*Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God’s surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.*

**P**: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

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

<sup>2</sup>Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they 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 dismissal and to divorce her." <sup>5</sup>But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' <sup>7</sup>'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

<sup>10</sup>Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>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>People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

**P**: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sit*

**SERMON**.....Pastor Ron Montgomery

*Stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Now Thank We All Our God*..... LBW 534

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*A brief silence is held after the introduction.*

**P:** Challenged by God’s Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

*After each petition:*

**P:** God of grace,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P:** Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

**C:** **Amen**

**PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

*The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you

Sit

***MEAL***

**OFFERING**

*The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

**ANTHEM**

***Morning Has Broken*.....*Arr. John Leavitt***

Stand

**OFFERTORY**

*As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -





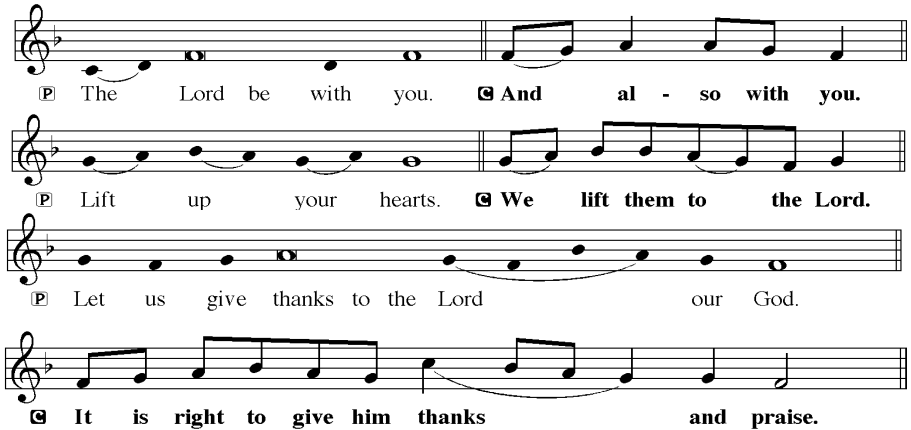
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**A**: Let us pray:

**C**: **Blessed are you, O God,  
source of every gift of your creation.  
By these gifts and with our lives,  
help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

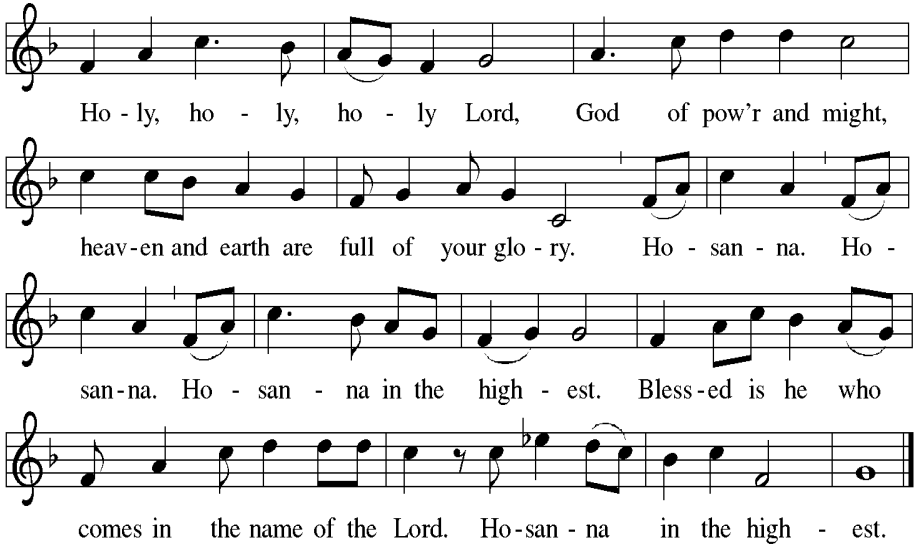
**GREAT THANKSGIVING**



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P:** Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
 that all those who believe in him should not perish,  
 but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
 that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
 as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**C:** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**P:** In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

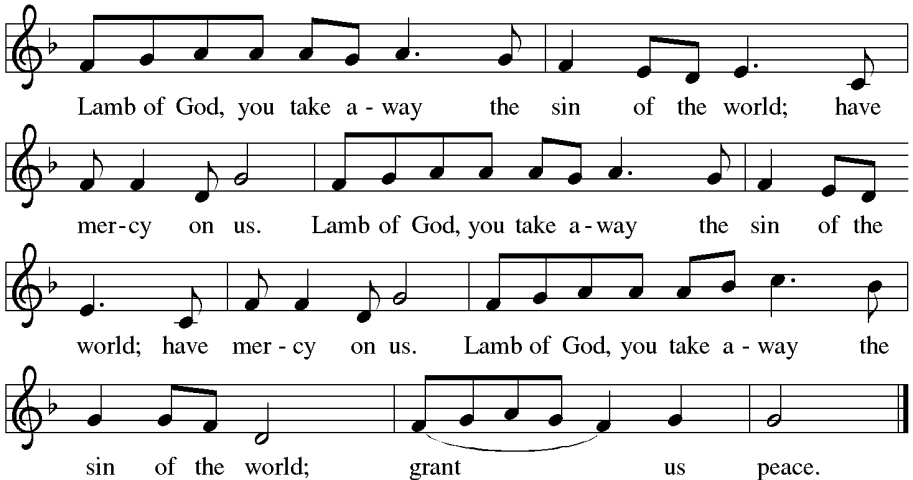
**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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;  
 and 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 TO COMMUNION**

**P:** Jesus welcomes you to this table.  
 Come, here is your God.

**C:** Thanks be to God.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

**COMMUNION**

*All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:*

**The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen**

**COMMUNION HYMN**

***O Master, Let Me Walk with You..... LBW 492***

Stand

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**A:** Let us pray:

Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen

***SENDING***

**BLESSING**

**P:** God all mighty,  
God most merciful  
✠ bless you, keep you,  
and give you peace.

**C:** Amen

**SENDING HYMN**

***On What Has Now Been Sown..... LBW 261***

**DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

<b>Service Assistants</b>	
<b>USHERS</b>	Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Arch Watkins, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner
<b>LAY ASSISTANT</b>	Anita Bair
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Mandy Feinberg
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Weston Sherman
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Jody Fullmer, Jean Bower
<b>GREETERS/COMM. PRESENTER</b>	Sherri Holtzman, Doris Butt
<b>CANTOR</b>	Janet Stroble
<b>FLOWER DELIVERY</b>	Marilyn Winter

### IN BLESSED MEMORY

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Howard and B.Z. Goodbrod, Raymond and Hazel Rosenbaum with love by Don and Mary Ellen Rosenbaum.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Pat Hammaker on the anniversary of her birthday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Albert Kelley on the anniversary of his birthday with love from his family.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to Messiah Church!** It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. We hope to see you again.

**This morning we welcome, Pastor Ron Montgomery,** retired Pastor of the Synod.

**Today is Harvest Home & Blanket Sunday.** Gifts of non-perishable food or monetary gifts for both Harvest Home and Blanket Sunday will be brought to the altar during the singing of the Hymn of Praise. The perishable food will be donated to local food banks, etc. Canned goods will stock our own pantry. The blankets and quilts on display will go to Lutheran World Relief. *Thanks to all who will or have donated!*

**Bible Study** is on Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you there!

**The Preschool Bingo Committee** is asking for your help. On October 26, the committee will be having their 2<sup>nd</sup> Gift Card Bingo event. During this event there will be themed baskets for the Chinese Auction. Please consider donating a basket or items to make a basket to help us raise funds for our preschool. Thank you!

**The Mountie Backpack Program is looking for individuals** to deliver the food bags on Friday's to all the schools in SWASD. Please contact Dianne Larson, 570-220-3702; Connie McLaughlin, 570-326-3618, or Mary Schultz, 570-772-8021. *Many hands lighten the load.*

## MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702

(570) 326-9171 | [www.messiahsouth.org](http://www.messiahsouth.org)

### Relationships over Rules

This gospel reading is one that hits everyone's ears as uncomfortable. Divorce has touched the lives of most listeners in some way, whether it's themselves, parents, siblings, children, colleagues, or friends. We all know and understand the sting of pain that divorce can cause. Holding this pain and naming its vulnerability in our lives might just be exactly what Jesus is getting at in his reply to the Pharisees.

The Pharisees are testing Jesus once again. "Is it lawful . . . ?" Lawful, yes, but if that's the sole focus, we miss the point. It's not primarily about the law; it's about relationship. In Jesus' response to the Pharisees, he draws his listeners to the Creator and to relationships. Jesus points to Genesis, where God sets the intention for relationships to be filled with love, respect, and accountability. The law is there because we human beings fail to comprehend the value of relationships.

Jesus' seemingly absolute prohibition on divorce is not meant to justify staying in a harmful or toxic relationship—quite the opposite. He is challenging the Pharisees to understand the damage that is caused when we discard another human being. This hurt is the opposite of what God intends for our relationships.

Jesus continues to draw his hearers into the power of loving relationships by welcoming children and blessing them. One way to interpret his words is that one must receive the kingdom of God the way one receives a little child. How we treat each other matters to God. God invites us into relationships to see the belovedness in one another, to uplift each other, and to care for one another. When a person is vulnerable like a child, this is exactly when we are to share grace and love, not the sting of law.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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