

Readings + 20th Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 27 B + October 6, 2024

Prayer of the Day

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. Amen

First Reading Genesis 2:18-24

¹⁸The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹So 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. ²⁰The 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. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then God took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man the LORD God made into a woman and brought her to the man.

²³Then 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."

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

Psalmody Psalm 8

O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?

Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:

all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days God has spoken to us by a Son, whom God appointed heir of all things, through whom God also created the worlds. ³The Son is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and sustains all things by his powerful word. When the Son had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

² ⁵Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? ⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, ⁸subjecting 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, ⁹but 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 Jesus might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ 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 complete through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them members of his family, ¹² saying, “I will proclaim your name to my family; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

Holy Gospel Mark 10:2-16

Matthew and Mark are very similar in telling the first section, only Matthew moves verses 3-5 to after “no one separate”. Luke only has the equivalent of verses 11-12. As to the story of blessing children, all three tell this, but only Mark says Jesus was “indignant” (or “aroused, angry” at the disciples.

² Some people, testing Jesus, asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³ Jesus answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴ They said, “Moses allowed a husband to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce

her.” ⁵ But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses 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, 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 Jesus again about this matter. ¹¹ He said to them, “Whatever man divorces his spouse and marries another commits adultery; ¹² and if she divorces her spouse and marries another, she commits adultery.”

¹³ People were bringing children to Jesus 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 children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the reign of God belongs. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, whoever does not receive the reign of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And Jesus took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.