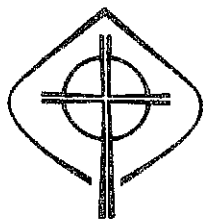


## TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



God Himself said it: "It is not good for the man to be alone."  
That need to be accepted and united one with the other is  
reflected in today's readings.

### Introit



May the Lord bless you from Zion\*  
all the days of your life.

Blessed are all who fear the Lord,\*  
who walk in his ways.  
You will eat the fruit of your labor;\*  
blessings and prosperity will be yours.  
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
within your house;\*  
your sons will be like olive shoots  
around your table.  
Thus is the man blessed\*

who fears the Lord.  
May you see the prosperity of  
Jerusalem,\*  
and may you live to see your  
children's children.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen

May the Lord bless you from Zion\*  
all the days of your life.

(Antiphon, Ps. 128:5a;  
Ps. 128:1-4, 5b-6a)

### Collect of the Day

O God, whose almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy and pity,  
grant us the fullness of your grace that we may be partakers of your heavenly  
treasures; through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### Gradual

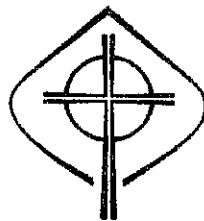
These are they who have come out of the great tribulation;\*  
they have washed their robes and made them white in the  
blood of the Lamb.  
Blessed are those whose strength is in you,\*  
who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. (Rev. 7:14; Ps. 84:5)

### For Daily Devotions

October 22: Ps. 119:121-128; Ezek. 37-39; 23: Ps. 119:129-136; Ezek. 40-42; 24: Ps. 119:137-144; Ezek. 43-45; 25:  
Ps. 119:145-152; Ezek. 46-48; 26: Ps. 119:153-160; Dan. 1-3; 27: Ps. 119:161-168; Dan. 4-6; 28: Ps. 119:169-176;  
Dan. 7-9.

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## Genesis 2:18-24

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called 'woman,'  
for she was taken out of man."

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

## Hebrews 2:9-11 [12-18]

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. [He says,

"I will declare your name to my brothers;  
in the presence of the congregation I will  
sing your praises."

And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again he says,

"Here am I, and the children God has given me."

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.]

## Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

"What did Moses command you?" he replied.

They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away."

"It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied.

"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery."

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. 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. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

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