

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 10:2-16

While this appears to be a legal comment by Jesus concerning, divorce, it is far more important. In this section Jesus reiterates that marriage is: one man, one woman, plus He establishes that the one man, one woman nature of marriage is established in the Sovereignty of God. We are not to play with this God ordained arrangement either by divorce, or by changing the definition. Jesus acknowledges that divorce is going to happen (we are a broken people. This is a statement of God's way. God established the picture of marriage, to explain the relationship between Jesus and the church. Jesus defended marriage because Sovereign Jesus will never divorce the church, even for our infidelity. Jesus takes us into the one flesh relationship and we are saved through Him.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ O Lord God, heavenly Father, You are always among us, and You would never leave or forsake us. We praise and glorify You for the infinite mercy which You made known in the unsurpassed gift to us sinners of Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, Who came to put away our sins by the sacrifice of His flesh on the cross, that who ever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. We thank You, O Father, for this committing of Your love to us, all together, delivering us from the power of sin and death, making us one with Jesus, and opening to us the very gates of Heaven.

Grant that, by Your truth, our minds may be renewed in righteousness and true holiness; that our consciences are established to acknowledge and choose the good; and that in every thought, word, and deed we will be made captive to the obedience of Christ. Give us the will and the power to walk in Your Way and live in harmony with Your Word and with each other. Pour Your grace on us that it will transform us into faithful, patient, people of prayer.

Fill Your Church with Your Spirit so that we will have a power, a knowledge and a wisdom that are above all mere human ingenuity and intellect. Give us great moral conviction, a quickened conscience, and an unshakable sympathy with all that is pure, all that is Holy, all that is true and good. Make us over to courageously accomplish Your will.

For all who are in any sickness, pain, anguish, or suffering, for all who are in any danger from within or without, we pray. Teach them to turn to You and wait for Your Mercy. Grant them expectation of a joyous deliverance out of all their trials, and let them walk in Your light all their days.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

These things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, our refuge, our unity our assurance of salvation.

© Amen.

PROPER TWENTY-TWO

Chant Tone



Introit

Unless the Lord | builds the house,*
those who build it la | bor in vain.

Behold, children are a heritage | from
the Lord.*

the fruit of the womb | a reward.

Like arrows in the hand of a | warrior*
are the children of | one's youth.

Blessèd is the man who fills his quiver
—with them!*

He shall not be put to shame when he
speaks with his enemies | in the gate.

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

Unless the Lord | builds the house,*
those who build it la | bor in vain.

(Antiphon, Psalm 127:1a;
Psalm 127:3-5)

Collect of the Day

Merciful Father, Your patience and loving-kindness toward us have no end. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may always think and do those things that are pleasing in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

For He will command His angels con | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.

Bless the Lord, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless His | holy name!

(Psalm 91:11, 103:1)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Lord of the Cosmos, Creator of Heaven and Earth, Redeemer of mankind, and source of all power. We, Your humble servants, come before You in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior. Accept our praise and adoration for our creation, redemption, and sanctification. You have transplanted us from the wilderness of this world into the vineyard of Your heavenly kingdom. As branches of the Great Vine, Jesus Christ, we ask for Your Holy Spirit that we may have the power to accomplish Your purposes. Make us fruitful branches in Your vineyard, and help us produce fruit with joy. In the exalted name of Jesus we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON, A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN (Ecclesiastes 3:1) Each week we move farther into the season of Fall. Life seems to speed up during the Summer months, now we slow down. Fall gets us prepared for the natural cycle that comes to a close in Winter. Each day in Fall, as the darkness grows around us: the trees become bare, the flowers go away; we bring in the harvest, we pack up for storage, we prepare for the winter to come. Fall reminds us that the end is near, the seasons are coming to a close. Fall reminds us that we are near the end of the church year, and ever closer to the end of the world. Fall reminds us that we have work to do, we must be urgent in the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of the world. New life is necessary for salvation and new life is given through the Word of the church.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Fidelity Of Christ

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 127:1a;) Psalm 127:3-5

Psalm 127 is an addition to the historic Propers, and an addition to our three year cycle of readings. Psalms 120-134 are titled, "Song of Ascents." If you would like to cause an argument ask a couple of Old Testament scholars what that means. There are at least seven fully accepted explanations for the title. Except for Psalm 132 the, "Song of Assents," are very short. The historic church used Psalm 128 and 132 in their liturgies. Psalm 127 was written by Solomon. We are encouraged to remember that God is in control of all things, and unless we acknowledge that fact all our work is pointless.

COLLECT

This is a mash-up of two different historic Collects. We acknowledge God's patience and kindness and we ask that we would always think and do God pleasing things.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Genesis 2:18-25

In my favorite RSV Bible, Genesis 2:18-25 has hash marks around it to indicate it is a stand alone section, having to do with the creation of woman. Every other being were created male and female in the same moment. Humans were created male, and then female was made from the man. In that act, we became social beings. In that act we were literally, figuratively and actually made for each other. Verse 22 is the very first marriage ceremony, and it was officiated by God when He, "brought her to the man." God controls all things, including marriage. It is so impossible to think that we can redefine marriage, or even that we can redefine the relationship God has established.

GRADUAL—Psalm 91:11, 103:1

Psalm 91 and 103 were written by David. 91:11 was used by Satan to suggest that Jesus should test the will of God. David intended that we would know (as from our Collect,) the mercy and pity of God. The world hates us and will attempt to harm us, but the love of God is shown in the fact that the angels were created to serve the believers. For that reason we bless the Lord with all our soul.

EPISTLE LESSON—Hebrews 2:1-18

Verse One tells us all we need to know: "we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it." (This means what we have heard from God.) Our society is at drift over truth. It is not as if that is a new problem (even Pilate had asked Jesus, "What is truth?") Truth is what we hear from God. God is truth, all other knowledge is a pointless striving after the wind.