

**Gospel** Mark 10:2-16 (longer form)

The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked,  
 “Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?”

They were testing him.

He said to them in reply, “What did Moses command you?”

They replied,

“Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her.”

But Jesus told them,

“Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment.

But from the beginning of creation, *God made them male and female.*

*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother*

*and be joined to his wife,*

*and the two shall become one flesh.*

So they are no longer two but one flesh.

Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”

In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this.

He said to them,

“Whoever divorces his wife and marries another

commits adultery against her;

and if she divorces her husband and marries another,

she commits adultery.”



And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them.

When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them,

“Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.”

Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

**Readings for the week:**

**27th Sunday in Ord. Time**

Gen 2:18-24  
 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6  
 Heb 2:9-11  
 Mark 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

**Monday**

Jonah 1:1-2:2, 11  
 Jonah 2:3, 4, 5, 8  
 Luke 10:25-37

**Tuesday**

Jonah 3:1-10  
 Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4ab, 7-8  
 Luke 10:38-42

**Wednesday**

Jonah 4:1-11  
 Ps 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10  
 Luke 11:1-4

**Thursday**

Mal 3:13-20b  
 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6  
 Luke 11:5-13

**Friday**

Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2  
 Ps 9:2-3, 6 and 16, 8-9  
 Luke 11:15-26

**Saturday**

Joel 4:12-21  
 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12  
 Luke 11:27-28

**28th Sunday in Ord. Time**

Wis 7:7-11  
 Ps 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17  
 Heb 4:12-13  
 Mark 10:17-30 or 10:17-27



### Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,  
 who in the abundance of your kindness  
 surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,  
 pour out your mercy upon us  
 to pardon what conscience dreads  
 and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### Reflecting on Living the Gospel

In today's gospel reading, Jesus's teaching on marriage and divorce flows directly into the description of his blessing of the young children, and once again we see the obtuseness of the disciples. Their selective memory has forgotten the words and action of Jesus when he placed and embraced a little child in their midst as a sign of their responsibility to and love of the insignificant and unimportant ones (Mark 9:36-37). They "rebuke" the people, presumably the children's parents, and most likely their mothers, just as Peter had "rebuked" Jesus, had tried to "exorcise" him of his ideas about suffering and death (Mark 8:32). Once again Jesus turns the rebuke back on the disciples in an attempt to rid them of their spirit of preoccupation with power and status. The disciples' stern, dismissive words to the people bringing the children to Jesus contrast with Jesus's words of gentle encouragement to those who want him to touch their children, to have contact with Jesus's own holy person and have him call down on them the blessing of God. Jesus again embraces the children, hugging to himself those who are helpless and dependent.

We should not hear this gospel as a sentimental romanticizing or idealizing of children, but as an embrace of Jesus for all those who have no status, no claims to make, no power to wield, and so are receptive to the great gift that is offered—the kingdom of God. With what have we been touched: with the distorted hope of the disciples for power, or with willingness to be "little ones" who are open to and receptive of the reigning presence of God?

### Closing Prayer

Patient God, grant to us an ever-deeper trust and dependence on you. Give us the faith of a child: pure, reliant, full of wonder and hope. Help us to see in the young ones around us the faith that you long to see in us, for *the kingdom of God belongs to such as these*. **Amen.**

#### For Reflection:

- Jesus tells the disciples, "[W]hoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." What aspects of childhood do you think Jesus is referring to that adults are meant to emulate?

#### Suggestions for group and individual use:

1. Pray aloud the "Opening Prayer" (in *The Roman Missal* called the "collect").
2. One person read aloud the gospel.
3. Each read prayerfully "Reflecting on Living the Gospel" and spend some time in personal prayer.
4. Share together responses to "For Reflection."
5. Pray the "Closing Prayer."

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**Announcements**  
**10/02/21 to 10/03/21**

**Financials: Last Week 09/22/21-09/28/21**

<b>Weekly Collection Goal \$2400</b>	<b>Total \$1883.00</b>	<b>Short \$517.00</b>
<b>In Church</b>	<b>\$ 1523.00</b>	
<b>OnLine Giving</b>	<b>\$ 00.00</b>	
<b>Mail In</b>	<b>\$ 360.00</b>	

**Chaminade Scholars Program – this is a scholarship opportunity available at Chaminade University on Oahu. Please see Poster on the bulletin board for more info.**

**Ohana in Christ – The Annual Appeal for the Catholic Church in Hawaii**

**Bishop Larry Silva** is asking every faith community to actively support the new ‘Ohana in Christ initiative – an effort to raise awareness of our wider church mission and services, as well as to help raise the funds to sustain them through an annual diocesan appeal. Your generous gift will especially help our Parish Priests and Deacons, Youth and Young Adult Ministry and those most in need.

In lieu of a video, let us take a few minutes to listen to a message from **Bishop Silva and Vicar General Gary Secor.**

Each family has been given an OIC return envelope which contain a prayer card and gift slip. You are encouraged to take the envelope home and mail it in direct. There is opportunity as well to donate online with the Diocese at [catholichawaii.org](http://catholichawaii.org). noting St. Ann Waihee as your parish. It also provides the option of monthly recurring gifts or larger amount/one time donation. Should you prefer make your check out to Ohana In Christ and the parish will forward. The Annual Diocesan Appeal concludes June 30, 2022. Your donations will be credited to St. Ann Waihee.

***Have a Blessed Week!***