

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠ October 4, 2020

***WELCOME!** In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophet's mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sins. Grafted onto Christ the view at Holy Baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread—body and blood—so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.*



THE PASTORAL GREETING

THE OPENING HYMN – “O Holy Spirit, Enter In”

LSB 913

- 1 O Holy Spirit, enter in, And in our hearts Your work begin,
Your dwelling place now make us.
Sun of the soul, O Light divine, Around and in us brightly shine,
To joy and gladness wake us
That we may be Truly living, To You giving Prayer unceasing
And in love be still increasing.
- 2 Give to Your Word impressive pow'r, That in our hearts from this good hour
As fire it may be glowing,
That in true Christian unity We faithful witnesses may be,
Your glory ever showing.
Hear us, cheer us By Your teaching; Let our preaching And our labor
Praise You, Lord, and serve our neighbor.
- 3 O mighty Rock, O Source of life, Let Your dear Word, in doubt and strife,
In us be strongly burning
That we be faithful unto death And live in love and holy faith,
From You true wisdom learning.
Your grace and peace On us shower; By Your power Christ confessing,
Let us see our Savior's blessing.

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THE INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

THE KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them.

C: **Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE – “The Church’s One Foundation” *(V.ss. 1 & 5)* **LSB 644**

1 The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heav’n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

5 Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav’nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

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✠ THE WORD ✠

THE FIRST READING – Isaiah 5:1-7, ESV

The prophet Isaiah sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God’s loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth “wild grapes” of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING – Philippians 3:4b-14, ESV

St. Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul wrote:] If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HYMN – “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

(Vs. 4)

LSB 909

4 Praise and honor to the Father, Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit, Ever three and ever one:
One in might and one in glory While unending ages run!

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THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – Matthew 21:33-46, ESV

[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he

do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE HYMN – “If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee” *(Vss. 1-4)* **LSB 750**

- 1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee And hope in Him through all thy ways,
He’ll give thee strength, whate’er betide thee, And bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God’s unchanging love Builds on the rock that naught can move.
- 2 What can these anxious cares avail thee, These never-ceasing moans and sighs?
What can it help if thou bewail thee O’er each dark moment as it flies?
Our cross and trials do but press The heavier for our bitterness.
- 3 Be patient and await His leisure In cheerful hope, with heart content
To take whate’er thy Father’s pleasure And His discerning love hath sent,
Nor doubt our inmost wants are known To Him who chose us for His own.
- 4 God knows full well when times of gladness Shall be the needful thing for thee.
When He has tried thy soul with sadness And from all guile has found thee free,
He comes to thee all unaware And makes thee own His loving care.

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THE MESSAGE

✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

THE HYMN – “Church of God, Elect and Glorious” *(Vss. 1&4)* **LSB 646**

- 1 Church of God, elect and glorious, Holy nation, chosen race;
Called as God’s own special people, Royal priests and heirs of grace:
Know the purpose of your calling, Show to all His mighty deeds;
Tell of love that knows no limits, Grace that meets all human needs.
- 4 Church of God, elect and holy, Be the people He intends;
Strong in faith and swift to answer Each command your Master sends:
Royal priests, fulfill your calling Through your sacrifice and prayer;
Give your lives in joyful service—Sing His praise, His love declare.

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THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Hear us Heavenly Father, as we pray the prayer that Christ gave us:

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.

THE BLESSING

P: May almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C: Amen.

THE HYMN – “Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”

(Vs. 4)

LSB 670

4 O friends, in gladness let us sing, Supernal anthems echoing: “Alleluia, alleluia!”
To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One:
“Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!”

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✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠

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