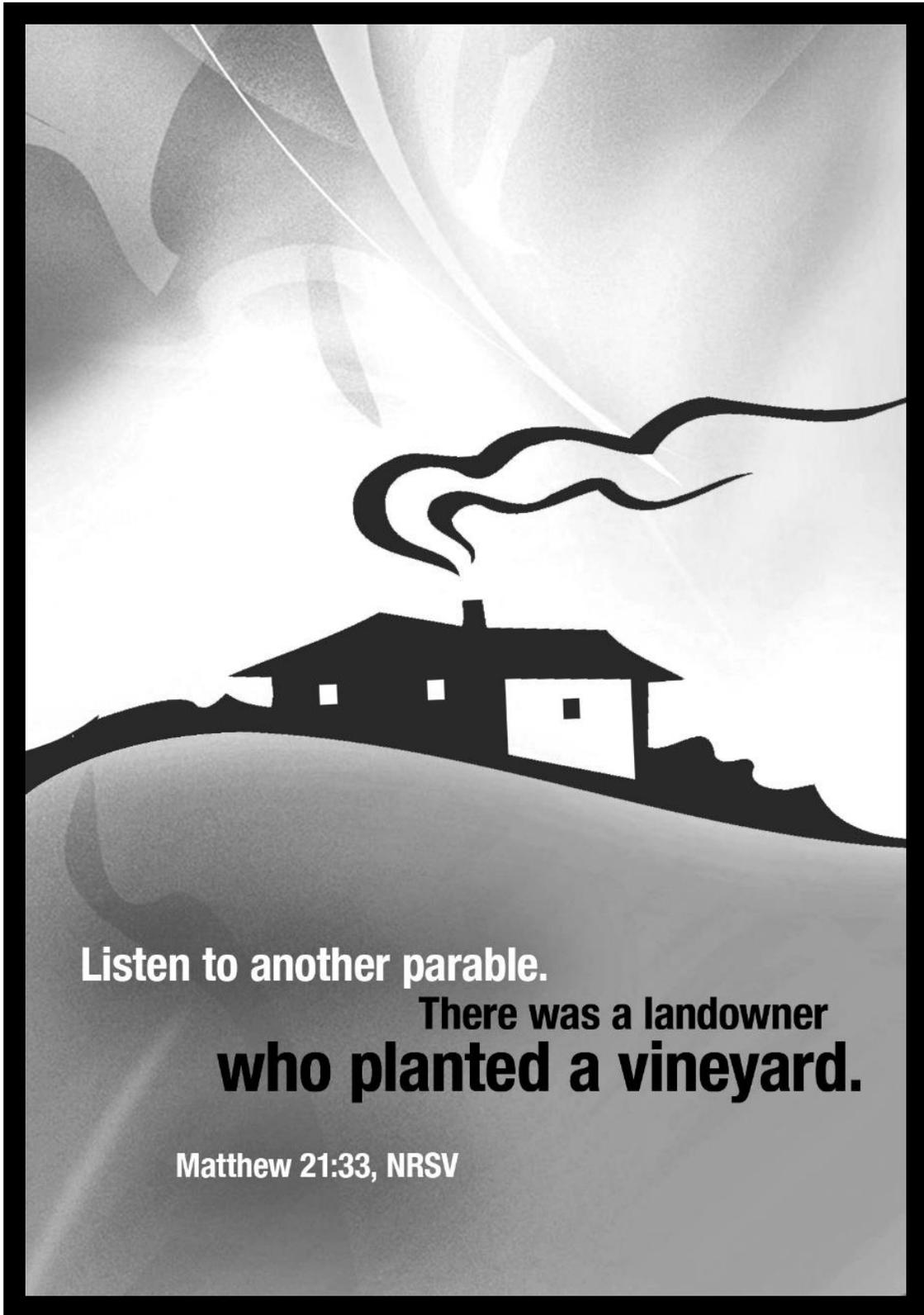


# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



**Pentecost 18**

**October 4, 2020**

# *One in Christ Lutheran Parish*

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

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Eighteen Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2020

## **COME, HOLY SPIRIT!**

We joyfully welcome all guests who are worshipping with us this morning.  
We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, who excites us with the mission of the church - to be witnesses and share the "good news" to all people.  
**EMPOWER AND SEND US!**

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **✠ GATHERING ✠**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Forgive us, O God, when we believe that righteous behavior means performing perfect deeds and that is what is required to secure your love. Yet Jesus has shown us that we can neither earn or deserve all that you have done for us - all that we need to do is to accept your love as gift.

**Forgive us, O God, when we find this hard to do because yours is a love so contrary to the values of the world.**

Help us therefore to surrender any worldly attitudes and values so that, like Paul, we can celebrate anew lives totally centered in Christ.

*silent reflection*

Paul acknowledges a desire to participate in the death and resurrection of Christ so that he can die and rise also. He urges others to do likewise.

**Forgive us, O God, when we lose sight of the goal of our lives as Christians - that of following Jesus;**

even when that means sharing in the sufferings and struggles of others.

*silent reflection*

In his life and his agonizing death Jesus demonstrated above all his desire to give true meaning to the depth of divine love so that we could fully understand his commandment that we love one another as he loved us.

May that commandment be so imprinted on our lives that, like Paul we regard whatever gains we may have experienced in our lives as loss compared to the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus as our Lord,

**in whose name we pray. Amen**

## **EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

Our righteousness comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ we are accepted, we are loved, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **OPENING SONG** “*Son of God, Eternal Savior*”

*Son of God, eternal Savior,  
source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us  
hallows all our human race,  
you our head, who, throned in glory,  
for your own will ever plead:  
fill us with your love and pity,  
heal our wrong, and help our need.*

*As you, Lord, have lived for others,  
so may we for others live.  
Freely have your gifts been granted;  
freely may your servants give.  
Yours the gold and yours the silver,  
yours the wealth of land and sea;  
we but stewards of your bounty  
held in solemn trust will be.*

*Come, O Christ, and reign among us,  
King of love and Prince of peace;  
hush the storm of strife and passion,  
bid its cruel discords cease.  
By your patient years of toiling,  
by your silent hours of pain,  
quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,  
stem our selfish greed of gain.*

*Son of God, eternal Savior,  
source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us  
hallows all our human race:  
by your praying, by your willing  
that your people should be one,  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fruition:  
here on earth your will be done.*

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855-1932

### **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**SHARING THE PEACE** – *Give somebody a call today.*

## **KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

## **✠ MEAL ✠**

***God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ***

*Please pick up the Communion elements off the table in the narthex if you did not as you entered the sanctuary.*

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

### **PREFACE RESPONSE**

*“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

## **SONG OF HUMILITY AND HOPE** *“Lamb of God”*

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.***

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**DISTRIBUTION** - *We will consume the elements during the Words of Institution as instructed.*

## COMMUNION BLESSING

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

### *God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song*

*In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' 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 sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

### **Isaiah 5:1-7**

*The prophet 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.*

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup>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;  
he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup>And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?  
When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;  
I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

<sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting;  
he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

### **Philippians 3:4b-14**

*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 writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I

regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ<sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*“Alleluia”  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

## **GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 21:33-46**

*Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the people:] <sup>33</sup>“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup>They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

<sup>42</sup>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 amazing in our eyes’?

<sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN SERMON**

### **SERMON**

Pastor Bill Peters

**SONG OF THE DAY** *“The Church's One Foundation”*

*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.*

*Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.*

*Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.*

*Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.*

*Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,  
that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.*

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all  
those in need.

...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **✠ SENDING ✠**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world*

### **BLESSING**

### **THREE-FOLD AMEN**

### **SENDING SONG**    *"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"*

*My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
no merit of my own I claim,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*Refrain    On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in ev'ry high and stormy gale  
my anchor holds within the veil.    Refrain*

*His oath, his covenant, his blood  
sustain me in the raging flood;  
when all supports are washed away,  
he then is all my hope and stay.    Refrain*

*When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
oh, may I then in him be found,  
clothed in his righteousness alone,  
redeemed to stand before the throne!    Refrain*

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

## THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
Thanks be to God.

## ✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

*God invites us to respond to His grace*

### OFFERING

*Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use Tithe.ly (electronic giving).*

### Postlude



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Eighteen Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2020

## Call to Confession

Throughout his ministry in Matthew's gospel, Jesus draws in people at the margins of society. As the leader of a reform movement, Jesus spoke as a Jew to fellow Jews. When we read these stories centuries later, we must remember that his intent was to condemn exclusion and abuses of power—not to reject Judaism. His critiques still ring true for the power structures of the religious institutions of our time.

Jesus' parables stirred people up, provoking questions, doubts, even hostility. When his listeners recognized themselves in the parables, it was rarely comforting or affirming. Do we have the honesty and vulnerability to see ourselves critically in the stories as the chief priests and Pharisees did?

There aren't any clear heroes in this story, as in any story of class warfare. Perhaps the tenants turned to violence out of frustration with the economic injustice of their situation. The Pharisees were quick to side with the powerful landowner, asserting his right to kill the tenants and crush their revolt, yet Jesus does not affirm this escalation either.

We begin worship with a prayer of confession, recalling the image of God's goodness in each of us and yet honestly admitting our shame and guilt. Today's parable also issues a call to confession, alluding to the vineyard of Isaiah 5, which yielded wild grapes instead of sweet. God has created a world that can provide abundant life for all. What are the fruits of our congregations? God's heart longs for justice for all people. How might we unintentionally and unknowingly cultivate the sour wine of exclusion, discrimination, and injustice?

In the prayer of the day, we ask: "Beloved God, . . . lead us . . . to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them." Empowered by God's grace and forgiveness, we set to work removing the blinders that keep us from recognizing ourselves in parables' antagonists and repenting of the injustices that we perpetuate.