

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 4, 2020

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP based on Hebrews 12

L: Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken;

P: Let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

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

P: Amen.

GATHERING SONG: “Come Now is the Time to Worship”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPWq8eM4lu8>

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

P. Amen

L: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

P: We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

P: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

P: 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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning my beloved's vineyard:
"My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²My beloved dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines; built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat
in it, and expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes." ³And now, inhabitants of
Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What 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?

⁵And 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. ⁶I 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. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are God's pleasant planting; for the LORD
expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 80:7-15

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
⁸You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.
⁹You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.
¹⁰The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.
¹²Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
¹⁴Turn now, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven;
¹⁵behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised
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; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness
under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More 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 ⁹and 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. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings
by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not 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. ¹³Beloved, 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, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:33-46

[Jesus said:] ³³“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. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰“Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to Jesus, “The owner 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.”

⁴²Jesus 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’?”

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

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

SERMON: *Who’s Vineyard Is It?*

Pastor Jerome Evavold

SONG: “Ancient Words” Michael W. Smith

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOi1Rwt_kCI

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

THE OFFERING

Looking for a way to give to support Trinity ministry? We have now launched our Text to Give program. Simply text the amount you'd like to give to 833-610-0635. Kathy will also continue to check the mail and make deposits weekly Thank you for your generous giving that enables continued ministries.

OFFERING SONG: “Day by Day”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INVCCph6cnI>

OFFERING PRAYER:

God of glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Today, October 4, is St. Francis’ Day. Francis cared fervently for the church, the earth and its animals, peace, and the poor. Let us now pray for these concerns, responding to each petition with the words “in mercy, receive our prayers.”

A brief silence.

God most high, we pray for the church: for our bishop, our pastors and deacons, and our own congregation; for the ministry of Pope Francis; and for churches that are struggling with few resources. *A brief silence.* That all the baptized may produce good fruit, sowing faith where there is doubt, we pray to you, O God our Redeemer:
in mercy, receive our prayers.

We pray for the earth and its animals: for farmlands; for animals whose habitat is threatened; for livestock; for all the animals that we raise for human use; for service animals; and for our dear pets. *A brief silence.* That the earth may be sustained with your care, and that we will sow joy where there is sadness, we pray to you, O God our Creator:
in mercy, receive our prayers.

We pray for peace: between nations; in our cities; among political rivals; throughout our coming election; between generations; between long-time citizens and new immigrants; in our churches and in our homes. *A brief silence.* That we may become instruments of your peace, sowing union where there is discord, we pray to you, O God, our Peacemaker:
in mercy, receive our prayers.

We pray for those who are poor: for those who are unemployed; for migrants; for those who are marginalized by prejudice; for orphans; for school children with no digital access. *A brief silence.* That we may give assistance where there is poverty and need, we pray to you, O God our Provider:
in mercy, receive our prayers.

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To all who are suffering, show your mercy. We pray for firefighters, for communities devastated by fire, for all who suffer racial injustice, for migrants who seek safety, for all who are imprisoned, for victims of crime, for the unemployed, for students and faculty during the pandemic, for medical workers, for all who are hungry; O God, the list of the needy is so long. *A brief silence.*

That we may sow hope where there is despair, we pray to you, O God our Comforter:
in mercy, receive our prayers.

Give healthy and wholeness to all who are sick, to all who are suffering from coronavirus, and to those we name before you here for:

Marilyn Peterson, Jim Lockwood, Julia, Fred, Myrt, Jim, Kaylie, Dorlene, Alex and Trista, and Adrien. We pray for the family of Mae Klawitter who passed away Thursday night. May God be with Mary and Jerome during this sad time.

We pray, finally for ourselves. Strengthen our faith in Christ, and hear our personal petitions. *A longer period of silence.* That we may sow pardon where there is injury and love where there has been hatred, we pray to you, O God our Healer:
in mercy, receive our prayers.

Enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, as we trust in your salvation through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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.

BLESSING

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: "Everlasting God" by Lincoln Brewster

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJ8zXzZp4Jk>

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!