

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**New Castle, IN**  
**October 4, 2020**  
**Pentecost 18, Lectionary 27A**

### **Introduction to the day**

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.

*Welcome in the name of Jesus! As we gather around word and sacrament as the people of God, we gather to bear communal witness to Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for the life of the world. As the world continues to be in the grip of the global COVID-19 pandemic, we remember in prayer those who are sick and those on the frontlines of the pandemic who care for the sick.*

*As part of our communal witness, the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church council has passed the following guidelines and code of conduct that will frame our gathering for worship as the people of God. As we gather for worship this day, our actions in relation to these guidelines and code of conduct are an important part of this communal witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ—witness that is grounded in the love of God and love of our neighbor.*

*Please take time before worship to review these guidelines. In particular, please note that it is extremely important that we follow social distancing guidelines and that face coverings are worn over your nose and mouth at all times while in the building.*

*Thank you for your presence here today, and for bearing this important witness in our world at this time, for Jesus' sake.*

### **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Guidelines for In-person Worship**

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

The following of these guidelines during our in-person gathering IS loving your neighbor.

- All individuals over the age of 65 or who have an underlying health risk, are encouraged to view worship online from home
- 6' of personal space will be expected in the entrance, the Narthex, the steps to the Sanctuary, on the pews, and in the restrooms.
- Masks will be worn by adults while in the church and during worship
- Bulletins will be placed directly on the pews
- Offering will be placed in the plates that will be set by the doors to the sanctuary
- Posters will be placed as reminders of personal hygiene practices
- Restroom doors will remain open, water fountain will be closed

- Children should remain with an adult at all times; materials for children need to be brought from home
- Dismissal will be directed by the Pastor

### **Code of Conduct**

**Do not attend church activities when you are feeling ill or running a fever.**

**Avoid close contact with non-family members:**

- Maintain 6 feet distance from non-family members.
- Do not shake hands or touch non-family members.

**Wash your hands:**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Wash for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

**Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.**

**Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others:**

- Wear cloth face mask when indoors and other people are present.

### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### **PRELUDE**

To God Be the Glory—William Howard Doane (1875). Arranged by Marth Sherrill Kelley. © 2004 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of the Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he has done!

— Fanny Crosby (1875)

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✝ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

## **MUSIC MEDITATION**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (with “He Leadeth Me”)—William B. Bradbury. Arranged by Larry Shackley. Copyright © 2004 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved.

Early let us seek your favor, early let us do your will;  
blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.

— Text: Attributed to Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

## **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.**

## **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.

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

<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!

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 80:7-15**

*The Psalm will be spoken responsively.*

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

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

A reading from Philippians.

[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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46**

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.**

**SERMON**

## APOSTLES' CREED

*Please stand as you are able.*

Together with the whole Church, we confess our faith:

**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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Holy God, you call us to work for peace and justice in your vineyard. Refresh the church with your life, that we may bear fruit through work and service. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the abundant harvest of the earth. Bless and care for those whose hands bring the fruits of the earth to the tables of all who hunger. May we be inspired by your servants who cared deeply for your creation (*especially Francis of Assisi, whom we commemorate today*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Curb the impulses of greed and pride that lead us to take advantage of others. Grant that world leaders seek the fruits of the kingdom for the good and welfare of all people. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sustain all who suffer with the promise of new life. Assured of your presence, heal our pain and suffering, and equip us to embrace all bodies aching for wholeness of mind, body, and soul. We call to mind those who are struggling today (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all managers in our community and for all who seek employment. Give hope and a future to those who lack meaningful work, those who have been marginalized or abused in the workplace, and those who desire new opportunities. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard. May our chorus join theirs until our labor is complete. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

#### **OFFERTORY**

*You are invited into a time of prayer and contemplation as we prayerfully consider how the gifts of our very selves, our time, and our financial resources can be given for sake of the mission of this congregation and the larger Church. Your offering of financial gifts may be placed in the trays just outside the entrance of the sanctuary. You may also give online by going to [www.holytrinitync.org](http://www.holytrinitync.org) and clicking on the button labeled "GIVE."*

*During this time, communion kits will be distributed.*

Jesus Loves Me—William B. Bradbury. Arranged by Michael Fischer. Arrangement © 2000 by Lillenas Publishing Company (SESAC). All rights reserved.

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## COMMUNION

*Please carefully open your communion kits.*

*The presiding minister says:*

“The body of Christ, given for you.”  
*(The communicant eats the bread.)*

“The blood of Christ, shed for you.”  
*(The communicant drinks the wine.)*

## MUSIC MEDITATION

How Beautiful—Twila Paris. Arranged by Larry Shackley. © 1990/arrangement © 2005 Ariose Music (ASCAP)/Mountain Spring Music (ASCAP). Administered by EMI Christian Music Publishing. All rights reserved.

How beautiful the hands that served  
the wine and the bread  
and the sons of the earth.  
How beautiful the feet that walked  
the long dusty roads  
and the hills to the cross.  
How beautiful,  
how beautiful,  
how beautiful is the body of Christ.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

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