

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

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*Rooted in Faith * Growing in Spirit * Reaching Out to Those in Need*

8:30 am 18th Sunday after Pentecost October 8, 2017

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable of the vineyard, 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, that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Temple Talk - Lutheran Disaster Response

GATHERING

OPENING HYMN "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" ELW #645

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(please stand)*

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Source of all life,
we confess that we have not allowed
your grace to set us free.
We fear that we are not good enough.
We hear your word of love freely given to us,
yet we expect others to earn it.
We turn the church inward,
rather than moving it outward.
Forgive us. Stir us.
Reform us to be a church powered by love,
willing to speak for what is right,
act for what is just,
and seek the healing of your whole creation.
Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.

Our sins are forgiven,

☩ God's love is unconditional,
and we are raised up as God's people
who will always be made new,
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



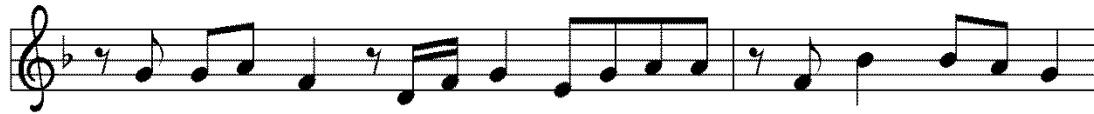
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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** *(please be seated)*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Alan LaFave ~ Clarinet

Ron Parker ~ Piano

A TIME FOR CHILDREN & NOISY OFFERING

WORD

PSALM

Psalm 80:7-15

Pew Bible p. 598

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁸**You 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.
¹⁰**The 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 .
¹²**Why 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.
¹⁴**Turn 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** **Pew Bible NT p. 205**

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please stand)*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

Pew Bible NT p. 23

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ. *(please be seated)*

SERMON

Pastor Erin

HYMN OF THE DAY

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

ELW #343

APOSTLES’ CREED *(please stand)*

**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.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying, "Peace be with you" or similar words. If you prefer not to shake hands, any friendly word or gesture is appropriate. (please be seated)

OFFERING

The children are welcome to come forward and place their offerings in the "For Children Everywhere" box.

OFFERING HYMN

"Praise and Thanksgiving"

ELW #689

OFFERING PRAYER *(please stand)*

God of life,
you give us these gifts of the earth,
these resources of our life and our labor.
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,
and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

After each petition: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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,
Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

ELW #597

POSTLUDE

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LEADING OUR WORSHIP:

Preaching: Pastor Erin Heidelberger
Presiding: Pastor Marcia Sylvester
Pianist: Sue Gates
Lector: Mike Bretsch
Deacon: Mike Bretsch
Power Point: Judy Albl
Altar Guild Co-Chairs: Sharon Guthmiller – Cyndi Schauer
Sound System: Garry Johnson
Van Driver: Rick Weber
Counters: Garry\Kathy Johnson
Glenn Denning – Millie Suchomel
Coffee Hosts: Zion Youth
Ushers: Art Bretsch, Keith Larson, Glenn Denning,
Mike, Lory, Emily & Claire Bretsch

Psalm Psalm 80:7-15

- ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ⁸**You 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.
- ¹⁰**The 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.
- ¹²**Why 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.
- ¹⁴**Turn 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 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:] ^{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 to the people:] 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. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

⁴¹They 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.”

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 kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. 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 they regarded him as a prophet.

Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Restore what is broken in your church, loving God. Heal divisions among Christian communities, give courage to leaders facing hardship, and open our ears to the prophets' cries among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore what is broken in creation, gracious God. Revive farmlands and vineyards, protect waters needed by all living things, and move us to care for this earthly home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore what is broken in our world, mighty God. Quell the rush to violence between peoples and nations. Break down dividing walls and promote growth for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore our broken bodies, O God. We pray for those suffering any loss: the grieving, those who have lost homes or property, the imprisoned, those neglected or abandoned, and the sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore our faith in you, saving God. We pray for Bible study and Sunday school teachers, musicians, servers, and for all whose work nurtures our faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember the saints whose devotion proclaimed your saving help. In company with them, root us firmly in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

