

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
zionlutheranaberdeen.org
Erin Heidelberger, Pastor
Tim Sersen, Visitation Pastor



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.

PRELUDE

Piano/Organ Duets

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,
have mercy on us.
We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.
We pass judgment on one another

before examining ourselves.
We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.
We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.
Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.
Hear the truth that God proclaims:
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Hope of the Nations

Brian Doerksen
Stephanie Hawkinson, pianist

Jesus, hope of the nations.
Jesus comfort for all who mourn.
You are the source of Heaven's hope on earth.
Jesus light in the darkness.
Jesus truth in each circumstance.
You are the source of Heaven's light on earth.
In History, You live and died.
You broke the chains, You rose to life

You are the hope living in us.
You are the rock in whom we trust.
You are the light shining for all the world to see.
You rose from the dead, conquering fear,
Our Prince of Peace drawing us near.
Jesus our hope
Living for all who will receive. Lord we believe!!

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You are the source of Heaven's hope on earth.
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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

Almighty and merciful God, you have ordered our earthly life that we must walk by faith and not by sight. Give us such trust in your fatherly care that we show our faith by our courage in the face of all perplexities. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

KIDS' TIME

Pastoral Assistant Sandra Anderson

PSALM

Psalm 80:7-15

(read responsively)

⁷ God-of-the-Angel-Armies, come back! Smile your blessing smile:

That will be our salvation.

⁸ **Remember how you brought a young vine from Egypt,
cleared out the brambles and briars
and planted your very own vineyard?**

⁹ You prepared the good earth,
you planted her roots deep;
the vineyard filled the land.

¹⁰ **Your vine soared high and shaded the mountains,
even dwarfing the giant cedars.**

¹¹ Your vine ranged west to the Sea,
east to the River.

12 So why do you no longer protect your vine?

Trespassers pick its grapes at will;

**13 Wild pigs crash through and crush it,
and the mice nibble away at what's left.**

14 God-of-the-Angel-Armies, turn our way!

**Take a good look at what's happened
and attend to this vine.**

**15 Care for what you once tenderly planted—
the vine you raised from a shoot.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-15

[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.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

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

GOSPEL **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.

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

SERMON

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

ELW #461

1 All who hunger gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.
Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

- 2 All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

- 3 All who hunger, sing together,
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table
live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, 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 THE PEOPLE

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

After each petition: God of mercy, **hear our prayers.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Thank you for your faithful giving that has continued during this time! Ministry at this time depends on regular giving. If you would like to give online now, you can use this QR code scanner on your smart phone to be directed to the Giving page on our website. You can also mail your offerings in to the church.



OFFERING SONG

Amazing Love

My Lord, what love is this that pays so dearly,
That I, the guilty one, may go free?
Amazing love, oh, what sacrifice,
The Son of God giv'n for me;
My debt he pays and my death he dies,
That I might live, that I might live.

And so, they watched him die, despised, rejected;
But, oh, the blood he shed flowed for me.
Amazing love, oh, what sacrifice,
The Son of God giv'n for me;
My debt he pays and my death he dies,
That I might live, that I might live.

And now this love of Christ shall flow like rivers;
Come, wash your guilt away, live again.
Amazing love, oh, what sacrifice,
The Son of God giv'n for me;
My debt he pays and my death he dies,
That I might live, that I might live.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our community and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray in confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

The Lord Now Send Us Forth

ELW #538

The Lord now sends us forth
with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth
a better place to live. *Repeat*

The angels are not sent
into our world of pain
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me
and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray,
to do your will today. *Repeat*

SENDING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lani Smith

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Leading worship today:

Pastor Erin Heidelberger
Pastoral Assistant Sandra Anderson
Zach Anderson, cantor
Stephanie Hawkinson, cantor
Sonya Kempf, organist
Sue Gates, pianist
Marcie Andersh, lector

Prayers

As a community of faith in Christ, we are connected through joy, sorrow, worship, and prayer. Please pray for the people listed below.

As we are praying for all members of Zion, this week we pray especially for God's comfort, healing, protection, strength, and peace to be with:

Those with ongoing concerns:

Duane Wagemann
Tammy Paulsen
Hilda Hoffman
Howard Nelson

Announcements

A FUNDRAISER FOR TAMMY PAULSEN has been set up to help with costs related to her cancer treatment. You can give to this fund online at bit.ly/Tammystrong. Or you can give by bringing your cash or check donation to the church—make checks out to “Zion Lutheran Church” with “Tammy Paulsen fund” in the memo line.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS! We are in need of...

- **Sound board operators for 8:30 service**—No experience necessary; we will train you! The commitment would be one Sunday per month.
- **Scripture readers either in the sanctuary at 8:30 OR on video**—you can take the video yourself at home or come to the church during the week and have Sandra video record you OR Sandra can come to your home for an outdoor video recording of you reading the Sunday scriptures.

Let the church office know (225-6755) if you are interested in either of these volunteer opportunities.

THE SPECIAL OFFERING for October is Aspire

Aspire, Inc. is a non-profit agency that provides an array of services to people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Today Aspire serves around 160 people.

Approximately half of the people we support live in their own homes in the community. For those who require more support, Aspire offers residential supports in supervised apartment settings or group residences. Aspire also supports people who work at local businesses.



We provide training opportunities for people to obtain work experience. For people who do not have employment goals, Aspire provides opportunities for people to be involved in the community in whatever way is meaningful to them.

For more information, go to: www.aspiresd.org/

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORSHIP NEEDED—Our radio broadcast ministry is more important than ever. Would you consider donating either the whole cost of half the cost of a Sunday broadcast? A whole Sunday service is \$110.00 and half is \$55.00. You are welcome to donate in remembrance of a loved one or in celebration of a special occasion to support this ministry. To sign up for a broadcast, contact the church office at 225-6755. Upcoming Sundays available to sponsor: October 18 & 25; November 1, 8, 22, & 29.

BEDDING DRIVE—The Social Concerns committee will be holding a bedding drive for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, which is a non-profit organization which provides twin beds for children in our area who do not have a bed of their own. They are in need of brand new (no used items) twin bedding sheets which include a flat sheet, fitted sheet, and pillow case. They are also in need of twin-sized comforters and quilts. Items will be collected September 27—October 11, and items can be brought to the church.

S'MORES WITH SAUNDRA—starts tonight! Middle school aged kids can join Sandra in the north parking lot at Zion for s'mores, faith, and fellowship.

THURSDAY EVENING COMMUNION SERVICE

Our next "Come and Go" Communion service will be Thursday, October 15th from 5:00-6:00 PM. Come anytime during the scheduled time for a brief (about 5 minutes) service of Holy Communion. **Note the new ending time**



GOOD SAMARITAN FUND—We are starting to run low on funds to help our neighbors who contact us for emergency assistance. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please indicate that your gift is for the "Good Samaritan Fund".

RECIPES NEEDED—The Zion Youth are putting together a church cookbook as a fundraiser for the upcoming trip to the National Youth Gathering, which has been postponed to Summer 2022. We are in need of your family favorite recipes! Write them down on a recipe card and mail to or drop off at the church; or take a picture of the recipe and email them to Sandra at: Saundra.Anderson@nvc.net
Please include who the recipe came from.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION—will begin on Wednesday, October 7th and will be held online. All information regarding confirmation can be found at:
www.bit.ly/ZionConfirmation2020

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