

October 4, 2020

WELCOMING WORD *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.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Restore us, O God of hosts;

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

L: Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;

C: behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

OPENING HYMN #165 Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy, all the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy, Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye made blind by sin, thy glory may not see.
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in pow'r and love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

INVOCATION

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Beloved God,

C: 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 LESSON: Isaiah 5:1-7 Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He 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.

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. 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. ⁷For 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!

SECOND LESSON: 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: 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.

MESSAGE – Pastor John Twiton

HYMN #492 *Oh Master, Let Me Walk with You*

O Master, let me walk with you in lowly paths of service true;
Tell me your secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me your patience; share with me a closer, clearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broad'ning way,
In peace that only you can give; with you, O Master let me live.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

OFFERTORY PRAYER Thank you, Lord, for all you have given us, especially the gift of your Son. Help us to accept his authority, trust in him, and obey him. Teach us to live our lives in service to you. in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

A brief silence.

P: Holy God, you call us to work in your vineyard. Refresh the church with your life, that we may bear fruit through work and service. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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. Watch over the farmers and all those who toil to bring in the harvest of your earth's bounty. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard (*especially Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society*). May our chorus join theirs until our labor is complete. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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. 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.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again*

CLOSING HYMN: #699 Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

REFRAIN

**This is my story; this is my song, praising the savior all the day long.
This is my story; this is my song, praising the savior all the day long.**

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

REFRAIN

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my savior am happy and blest.
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

OUR SYMPATHIES to the families and friends of Dorothy Rasmussen (aunt to Diane Twiton & Jean Bower) and Martha Hartman, both of whom passed away on September 24

Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)
Nick Sydow (friend of Connie Curran's sons)
Delores Bryant
Brock Howe
Jeannie U'Ren
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)
Harlan Oimoen
Grace Aavang
Trevor Sayre (son of Tamie Reichert)
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)

Ruth Osterholz
Makenzee Smith
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)
Dorothy Jelle
Mary Krantz
Ruth Ann Nemet
Irene Bruflat
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)
Bill Steinhauer
Peter Toniazzo
Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 4, 2020

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 144, A Prayer for Deliverance

Tuesday, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Ministry of Reconciliation

Wednesday, John 11:45-57, The Plot to Kill Jesus

Thursday, Psalm 23, The Good Shepherd

Friday, James 4:4-10, Humble Yourselves before God

Saturday, Isaiah 24:17-23, God's Judgement

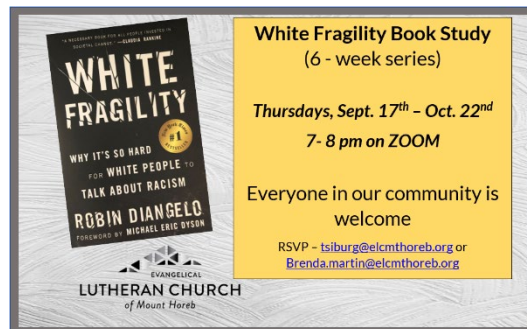
TALK: Consider some of these ideas: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?” -- Matthew 21:42 Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture. We have been placed in a ‘rich vineyard’ as well:

- Have you paused recently to recognize the abundance of our lives in this place?
- Do we remember that we are not the owners, but the stewards of this place?
- How have we acted to nurture the ‘fruits of the kingdom’ in our lives, home, community and world?

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.

BLESS: May you serve with faith and joy this day. Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



BUCKY BOOKS FOR SALE Our youth are fundraising to help our future summer youth opportunities. Each book sells for \$35.00. **TO ORDER:** Email brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org OR Locate our link to order online on our ELC website - search for the Youth tab/High School. Thank you for your support.

SUNDAY SCHOOL on ZOOM Join us on ZOOM, 9:00 - 9:30 am, each Sunday morning. Youth, who are 3 years old - 8th grade are invited to participate. It is great seeing their faces each week. Lessons are also emailed, if you are unable to attend our ZOOM time.

FUSE NIGHTS on ZOOM Youth, who are 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group on ZOOM, Mondays, October 12 & 26 at 7 pm. FUSE nights build relationships, challenge each other in exciting games, time to hang