

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4th, 2026 - Divine Service 3 - LSB 184ff



The True Vine Redeems the Vineyard of the LORD of Hosts

“The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel” (Is. 5:7), which He planted “on a very fertile hill” (Is. 5:1). He did everything for His vineyard, not only clearing it of stones and planting it with “choice vines,” but also building the “watchtower” of His prophets and hewing out the “wine vat” of His priesthood in its midst (Is. 5:2). But when “he looked for it to yield grapes,” there were only “wild grapes” of bloodshed and unrighteousness (Is. 5:2, 7). The Lord Jesus likewise described the unfaithfulness of those who were called to care for His vineyard (Matt. 21:33–35). But in this He also describes His cross and Passion (Matt. 21:38–39), by which He has redeemed the vineyard for Himself. He is the true Vine, planted by death into the ground, and in His resurrection He brings forth “the fruits in their seasons” (Matt. 21:41). Among those good grapes of the true Vine is the apostle Paul. Once a zealous persecutor of the Church, he “suffered the loss of all things” in order to “gain Christ and be found in him,” to “know him and the power of his resurrection” (Phil. 3:8–10).

Published by LCMS Worship. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Announcements

Opening Hymn | 540 “Christ, The Word of God Incarnate”

Please stand.

*The sign of the cross may be made by all
in remembrance of their Baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the **†**Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *[Matt. 18:20; 28:19b]*

Confession and Absolution

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Heb. 10:22]*

Our help is in the name of the Lord

who made heaven and earth. *[Psalm 124:8 32:5]*

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

O almighty God, merciful Father, **I, a poor, miserable sinner confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **†**Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *[John 20:19-23]*

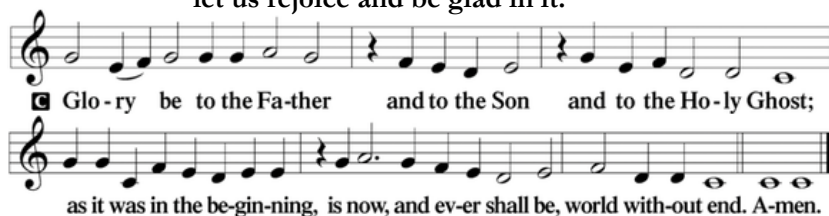
Responsive Versicles - Psalm 118:1, 22-24

¹Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

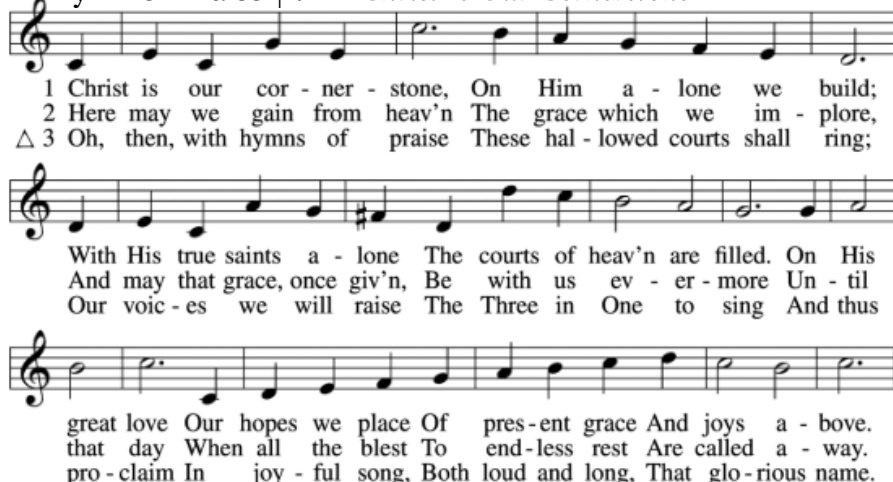
²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

²³This is the Lord’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.



Hymn of Praise | 912 “Christ Is Our Cornerstone”



Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731–89

Salutation and Collect of the Day

[2 Timothy 4:22]

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray. Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Today's Readings from God's Word

The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah 5:1-7:

¹Let 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;
and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men 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 looked for 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 briers and
thorns shall grow up;

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 men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice,
but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading is from Philippians 3:4b-14

^{4b}If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I
have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel,
of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a
Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness,
under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss
for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of
the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake
I have suffered the loss of all things and count 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 that which
comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that
depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his
resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his
death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection
from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I
press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his
own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But
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
upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand to greet the Gospel reading singing the Alleluia verse.



The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 21:33-46



³³[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house
who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress
in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another
country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants
to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and
beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other
servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them.

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 have his inheritance.” ³⁹And they
took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰When therefore 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 let out the vineyard to other tenants who will
give him the fruits in their seasons.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“‘The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

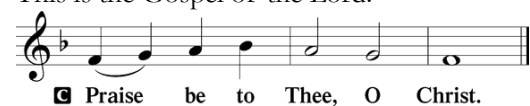
this was the Lord’s doing,

and it is marvelous in our eyes?”

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from
you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who
falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on
anyone, it will crush him.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they
perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they
were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held
him to be a prophet.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Our Confession of Faith

*Together we confess the **Nicene Creed**. (Inside Back Hymnal Cover)
Please be seated.*

Children's Message

The children are invited to come forward for a message by Pastor Fitch.

Sermon Hymn | 691 “Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing”

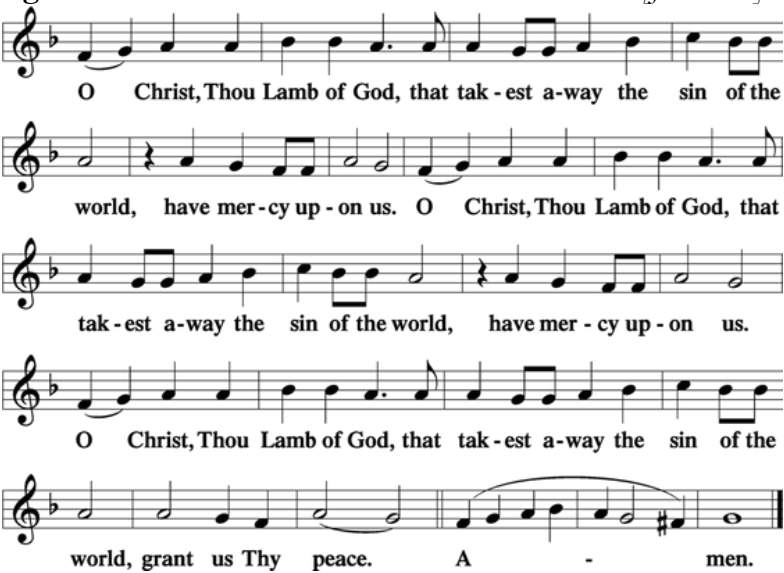
Sermon

1. When reading a parable, it’s helpful to look for the person who shows **u**_____ behavior.
2. In this parable we see unusual behavior in the **m**_____.
3. The tenants don’t give the owner his share of the **f**_____, and the servants he sends to collect his share are **m**_____.
4. What’s truly **s**_____, is that the master doesn’t **r**_____.
5. The second servant is **m**_____ by the wicked tenants, and the third servant the **s**_____ to **d**_____.
6. Verse 36, “Again he sent other servants, **m**_____ than the first. And they did the **s**_____ to them.”
7. These servants represent all the **p**_____, including John the Baptist, who were **k**_____, often in Jerusalem.
8. Just when we think it can’t get any worse, “Finally he sent his **s**_____.” (v37)
9. Doesn’t the master realize they’re going to **k**_____ his only **s**_____?! The answer is, **y**_____, He knew what would happen, and in this strange behavior, we see God’s **c**_____.
10. Exodus 34:6–7: “The Lord, the Lord, a God **m**_____ and **g**_____, slow to **a**_____, and abounding in steadfast **l**_____ and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, **f**_____ iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the **g**_____.”
11. God’s love **d**_____ **n**_____ negate His **j**_____. We can’t **r**_____ God’s Son, our **ONLY S**_____, yet still remain in the vineyard.
12. Luke 13:3, “Unless you **r**_____, you will all likewise **p**_____.”
13. God is slow to **a**_____ and reluctant to **p**_____, but He will not clear the guilt of those who persist in **r**_____ Him.

Pax Domini *[John 20:19]*
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Agnus Dei

[John 1:29]



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.



peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Please be seated and come forward at the direction of the ushers.

Distribution of Holy Communion

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. [Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29] Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith confessed at this altar, any who have not been instructed, in doubt, or holding a different confession from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church —Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. [1 Cor. 11:17-34]

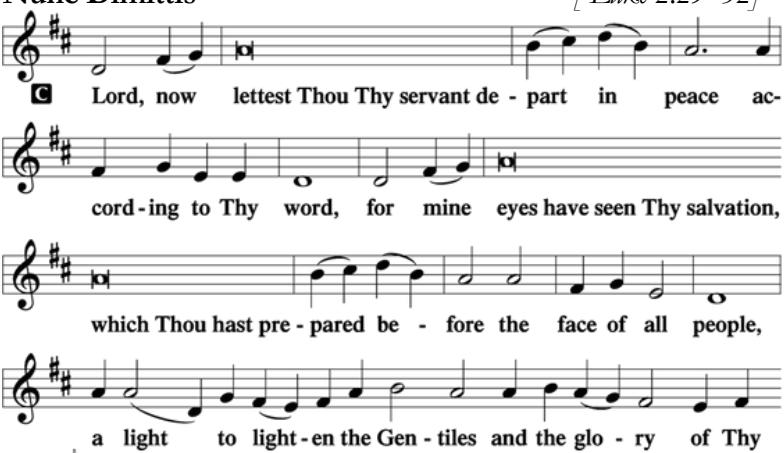
Dist. Hymn | 543 “What Wondrous Love is This”

Dist. Hymn | 425 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

When all have communed, please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

[Luke 2:29 -32]



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light-en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy



Faith Lutheran Church, Preschool & Extended Care ~ A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

PO Box 1164
Columbus, IN 47202
(812) 342-3587
www.faiithontheweb.org

Pastor: Josiah Fitch
pastor@faiithontheweb.org

Office: Leah Otte
office@faiithontheweb.org

Pastor Emeritas: Richard Tremain

Education Chair: Susan Waltz

Trustee Chair: Bill Schnackel

Council Chair: Tom Rafferty

Elder Chair: Mike Waltz

Mercy Ministry Chair: Regina Allman

The purpose of this congregation shall be to serve its members and community and to spread the Kingdom of God by preaching the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments and by the religious instruction of youth and adults, according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church, and to foster Christian fellowship and charity. It shall also be the purpose and the responsibility of this congregation to provide a Christian and parochial education for its children to the best of its ability.

Thanksgiving

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and his mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Salutation

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

Bless we the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with His favor and † give you peace.
Amen, amen, amen.
Please be seated.

Closing Hymn | 917 “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”

Sending

Go in peace and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgments: Artwork by Ed Riojas. Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.