

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8 OCTOBER 2023



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING 10

The liturgy is in the front of the ELW starting on page 203.

The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C: Amen.

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sins.

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

C: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C: Amen.

HYMN #803 "WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS"

GREETING

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.

KYRIE [PAGE 203]

♪ Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE [PAGE 204]

♪ Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...our Savior and Lord.*)

C: Amen

READINGS

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION [PAGE 205]

♪ Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH SERMON – REV. LEAH HOLLOWAY-NILSEN

SERMON – REV. LEAH HOLLOWAY-NILSEN

HYMN #323 “GOD LOVED THE WORLD”

CONFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES’ CREED

P: 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 INTERCESSION

P: Trusting in the transformative power of God’s loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

(Each petition ends: P: God of grace, C: hear our prayer.)

P: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...our Savior and Lord.*)

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE [PAGE 207]

P: It is indeed right...and join their unending hymn:

**C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

Holy Communion is celebrated today.

*All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited to receive Holy Communion
Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

♪ **O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

HYMN #595 “JESUS LOVES ME!”

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

POST COMMUNION HYMN

♪ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav’nly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...Jesus Christ our Lord.*)

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and
forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN #856 “HOW GREAT THOU ART”

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God!

RINGING OF THE BELL

POSTLUDE

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen
Organist: Jason Boussetot or Linda Whitman
Acolyte: Faith Will
Lector: Melisa Jacobsen
Communion Assistant: Cindy Burke
Usher: Dan Burke
Cleaners: Ray and Deb Detlefs

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This Week At A Glance

Monday	6:00 pm	Communion instruction at Faith
Wednesday	10:00 am	Naomi Circle at Diane Christensen's
	6:00 pm	Confirmation at Faith
	7:00 pm	Bible Jam at Faith
	7:00 pm	Education committee at Faith
Thursday	6:00 pm	Outreach committee at Our Savior's
	6:30 pm	Worship committee at Our Savior's
	7:00 pm	Council meetings at Our Savior's
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship service at Faith
	9:25 am	Sunday School at Our Savior's
	10:30 am	Worship service at Our Savior's

Those to keep in prayer: Mallory Boussetot; the homebound: Carol Christensen, Shirley Ferguson, Ron Gasper, Delores Lahann, Myrna Kay Petersen, Rusty Porth, Betty Schau, Bus Seastrand and Vera St. John; and those serving in the military.

Volunteers will be in the church office at Faith Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 am ~ noon.

Bible Jam (open to all in 7th – 12th grade) is held Wednesday at Faith at 7:00 pm following confirmation class. The youth meet for food, fellowship and fun.

Meals are served on Wednesdays to the youth attending confirmation and Bible Jam. If you would be willing to prepare and serve a meal, please contact Heather Grau at 563.424.0507.

You can become a stockholder to support the youth who plan to attend the **2024 ELCA Youth Gathering**. **Stockholders** will receive mail from the youth while in New Orleans and an exclusive invitation to a “Dine & Share” event when they return from the Gathering. Shares cost \$50 each. Fill out and follow the directions on a “Shares Request” form. Contact Heather Grau at 563.424.0507 if you have questions.

Pastor Leah will be having a **Communion Instruction Class** on Monday, October 9, at 6:00 pm at Faith. Please contact Pastor Leah if you are interested. Communion instruction is recommended for children who have not yet received communion. The children should attend with their parents. All ages (adults too!) are welcome to come to class for a refresher on the meaning of communion.

Committee and Council meetings will be held this week. Please note time and location.

The **noisy offering** will be collected next Sunday, October 15th.

The Vineyard of the Lord

Matthew 21:33-46 Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and surrounded it with a hedge, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and gave it out to cultivators and went away. When the time of the fruits had come, he dispatched his servants to the cultivators, to receive his fruits; and the cultivators took his servants, and beat one of them, and killed another of them, and stoned another of them. Again he dispatched other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterwards he dispatched his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. But when the cultivators saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and let us take the inheritance.' And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to these cultivators?" They said to him, "He will bring these evil men to an evil end, and he will give out the vineyard to other cultivators, who will pay him the fruits at their correct time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the headstone of the corner. This is the doing of the Lord, and it is amazing in our eyes? That is why I tell you that the Kingdom of God will be taken from you, and will be given to a nation which produces its fruits. And he who falls against the stone will be broken; and it will shatter to powder him on whom it falls.'"

When the chief priests and Pharisees heard his parables, they knew that he was speaking about them. They tried to find a way to lay hold on him, but they were afraid of the crowds, for they regarded him as a prophet.

In interpreting a parable it is normally a first principle that every parable has only one point and that the details are not to be stressed. Normally to try to find a meaning for every detail is to make the mistake of treating the parable as an allegory. But in this case it is different. In this parable the details do have a meaning

and the chief priests and the Pharisees well knew what Jesus was meaning this parable to say to them.

Every detail is founded on what, for those who heard it, was familiar fact. The Jewish nation as the vineyard of God was a familiar prophetic picture. "The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel" (Isaiah 5:7). The hedge was a thick-set thorn hedge, designed to keep out both the wild boars who might ravage the vineyard, and the thieves who might steal the grapes. Every vineyard had its wine press. The wine press consisted of two troughs either hollowed out of the rock, or built of bricks; the one was a little higher than the other, and was connected with the lower one by a channel. The grapes were pressed in the higher trough and the juice ran off into the lower trough. The tower served a double purpose. It served as a watch-tower, from which to watch for thieves when the grapes were ripening; and it served as a lodging for those who were working in the vineyard.

The actions of the owner of the vineyard were an quite normal. In the time of Jesus, Palestine was a troubled place with little luxury; it was, therefore, very familiar with absentee landlords, who let out their estates and were interested only in collecting the rental at the right time. The rent might be paid in any of three ways. It might be a money rent; it might be a fixed amount of the fruit, no matter what the crop might be; and it might be an agreed percentage of the crop.

Even the action of the cultivators was not out of the common. The country was seething with economic unrest; the working people were discontented and rebellious; and the action of the cultivators in seeking to eliminate the son was not by any means impossible.

As we have said, it would be easy for those who heard this parable to make the necessary identifications. Before we treat it in detail, let us set these identifications down. The vineyard is the nation of Israel, and its owner is God. The cultivators are the religious leaders of Israel, who as it were had charge for God of the welfare of the nation. The messengers who were sent successively are the prophets sent by God and so often rejected and killed. The son who

came last is none other than Jesus himself. Here in a vivid story Jesus set out at one and the same time the history and the doom of Israel.

Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT) – Public Domain