

Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 8, 2017**



PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(A brief silence.)*
Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“All Creatures, Worship God Most High!”

**All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain and sorrow grieve:**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
still make your song amid the tears:**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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

C: Amen

Introduction to the day

P: 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.

C: Amen.

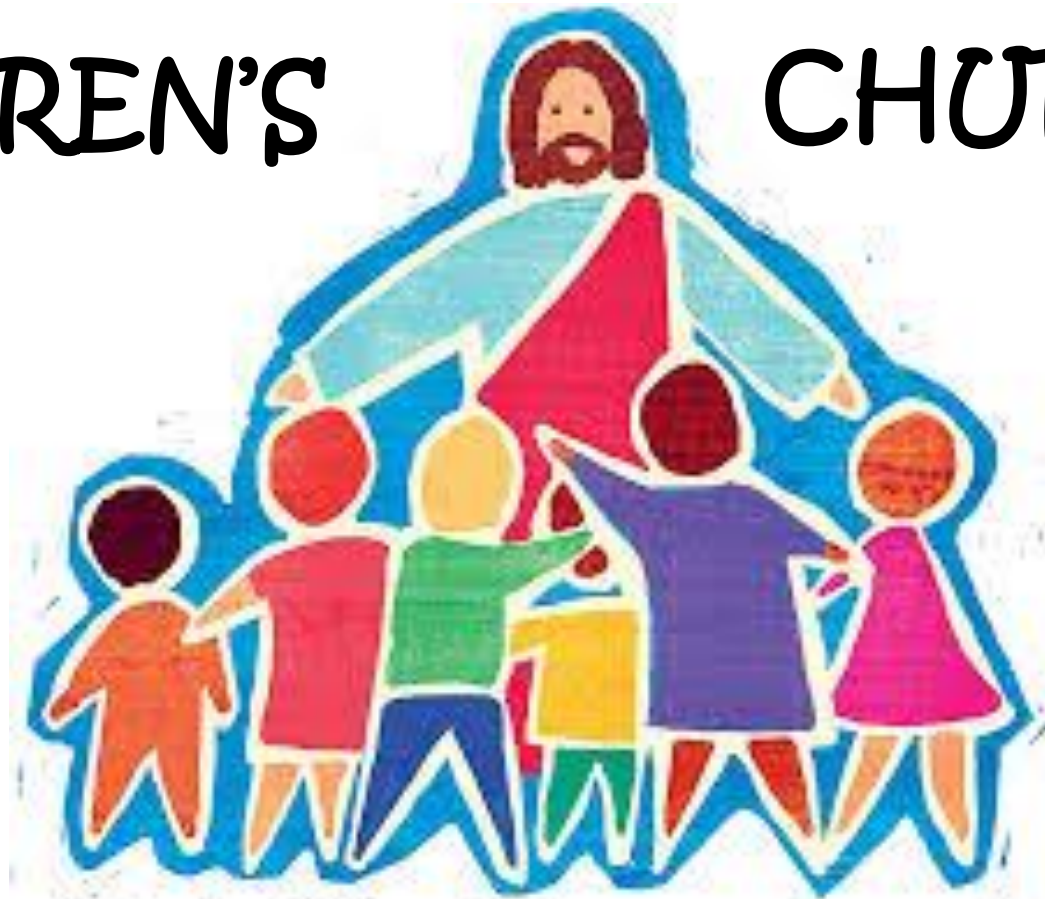
PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)*

C: 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.

CHILDREN'S

CHURCH



"Let the little children come to me..."

Matthew 19:14 NIV

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from Isaiah, the 5th chapter.

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: my beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He 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.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What 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? And 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. For 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!

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A Responsive Reading from Psalm 80

R: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C: **You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

R: You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.

**C: The mountains were covered by its
shadow and the towering cedar trees
by its boughs.**

R: You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.

**C: Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck
off its grapes?**

R: The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

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

R: Behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

C: Amen.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from Philippians, the 3rd chapter.

Paul writes: If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised 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; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More 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 and 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.

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not 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. Beloved, 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, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.


R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew,
the 21st chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the people: “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.

When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

They 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.” Jesus 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’?”

Therefore 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. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Wild Grapes or Kingdom Harvest?”

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

**O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me,
my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.**

**Oh, let me feel you near me;
the world is ever near.**

**I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.**

**My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer
to shield my soul from sin.**

**Oh, let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen,
O Guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow,
my master and my friend.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**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: 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.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: 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.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: 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.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: 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.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Restore our faith in you, saving God.
We pray for Bible study and small group
leaders, Sunday school teachers,
musicians, devotion writers, and for all
whose work nurtures our faith.
Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

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

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

~ **VIDEO DURING THE OFFERING** ~

“Cornerstone” by Hillsong

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

***We give thee but thine own,
whatever the gifts may be,
All that we have is thine alone,
a trust, oh Lord, from thee.***

***May we thy bounties thus,
as stewards true receive,
And gladly as though blessed us,
to thee our first fruits give.***

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

DIALOGUE

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 and praise to the
Lord our God.

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

~ WORDS OF INSTITUTION ~

THE 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.

~ ***COMMUNION*** ~

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “*Choral Benediction*”

May the light of God shine on us today.

May the light of God shine on us today.

May it show us where to travel,

lead us back if we should stray,

May the light of God shine on us today.

**May the love of God live in us today.
May the love of God live in us today.
May the warmth we feel within us,
show in all we do and say,
May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the peace of God be with us today.
May the peace of God be with us today.
May it guide us and protect us,
as we go our separate ways,
May the peace of God be with us today.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



































