

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 22

October 4, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE “Abide O Dearest Jesus” -Paul Manz

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” -set. Donald Busarow

Words for meditation:

Crown Him with many crowns,

The Lamb upon His throne;

Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns

All music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing

Of Him who died for thee,

And hail Him as thy matchless king

Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life,

Who triumphed o’er the grave

And rose victorious in the strife

For those He came to save.

His glories now we sing,

Who died and rose on high,

Who died eternal life to bring

And lives that death may die.

Text: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING *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. 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; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men 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 looked for 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 briers

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

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Philippians 3:4b–14*

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, 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 and 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—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not 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. Brothers, 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, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 21:33–46*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

[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. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. 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 have his inheritance.’ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore 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 let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.” 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 marvelous in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He

rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON “Jesus Retells a Classic”

- I. Retold Classics
- II. The Parable (v.33-46)
 - Ultimately, what is this parable a retelling of?
- III. Life in the Vineyard
 - Who are the “other tenants?”
 - Two aspects to life in the vineyard.
 - 1.) Life in this vineyard is a life lived under a p_____, caring, and loving God.
 - 2.) Life in this vineyard is a f_____ life.
 - John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in Him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

There are some stories that are so beloved and classic that we don’t mind a retelling of them. Perhaps, that is why Hollywood keeps doing it. What are the most retold movies and stories? Think about it for a moment before I give you the top seven. They are the country classic “A Star Is Born.” The Japanese movie “Seven Samurai” makes the cut, as do “Cinderella” and “King Kong.” The famous movie “Annie” starts the top three, followed by the Dark Knight himself, “Batman.” What is the most retold one? Think holidays. It is Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol.” All of these are classic movies and stories that we don’t mind hearing or seeing again and again. In the Gospel text for today, Jesus does His own retelling of a common and famous story in His parable. As we walk through the text and apply it to our lives, see if you can figure out the story that Jesus is retelling.

Jesus begins by saying that a master of the house planted a vineyard. He built a fence around it to keep out the predators. He equipped it with a winepress for maximum production. He constructed a tower for extra protection, and then rented his vineyard out to some tenants. With his vineyard occupied, the man went away to another country. When the season for fruit drew near, the master sent his servants to his tenants to receive some of the vineyard’s fruit. But the tenants wanted nothing of the sort. They grabbed the servants and mistreated them. One servant they beat. Another they flat out killed. A third servant they killed by stoning. They were not willing to share. They in a sense said, “No thank-you. We’ll keep the fruit and vineyard to ourselves.” But the master of the vineyard keeps his composure and tries again. He shows a remarkable patience and compassion. He tries again, but, unfortunately, things end up no different. These servants are also treated the same. In English, we have a phrase that captures what is going on here: “Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.” The master has been nothing but patient, generous, gracious, and good to these evil tenants.

At this point, the master is at a crossroad. What is he to do? He could keep sending servants to them, hoping that they will listen and obey, but that does not seem to be working. It is the definition of insanity. He could try something else, something completely different. He could send his beloved son, his pride and joy. He could send his son, the emissary par excellence. He could send his son, the one who bears His authority, and would demand respect. Surely, they would listen to him. Surely, they would respect him. Surely they wouldn’t mistreat, beat, or kill him, right? With this in mind, the master of the vineyard sends his precious and beloved son.

When the evil tenants see him in the distance, they devise a plan. They realize that the son is the heir, and, by killing him, they can have the inheritance themselves. There would be no more pestering by the master, no more requests for fruit. They can have the freedom they want and own the vineyard themselves. It couldn’t be more ideal for these wicked people. When the son arrives, they grab him, throw him out of the vineyard, and kill him. At this point, Jesus asks the question of the hour: “**When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?**” The chief priests and Pharisees respond, “**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.” Aren’t they right? Isn’t that what is deserved? The punishment fits the wicked crime.

But this parable sounds familiar, doesn’t it? You know the story that Jesus just told. In fact, you have heard this story before. You know the master of the vineyard. You know the servants. You know the tenants and the son. The chief priests and Pharisees realized it, and wanted to kill Jesus for it. The parable is the salvation story. It is a summary of God’s dealings with His people in the Old Testament up until Jesus’ time. That is why this sounds so familiar. The vineyard is God’s Kingdom, and the tenants are the people of Israel, especially the leaders. They were to bring forth fruits of faith in response to God’s gracious covenant but had no interest in doing so. God, the Master of the Vineyard, sent His servants, the prophets, to remind them of His grace and to turn from their sin and hardheartedness. But the leaders and people rejected them and would not turn. In the ultimate act of love, God sends His Son, Jesus, but they reject, and kill Him outside of Jerusalem.

But, the story isn’t done yet; this isn’t the full retelling. Remember, there is more. The stone that the builders rejected has become the capstone. The Son Who was killed, lives and reigns. He was dead, but now He is alive. At Pentecost, when God’s Spirit is poured out, God’s Kingdom is extended to the Gentiles, the “other tenants,” as they are called in the text. They are welcomed to the vineyard. People of all time and places are welcomed in. People of every race, nation, and tongue are told, “Come!” You are included in this. You have a place in God’s kingdom, in the vineyard, through the Son’s death and resurrection. You have been brought in through His Word, by His Spirit. You have a spot in the vineyard! What does life in this vineyard, this Kingdom, look like?

A scene I saw this summer depicts the first aspect well. In our neighborhood, a Dad was trying to teach his daughter how to ride a two wheeler, how to ride a bike. It was a cute thing to watch. The Dad would walk behind the girl and then at some point, let the bike go. The girl would then immediately proceed to weeble and wobble, teeter and totter, until she would fall over or head straight to the curb. I remember at some point talking with Dawn about it, and her mentioning that maybe she wasn’t ready. It seemed like she still needed training wheels. They had been doing this for weeks and she was nowhere close to getting the hang of it. But, everyday, they tried. Everyday, the Dad showed a great patience and care, and kept helping her to ride that bike with a smile. I think many would have given up at some point but, not him. The patience one day finally paid off, and she got it! It is cute to see her ride her bike around the neighborhood, while still doing the occasional weeble and wobble. That is God, isn’t it? He shows His patience and does not give up on His people, even when others might. One of my favorite authors, says, “If the world has given you up for lost and washed their hands of you; if your friends have written you off and turned their backs on you; if even your family has disowned and discarded you; yes, if every single person in this world regards you as a hopeless, embarrassing failure at life, the Father of all mercies does not. He will search you out, find you, embrace you, kiss you, and shout to the all the earth, ‘This is my beloved son! This is my beloved daughter! This is my child, my heir, the apple of my eye! With you I am well-pleased.’” God showed great mercy and patience to the tenants, time and time again, and shows it to you and me. Life in this vineyard is a life lived under a patient, caring, and loving God.

It is a fruitful life, too. For how are the people described? They are described as a people producing fruit, good works. John 15:5 gives this wonderful illumination: **“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in Him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”** As people connected to Jesus, He bears fruit, good works, in us. It is all His work and doing. The beauty of it is that it doesn’t have to be huge acts of service, like doing a mission trip to Guatemala, or serving at the soup kitchen. Truth be told, they often aren’t. His fruit includes the small and mundane things that we do on a daily basis for others. That is where the vineyard imagery comes in handy. What is grown in vineyards? Grapes. Individually, they are small, but together, they can make up a lot. Our small acts of service in our daily lives are just some of the fruits that Christ produces in us that glorify God and serve one another. They are acts like helping a parent fill their pill container, or taking them to a doctor’s appointment. It is taking out the trash, or helping your child with their online school or homework. It can be as simple as encouraging a friend, leaving a thank-you note, holding the door open, or speaking well of someone. Individually and by themselves, they might seem small and insignificant, but altogether, they are many and beautiful. They serve God, give Him praise, and make our world a better place. Life in this vineyard, in this kingdom, is a fruitful one that is lived under a gracious and caring God.

Jesus' parable of the vineyard is a wonderful retelling of a classic story: it is the story of the Bible, of you, in just 11 verses.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

MUSIC DURING PREPARATION "How Can I Keep from Singing?" arr. Lorie Line

Words for meditation:

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Music during distribution: "Let Us Break Bread Together" LBW 212

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE “God Loved the World So That He Gave” LSB 571

1 God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.

2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

3 God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven’s heirs.

4 Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus’ blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!
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Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Matt. 21:43 – “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.”* The Pharisees were not bearing fruit. They were faithful to the letter of the Law in keeping the Sabbath, tithing, and all the rest, but they neglected the heart of God’s will. The grace of God belongs at the center. Our giving and all our other good works flow forth from receiving God’s grace and living in that grace on a daily basis.

YOUR HELP is needed again this year for the Mission’s annual Thanksgiving food distribution. The past few years the Social Ministries Committee has been able to collect food and create meal bags for the Union Gospel Mission. For over 60 years, Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities has provided thousands of meals during Thanksgiving to our community, while offering volunteer opportunities and building connection with local churches. Due to the realities of COVID-19 and the impact it has on how they serve the community, we know that the need for their services and access to meals will be more vital than ever this Thanksgiving season. To maintain safety for our community members, their volunteers, and staff, they are changing the format of our Thanksgiving Food Drive this year, while still serving our community with compassion and hospitality. Union Gospel Mission is accepting **financial donations only**. Due to COVID-19 and its spread, we are asking individuals to donate money only to our Thanksgiving Food Bag event. They will purchase Thanksgiving food items in bulk, stretching your dollars even further. A donation of \$25 will purchase everything for a complete Thanksgiving Meal, however, any amount is welcome. Please use the following link to donate if you are able: <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/TGBags/team/EmmausLutheranChurch> or you can donate via text: Text TGBags10 to 71777 (Msg & data rates may apply). Even though this event will look different this year, the gospel and how we live out our faith hasn’t changed.

FROM SOCIAL MINISTRIES: Coming in November we will begin collecting new toys for the Salvation Army Toy Drive. We are looking for a Thrivent member to sponsor a Thrivent Action Grant to help with this collection. If you are interested, please e-mail Marie G. We will be doing our Hat and Mitten drive in December and would like to get a Thrivent grant for that also.

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Unscaled Heights of Empathy” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. A king’s dream, a mysterious statue with feet of clay, an unearthly rock that grows to fill all the earth, and God’s empathy for a weeping world, embodied in Christ - it’s all part of Dr. Michael Zeigler's message, this week. (Daniel 2)

THANK YOU TO ALL FACE MASK SEWERS! One hundred twenty-five face masks were delivered to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse last week. Thanks for your time and talents used to make the masks. Material to sew masks will stay in the narthex at Emmaus if you are able to sew masks. Additional masks received will either go to Lutheran World Relief or a local organization that can use them. The fabric was donated by Marie Garcia from her late mother’s sewing supplies and the elastic was purchased with a Thrivent Action Grant. Thanks again!

CONFIRMATION CLASS is being held on Wednesdays via Zoom beginning October 7. Please contact Pastor Kooi with questions.