



WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2026
8:00 AM Traditional Worship

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman
Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz
Guest Preacher: Sandy Grant
Lector: Kris Adams **Acolyte:** Carter Swain & Anna Foltz
Ushers: Todd Skavlen, Mark Wilberg, Eric Smedal & Roger Nitzsche
Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

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. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ’s sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Let Us Break Bread Together” arr Lamb
First Class Ringers

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: We confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

Stand

HYMN: “All Are Welcome” #641 ELW vss. 1, 3 & 4
Trombone, Lucas Peterson

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 120 ELW (*front of the hymnal*)

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have Mercy

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the lord.

C: Lord, have mercy

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord,
C: Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: page 122 ELW (*front of hymnal*)

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

vs. 1: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his. Refrain...

vs. 2: Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might,
be to God and the Lamb forever Amen. Refrain...

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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.

Sit

ANTHEM: “For All the Children” by Lohman Chancel Choir

READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

¹⁻² I'll sing a ballad to the one I love, a love ballad about his vineyard: The one I love had a vineyard, a fine, well-placed vineyard. He hoed the soil and pulled the weeds and planted the very best vines. He built a lookout, built a winepress, a vineyard to be proud of. He looked for a vintage yield of grapes, but for all his pains he got garbage grapes. ³⁻⁴ “Now listen to what I'm telling you, you who live in Jerusalem and Judah. What do you think is going on between me and my vineyard? Can you think of anything I could have done

to my vineyard that I didn't do? When I expected good grapes, why did I get bitter grapes? ⁵⁻⁶ "Well now, let me tell you what I'll do to my vineyard: I'll tear down its fence and let it go to ruin. I'll knock down the gate and let it be trampled. I'll turn it into a patch of weeds, untended, uncared for—thistles and thorns will take over. I'll give orders to the clouds: 'Don't rain on that vineyard, ever!'" ⁷ Do you get it? The vineyard of God-of-the-Angel-Armies is the country of Israel. All the men and women of Judah are the garden he was so proud of. He looked for a crop of justice and saw them murdering each other. He looked for a harvest of righteousness and heard only the moans of victims.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia!" page 124 ELW

**Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia**

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

³³⁻³⁴ "Here's another story. Listen closely. There was once a man, a wealthy farmer, who planted a vineyard. He fenced it, dug a winepress, put up a watchtower, then turned it over to the farmhands and went off on a trip. When it was time to harvest the grapes, he sent his servants back to collect his profits. ³⁵⁻³⁷ "The farmhands grabbed the first servant and beat him up. The next one they murdered. They threw stones at the third but he got away. The owner tried again, sending more servants. They got the same treatment. The owner was at the end of his rope. He decided to send his son. 'Surely,' he thought, 'they will respect my son.' ³⁸⁻³⁹ "But when the farmhands saw the son arrive, they rubbed their hands in greed. 'This is the heir! Let's kill him and have it all for ourselves.' They grabbed him, threw him out, and killed him. ⁴⁰ "Now, when the owner of the vineyard arrives home from his trip, what do you think he will do to the farmhands?" ⁴¹ "He'll kill them—a rotten bunch, and good riddance," they answered. "Then he'll assign the vineyard to farmhands who will hand over the profits when it's time." ⁴²⁻⁴⁴ Jesus said, "Right—and you can read it for yourselves in your Bibles: The stone the masons threw out is

now the cornerstone. This is God's work; we rub our eyes, we can hardly believe it! "This is the way it is with you. God's kingdom will be taken back from you and handed over to a people who will live out a kingdom life. Whoever stumbles on this Stone gets shattered; whoever the Stone falls on gets smashed." ⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶ When the religious leaders heard this story, they knew it was aimed at them. They wanted to arrest Jesus and put him in jail, but, intimidated by public opinion, they held back. Most people held him to be a prophet of God.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

HYMN: "The Church of Christ, in Every Age" #729 ELW vss. 1, 2, 3 & 5

vs. 1: The church of Christ, in ev'ry age beset by change, but Spirit-led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

vs. 2: Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.

vs. 3: Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.

vs. 5: We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord; to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word.

APOSTLE'S 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: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence

P: God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones, and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for

all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERTORY: “God, You Wrap Your Love Around Us”

by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette Soloist: Linda Kunz

(The words are shown for you to meditate upon)

God, you wrap your love around us, like a blanket, soft and warm.

You give rest when we are weary, you protect us from the storm.

May each person who finds shelter in these blankets that we share

Also feel the joy and comfort of your love's protecting care.

Jesus, you were once a baby, sought by those who would destroy.

Into Egypt you were carried — far from home, a little boy.

Were you wrapped up warm to travel, safe from terror, free from harm?

Did you feel God's strong protection, snuggled there in Mary's arm?

May the women, men and children fleeing danger every day

Know, through us, your living presence; you walk with them on their way.

Spirit, as you give them comfort, teach us here to freely give;

May we blanket this world over with your love, so all may live.

Tune: Charles Crozat Converse, 1868

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God of creation,

C: you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are

from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come! The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

People are invited to sing while others come forward to commune. The hymns are: "For the Bread Which You Have Broken" ELW #494; "One Bread, One Body" ELW #496

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace till life everlasting.
C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Sustaining God,

C: with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us
living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of
Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of
Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN: "We All Are One in Mission" #576 ELW

**vs. 1: We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.**

**A single great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.**

vs. 2: We all are called for service, to witness in God's name.

**Our ministries are diff'rent; our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace,
so ev'ry folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.**

vs. 3: Now let us be united, and let our song be heard.

Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.

**We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.**

POSTLUDE: “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord” Parry/Frahm