



WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2026
9:15 AM Worship Lite

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman
Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz
Guest Preacher: Sandy Grant
Lector: Stephen Peterson **Acolyte:** Beckett Nelson
Ushers: Stephen Peterson
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

GATHERING SONG: “All Are Welcome” #641 ELW vss. 1, 3 & 4

vs. 1: Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

vs. 3: Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain...*

vs. 4: Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger

**bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain...***

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.

LITANY

P: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

P: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

P: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE: "Oh, Sing to the Lord" #822 ELW vss. 1, 2 & 5

vs. 1: Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song. (3X)
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

vs. 2: For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders. (3X)
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

vs. 5: For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia! (3X)
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

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.

GOSPEL SONG: “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” #172 ELW

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

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

Narrator: 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.”

Farmhands (Congregation): ‘This is the heir! Let’s kill him and have it all for ourselves.’

Narrator: 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?”

Farmhands (Congregation): ⁴¹ “He’ll kill them—a rotten bunch, and good riddance. “Then he’ll assign the vineyard to farmhands who will hand over the profits when it’s time.”

Narrator: 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

CHILDREN'S WORD / THE WORD

Stand

SONG OF THE WORD: "Bind us Together" #748 WOV vss. 1 & 2

**Refrain: Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.**

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together,
Lord; bind us together in love.**

**vs. 1: There is only one God. There is only one King.
There is only one Body; that is why we can sing: Refrain...**

**vs. 2: You are the family of God. You are the promise divine.
You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine. Refrain...**

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.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERING SONG: “Love, Love, Love” #135 The Other Song Book vss. 1-3.

vs. 1: Love, love, love! That’s what it’s all about!

**’Cause God loves us, we love each other,
mother, father, sister, brother.**

**Ev’rybody sing and shout,
’cause that’s what it’s all about!
It’s about love, love, love!
It’s about love, love, love!**

vs. 2: Peace

vs. 3: Joy

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

Music is played as those who wish to come forward for communion come forward and kneel at the communion rail. Others are invited to commune in your pew.

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.

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