

October 4th Worship  
18<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of  
creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of  
one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our  
neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus  
Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world.

**Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

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.**

### Lesson – Psalm 80:7-15

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>8</sup>You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.

<sup>9</sup>You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

<sup>10</sup>The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

<sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

<sup>12</sup>Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

<sup>14</sup>Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;

<sup>15</sup>behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

### Gospel – Matthew 21:33-46

[Jesus said to the people:] <sup>33</sup>“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. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when

the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"<sup>41</sup> 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."

<sup>42</sup>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'?

<sup>43</sup>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. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

### **Message**

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Raise your hand if you are beyond excited to hear our gospel text start out, "listen to another parable." Right? We've heard a few parables in the past weeks.

Now stand up and fill your cup of coffee if you were beyond excited to hear, not just another parable, but another parable about a vineyard. Got your cup full? Good.

We've been there. We've heard Jesus talking about vineyards through parable, and we've heard Jesus talking about workers in vineyards and how vineyards are cared for. And so again, here we are today, this 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the season of Pentecost and we hear again, "listen to another parable."

Jesus goes on to tell of a land owner and, mind you we have to remember our questions:

- Who am I in this story?
- Why is Jesus telling this story?
- Who might other characters be in this story?

So there's a landowner who planted a vineyard and then goes away to leave the vineyard to tenants to care for. So he leases it to other people to take care of his vineyard while he is away and it comes time for the harvest. At harvest time he sends his slaves in to collect the produce from the vineyard. Instead the tenants seized the slaves - beat one, killed one and stoned the other. So the owner does it again. This time he sends more slaves than the first. And, you guessed it, they are treated equally horribly. Finally, he sends his son saying, "surely they will treat you my son better than they've treated others who've gone before him."

We know the story Jesus is telling, right? We know what he's talking about God and creating earth and all that's in it and sending people to care for it and tend to it and to bring people to the goodness that is God's love. And we know what happens throughout history leading up to Jesus, when God says, "okay, it's time my people need Jesus." And we know what happens after that.

And we are caused to wonder, do they understand what he's taught them? We understand because we know the story. We've been told the story of Jesus enough that we know this parable of a landowner with a vineyard who has sent people to care for it, who've been mistreated and killed until he finally sends his son. We know that this is about God in Jesus Christ.

Because they believe if they do it, they will get the inheritance. If they take out this son who has come to collect, they will get what they're due.

And we are called to wonder if they heard it. We are called and encouraged to wonder, did they get it? Did they understand what he was talking about?

He asked them, "what is the owner of the vineyard going to do to those tenants? What is going to be their punishment? "Surely he will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at harvest time."

Jesus then goes on to say, "have you never read in the scriptures? "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

That is Jesus, the cornerstone of our faith and all that it is that we do as church. Our cornerstone is Jesus. He is that stone that has been rejected. But, he goes on, and this next statement comes with a bit of conviction.

"Therefore, I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you  
and given to a people that produces the fruit of the kingdom."

And the chief priests and Pharisees heard his parables and they realized that he was speaking about them. They do indeed get it. He was speaking about them. And, they wanted to arrest him. But, they were afraid of the crowds. They basically retell this parable for us. They wanted to get rid of the son. They wanted to live it out right there in front of our eyes. They wanted to arrest the son. And, and we all know, they wanted to put him to death. They want to arrest the son, but they feared the crowds.

They feared the vineyard. The vineyard is the people. The vineyard is the people that we are called to as church. We are the vineyard in this that has been cultivated and nurtured.

And the Pharisees and Chief Priests wanted to arrest Jesus, but feared the crowds, they feared the vineyard because the vineyard knew. The vineyard knew who it was that Jesus was. The vineyard, the people know the goodness of the cornerstone of our faith.

We are starting to realize why Jesus talks so much about vineyards. It might be because he likes wine. I'm not sure. That could be a partial truth. But it's also because he knows the work that needs to be done. If you have a vineyard yourself, or if you've been to one, you know they don't just happen. You know that it's not something that just – poof – comes out of nowhere, but rather it is extensive and laborious work. Vineyards need to be cared for.

And, vineyards need to be talked about. That's why it seems like we've been talking about vineyards for months. I think it's only been a few weeks, but it seems like an eternity because it won't go away. This call to care for the vineyard will not leave us alone. It is a nuisance you might say, and that's okay.

Because Jesus knows how important it is that his followers hear of the value of the vineyard.

Because also if you have a vineyard or have been to one, you know the deliciousness of the fruits of the labors of the vineyard workers, right? I know a good glass of wine when I taste one. It would do me well to give thanks for those vineyard workers when I do enjoy it.

People of God, we know that the work of the vineyard is not for nothing. So, we're challenged, again, this week. We are challenged to tend to the vineyard and all that is in it. We are challenged to realize that that vineyard is

us, that we are those plants that need to be nurtured and cared for, that we are those plants that are called to produce good fruit.

We are called to seek out our neighbor and to care for them. We are called as our prayers later will say, to care for others – to care for those who bring food to tables, to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty. This is what it means to be a vineyard – It is church, and it needs continuous care and nurturing.

That, people of God, is how a vineyard will grow.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

## **Apostle's Creed**

### **Prayers**

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you call us to work for peace and justice in your vineyard. Refresh the church with your life, that we may bear fruit through work and service. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the abundant harvest of the earth. Bless and care for those whose hands bring the fruits of the earth to the tables of all who hunger. May we be inspired by your servants who cared deeply for your creation especially Francis of Assisi, whom we commemorate today. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Curb the impulses of greed and pride that lead us to take advantage of others. Grant that world leaders seek the fruits of the kingdom for the good and welfare of all people. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Sustain all who suffer with the promise of new life. Assured of your presence, heal our pain and suffering, and equip us to embrace all bodies aching for wholeness of mind, body, and soul. We call to mind those who are struggling today whom we name now both silently and aloud. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all managers in our community and for all who seek employment. Give hope and a future to those who lack meaningful work, those who have been marginalized or abused in the workplace, and those who desire new opportunities. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard. We give thanks today for the memory of Dorothy Dutzle, and pray that you would wrap her family and all who grieve in your compassionate embrace. May our chorus join theirs until our labor is complete. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Blessing**

Mothering God,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.  
**Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.  
**Thanks be to God**

## **At Home Communion Liturgy**

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION+

(Holding the bread) In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

(Holding the cup) Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me." When we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

(Tear the bread, share with each person – invite them to dip into the cup of wine/grace juice) +

LORD'S PRAYER +

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION +

In the mystery of Christ's resurrection, you shine light into darkness, provide water that brings new life, and give bread that nourishes your people and frees from our fear. Help us be witnesses of the resurrection and empower us to show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. AMEN +

BLESSING EACH OTHER +

(Using your pointer finger, dip it in the bowl of water, and make the sign of the cross on another's forehead or the back of their hand)

"Child of God, marked as God's own, Jesus loves you, and will love you forever. AMEN"

Take turns until each person has been blessed.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS! ANNOUNCEMENTS! ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

### **Opportunities to Connect!**

Now that we are into the “program year” of the church season, we are going to be offering YOU opportunities to RE-connect with your church family. Each day throughout the week there will be an opportunity for you to enjoy fellowship and/or prayer here at church.

**Mondays:** Coffee and Conversation in the Upper Fellowship Hall at 9 am

**Tuesdays:** Lunch and Laughter

**Wednesdays:** Youth and Family Ministries throughout the Day

**Thursdays:** Sanctuary open for “Prayer Around the Cross”

\*Communion is available each day by appointment

\*All opportunities require a mask and spacing precautions will be in place

### **MASKS! MASKS! MASKS!**

Stop into the church office TODAY to get your very own Good Shepherd Face Mask. These masks are FOR YOU! If you would like to make a free-will donation for your mask we will graciously accept.

### **Church Pews available for purchase**

We have officially surpassed the 65 donor goal for our “65 for 65 Anniversary Appeal” and have now shifted our focus to a targeted ask for the purchase of chairs and disposition of the pews.

If you would like your very own piece of Good Shepherd history in the form of a pew please contact the church office.

**The month of October is your opportunity to claim a pew. If you’d like to claim it with your dollars you can do that. If you want to claim it because you put money towards them 57 years ago you can do that. We have a November 1<sup>st</sup> target date of having the pews out of the building.**

If you’d like to purchase a chair, chairs for your family, a row of chairs, or a section of chairs we will be happy to have those conversations as well.. Each chair costs \$70. We’ve already had 30 chairs purchased.

**Any funds raised over the cost of the chairs will be put towards the remaining balance on the Boiler Loan from the Good Shepherd Endowment Fund.**