



*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville*

*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*October 3 and 4, 2020*

**Welcome in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!** If you come as a visitor today, we hope you will leave as a friend. We count it a privilege and a blessing to have you with us in worship. If you are not presently a member of any congregation, please feel welcome to gather with us around Jesus in this community of his disciples at Holy Trinity. Come and worship with us again!

**Invitation to Communion:** Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ by which our Lord is truly present to forgive sin and bring life and salvation. All baptized Christians who believe this promise are welcome to commune. Parents with children are encouraged to come to the altar together. Children who do not yet receive communion will receive the blessing of the Church from the Pastor.

**Procedure for Communing:** We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.

**Gluten-free wafers are available; let Pastor know when you come forward to receive.**

## Service of Holy Communion

**Significance of the Day:** 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.

### *Gathering*

Prelude

Hymn Variations on *Repton*

(Hobby et al)

Confession

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.**

Opening Hymn      Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring

*(Please be seated. We will not be singing but these words are here for your reflection.)*

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring  
to place upon your table.  
We do not worship as we ought  
but only as we're able.

The vines were planted, seeds were sown.  
They grew in your good pleasure.  
What once was common, daily food  
becomes a holy treasure.

Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares  
we lift in prayer before you.  
Lord, by your grace now come to us,  
as humbly we adore you.

*(The assembly stands.)*

Apostolic Greeting

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

**And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.**

*(The assembly sits.)*

*Word*

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from Isaiah:

1 Let me sing for my beloved  
my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.

2 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.

3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and people of Judah,  
judge between me  
and my vineyard.

4 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?

5 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.

6 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.

7 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!

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:7-15

- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- 8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you cast out the nations and planted it.
- 9 You cleared the ground for it;  
it took root and filled the land.
- 10 The mountains were covered by its shadow  
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
- 11 You stretched out its tendrils to the sea  
and its branches to the river.
- 12 Why have you broken down its wall,  
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
- 13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,  
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
- 14 Turn now, O God of hosts,  
look down from heaven;
- 15 behold and tend this vine;  
preserve what your right hand has planted.

A reading from Philippians:

Paul writes:

4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 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; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 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 9 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. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 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. 13 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, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (*The assembly stands.*)

***Alleluia!***

**Jesus says, I chose you and appointed you  
to go and bear fruit that will last.**

***Alleluia!***

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(The reading of the Gospel.)*

33 "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. 34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. 35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. 37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' 39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" 41 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."

42 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'?

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(The assembly sits.)*

*(The assembly remains seated.)*

Hymn of the Day

The Church's One Foundation

*(We will not be singing but these words are here for your reflection.)*

The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
she is his new creation  
by water and the word.  
From heav'n he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation  
one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
one holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder  
this world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder,  
by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace forevermore;  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union  
with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won.  
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!  
Lord, save us by your grace,  
that we, like saints before us,  
may see you face to face.

*(The assembly stands.)*

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.**

PASTOR: Imagine the comfort and care you feel when you snuggle under a comforter or wear a piece of clothing made or worn by a loved one. That's the feeling you share through a Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilt. Useful for shielding against the cold and rain, and for warm bedding, quilts can also be purposed as simple tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to hold a baby on a mother's back. In a simple combination of fabric and thread, you reach out to people in their time of greatest need with a strong message of hope – you are not alone.

Today we bless all of these quilts made here in Greenville, Pennsylvania, to be sent around the world to provide that warmth and that message of hope.

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, maker of all things, you have blessed us with so many gifts — a good eye for color, the ability to make fine stitches, the skills to develop ever-new and exciting patterns. Now we offer the fruits of our labors, the quilts we have made, to you.

We dedicate these quilts to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each quilt is sent, making it more than just a piece of material — making each piece we have created an expression of love.

There is no way for us to imagine the power and effect an act of love can have on a person's life — how you can use something as small as a quilt to radiate your love from us to the world. May these be used in your service and become blessings for all those who receive them.

Lord, we know that all we possess comes from your loving hand. Give us grace to honor you with all of our being: draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people. Amen.

#### Prayers of Intercession

A: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need, responding, Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*(Brief silence)*

A: 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. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors, musicians, worship leaders, council members, altar guild, committee workers, teachers and church staff members. Lord in your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A: 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, whose life and legacy we commemorate today. Lord in your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A: 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. We pray for our president, Donald; our governor, Tom; and our local county, borough and school officials. Lord in your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A: 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 with the financial, emotional, physical and practical difficulties of the global pandemic. Lord in your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A: 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,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. On this day when we bring foodstuffs for the Good Shepherd Center, remind us of our obligation to care for those among us who are hungry, who are thirsty, who need to be clothed, who need a safe place to place their heads at night. Give us hearts for service, and hands that do your work in this world. Lord in your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A: Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard. May our chorus join theirs until our labor is complete. Lord in your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A: Are there others for whom we should pray?

P. 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.

**C: Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*(The assembly sits.)*

## *Meal*

Music as the meal is prepared      Interlude on *Jesus Loves Me*      (Young)

*(The assembly stands. The deacon, on behalf of the people, prays.)*

### Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you open your hand, filling our lives with all good things and renewing the face of the earth. We offer these gifts in thanksgiving for all that we have received from your bounty. Accept them for the sake of him who offered his life for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
Amen.

#### Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

#### Breaking of Bread

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

*(The assembly sits.)*

## Communion of the Faithful

***Procedure for Communing:*** *We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.  
(Following the Communion the assembly stands for the blessing.)*

## Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life.

**Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## *Sending*

### Our Prayer for These Times

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Chorale on *Wen Nur den Lieben Gott*  
(from *Orgebuchlein*)

(J.S. Bach)

*(Once the pastor is at the back of the church, ushers will dismiss by row.)*

**Serving Saturday**

**Presiding Minister** ..... Pastor Brenda Martin

**Pianist** ..... Maidene Hackett

**Liturgical Deacon** ..... Catherine Mott

**Serving Sunday**

**Presiding Minister** ..... Pastor Brenda Martin

**Organist** ..... Maidene Hackett

**Liturgical Deacon** ..... Linda Armstrong

**Communion Assistant** ..... Catherine Snyder

**Lector** ..... Bonnie Massing

**Head Usher** ..... Olivia Martin-Call

**Altar Guild** ..... Ruth Gruber

Mary Beth Bradley

**Acknowledgments**

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**Pastors in residence:**

**The Rev. Julia Fraser**, chaplain at St. Paul Homes

**The Rev. Dr. Robert Harris**, retired, Mercyhurst University

**The Rev. Brian Riddle**, Thiel College Campus Pastor

**The Rev. Martin Roth**, retired pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

**The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson**, retired, Thiel College