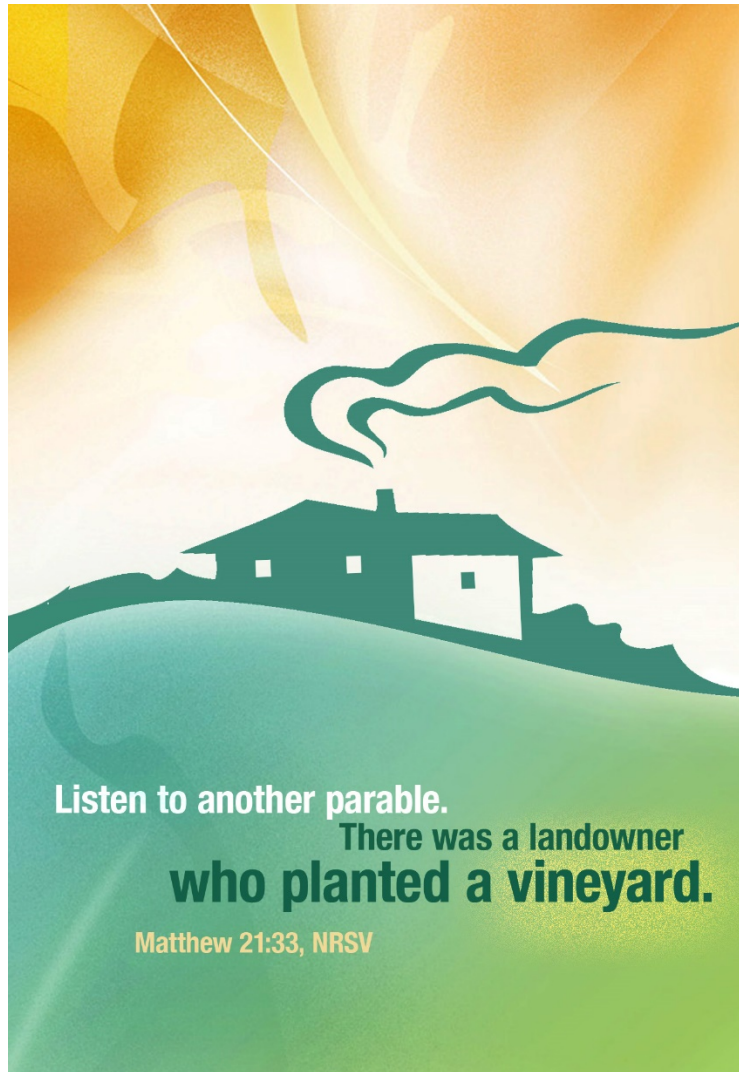


October 4, 2020
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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Introduction

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.

WELCOME

Confession and Forgiveness

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

CORNERSTONE

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
but wholly trust in Jesus name**

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
but wholly trust in Jesus name**

**Christ alone, Cornerstone,
weak made strong, in the Saviors love
through the storm he is Lord, Lord of all**

**When darkness seems to hide his face
I rest on his unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil**

**Christ alone, Cornerstone,
weak made strong, in the Saviors love
through the storm he is Lord, Lord of all**

**Christ alone, Cornerstone,
weak made strong, in the Saviors love
through the storm he is Lord, Lord of all**

**Christ alone, Cornerstone,
weak made strong, in the Saviors love
through the storm he is Lord, Lord of all**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound
oh may I then in him be found
dressed in his righteousness alone
faultless to stand before the throne.**

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.**

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 5:1-7

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He 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.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What 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?

⁵And 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. ⁶I 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.

⁷For 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

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

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

⁹You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.

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

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

¹⁴Turn now, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven;

¹⁵behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

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

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

¹²Not 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. ¹³Beloved, 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, ¹⁴I 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: MATTHEW 21:33-46

The holy gospel according Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

Jesus said to the people: 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. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way.

³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They 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.”

⁴²Jesus 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’?

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

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They 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.**

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY**Moving Forward**

**I'm not going back, I'm moving
ahead
I'm here to declare to you, my
past is over
In you, all things are made new
Surrendered my life to Christ
I'm moving, moving forward**

**What a moment, you have
brought me to
Such a freedom I have found in
you
You're the healer, who makes all
things new
Yeah, yeah, yeah**

**I'm not going back, I'm moving
ahead
I'm here to declare to you, my
past is over
In you, all things are made new
Surrendered my life to Christ
I'm moving, moving forward**

**You have risen, with all power in
your hands
You have given me a second
chance
Hallelujah, hallelujah
Yeah, yeah, yeah
Yeah, yeah, yeah**

**I'm not going back, I'm moving
ahead
I'm here to declare to you, my
past is over
In you, all things are made new
Surrendered my life to Christ
I'm moving, moving forward**

**I'm not going back, I'm moving
ahead
I'm here to declare to you, my
past is over
In you, all things are made new
Surrendered my life to Christ
I'm moving, moving forward**

**Forward, forward, forward,
forward, forward**

**You make all things new yes
You make all things new and
I will follow you forward
You make all things new yes
You make all things new and
I will follow you forward**

**You make all things new yes
You make all things new and
I will follow you forward
You make all things new yes
You make all things new and
I will follow you forward**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each prayer petition ends

we pray to you, O God ...

in mercy, receive our prayers.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

The gifts we use and share matter! Thank you for sharing your gifts for the sake of the world. Use the green Give button on our church's website to support our mission of nurturing lives for following Christ.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God, we give you thanks and praise.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took a towel and wrapped it around his waist, and washed the disciples' feet, saying: if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

And after supper, when he had gone out, Jesus said to the disciples: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

For where two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, the body of Christ is present, with us always, to the end of the age.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN I Stand Amazed

**I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how he could love
me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.**

**I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how he could love
me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.**

**How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! How wonderful
Is my Savior's love for me.**

**He took my sins and my sorrows,
And made them his very own;
He bore the burden to Calvary,
And suffered and died alone.**

**How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! How wonderful
Is my Savior's love for me.**

**Oh, what kind of love is this?
You would die so I would live?
I stand amazed.
I stand amazed.**

Bore the curse of all my sin —

DISMISSAL

**Go in peace, nurturing lives for following Christ.
Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

**Made your enemy your friend.
I stand amazed.
I stand amazed.**

**Oh, what kind of love is this?
You would die so I would live?
I stand amazed.
I stand amazed.**

**Bore the curse of all my sin —
Made your enemy your friend.
I stand amazed.
I stand amazed.**

**When with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see,
'Twill be my joy through the ages
To sing of his love for me.**

**How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! How wonderful
Is my Savior's love for me.**

Is my Savior's love for me.

Is my Savior's love for me.

**How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! How wonderful
Is my Savior's love for me.**

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“Cornerstone”

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“Moving Forward ”

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