



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church

**Sunday, October 4, 2020**

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

ELW Setting 8

Pastor: The Reverend Faron H. Johnson

Minister of Music: Michael Busija

Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994

[www.stdavidslutheran.org](http://www.stdavidslutheran.org)

## ***Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!***

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today.

**For your safety** please maintain social distancing from anyone who does not reside with you. Singing is discouraged due to the nature of breathing to do so during the pandemic. Please refrain from shaking hands or touching anyone while greetings are shared. Also, please wear your mask to show your love for your neighbor's health that all may be well.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is offered to all in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Children are also welcomed to receive the elements at the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians. During this time of pandemic, we will practice the teaching of concomitance recognizing that the presence of Christ is in both elements as we will be receiving the host. Persons, who may not wish to receive the bread and wine of the communion, are still welcome to come to the table to receive a blessing. To do so please fold your hands and bow your head. Distribution of the elements will take place at the conclusion of the service at the door as you exit to go in peace.

**Prayer Requests** will be spoken or held within our hearts during a time in the prayers of the congregation. Listen for the pastor to bid for you to share the names of those you wish to pray for.

**For your comfort** there is a restroom, equipped with a changing table located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock.

**Devotional** – The worship folder you are holding is also a weekly devotional booklet. The prayers and Scripture readings are appropriate for use at any time during the week. The liturgy itself is a Scripturally based order for daily prayer and devotion with Scriptural references noted where they apply. Even the hymns are appropriate tools for prayer and praise. Finally, there is a daily lectionary of Scripture readings for the rest of the week on the last printed page.

## **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**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **PRELUDE**

*The assembly stands.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.*

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.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **GATHERING HYMN** *“The Church's One Foundation”*

*You may hum instead of sing.*

**(Instrumental)**

## **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. . . .

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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 is seated.*

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7**

A reading from Isaiah the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*{The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.}*

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved

my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup>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.

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

<sup>4</sup>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?

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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 (read responsively)**

*Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 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.

***All: Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)***

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14**

A reading from Philippians the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

*{Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.}*

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

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

<sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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, <sup>14</sup>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.**

*The assembly stands.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *(Spoken)*

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46**

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*{Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.}*

[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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **HOMILY**

*Silence for reflection may follow.*



## HYMN OF THE DAY *"If You but Trust in God to Guide You"*

*You may hum instead of sing.*

**(Instrumental)**

Together we confess our faith:

### **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**

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 (*especially*). 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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard (*especially Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society*). 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.**

**PEACE** (PEACE IS OFFERED WITHOUT TOUCHING OUR NEIGHBORS)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

*Please be seated after the Peace is shared.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SPOKEN)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk  
and honey.  
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim  
the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of  
Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its  
creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **THE 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.**

## **LAMB OF GOD (SPOKEN)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **QUIET MEDITATION**

### **SENDING HYMN** *“How Firm a Foundation”*

*You may hum instead of sing.*

**(Instrumental)**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**October 4, 2020**

**LECTIONARY 27**

**Call to Confession**

Throughout his ministry in Matthew's gospel, Jesus draws in people at the margins of society. As the leader of a reform movement, Jesus spoke as a Jew to fellow Jews. When we read these stories centuries later, we must remember that his intent was to condemn exclusion and abuses of power—*not* to reject Judaism. His critiques still ring true for the power structures of the religious institutions of our time.

Jesus' parables stirred people up, provoking questions, doubts, even hostility. When his listeners recognized themselves in the parables, it was rarely comforting or affirming. Do we have the honesty and vulnerability to see ourselves critically in the stories as the chief priests and Pharisees did?

There aren't any clear heroes in this story, as in any story of class warfare. Perhaps the tenants turned to violence out of frustration with the economic injustice of their situation. The Pharisees were quick to side with the powerful landowner, asserting his right to kill the tenants and crush their revolt, yet Jesus does not affirm this escalation either.

We begin worship with a prayer of confession, recalling the image of God's goodness in each of us and yet honestly admitting our shame and guilt. Today's parable also issues a call to confession, alluding to the vineyard of Isaiah 5, which yielded wild grapes instead of sweet. God has created a world that can provide abundant life for all. What are the fruits of our congregations? God's heart longs for justice for all people. How might we unintentionally and unknowingly cultivate the sour wine of exclusion, discrimination, and injustice? In the prayer of the day, we ask: "Beloved God, . . . lead us . . . to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them." Empowered by God's grace and forgiveness, we set to work removing the blinders that keep us from recognizing ourselves in parables' antagonists and repenting of the injustices that we perpetuate.

## ***Daily Readings for the Week October 4-10***

<b>Sunday:</b>	Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:7-15 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46
<b>Monday:</b>	Psalm 144 Ezekiel 19:10-14 1 Peter 2:4-10
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Psalm 144 Isaiah 27:1-6 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Psalm 144 Song of Solomon 8:5-14 John 11:45-57
<b>Thursday:</b>	Psalm 23 Isaiah 22:1-8a 1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14
<b>Friday:</b>	Psalm 23 Isaiah 22:8b-14 James 4:4-10
<b>Saturday:</b>	Psalm 23 Isaiah 24:17-23 Mark 2:18-22

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