



THE 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, LECTIONARY 27 , 2020

Paul urges the church at Philippi to press on, to let go of what gets in the way as if it was skubula, rubbish (in Greek the word is much less polite ☺) In today's gospel reading, Jesus takes us back to the vineyard. He teaches a parable that lays bare the failure of their stewardship: they have put themselves, their human interpretation and desire for power before God.

The readings challenge believers to trust God as the cornerstone, to strive for the sake of the Gospel, and see the amazing work of God unfold.

Welcome to worship! We are one family of faith even as we worship in-house and wherever we are sheltering in place. Let us gather together in heart and spirit, encouraging, praying and caring for one another.

GATHERING

Announcements and time for prayer and preparation.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit C **Amen.**

P Let us pray *Silence for reflection*
Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleans 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. **C Amen.**

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

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.

As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father + Son and Holy Spirit.

Live in freedom and peace to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

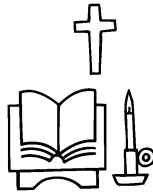
GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: - *Silence*-

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 Readings

The first reading is from Isaiah:

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!**

Silence for Reflection

*We read the Psalm responsively. The congregation's response in in **Bold** type.*

⁷Restore 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.**

⁹You 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. R**
¹¹You 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?**
¹³The 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;**
¹⁵behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted. **ALL: Amen.**

The second reading is from Philippians.

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!**

Alleluia. Restore us, O God of hosts;

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Alleluia.

The Gospel, Matthew 21:33-46 is offered

[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 our Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

TEACHING THE WORD/SERMON

CONFESSION OF FAITH & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

In confidence and trust, let us confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 THE CHURCH

Sustained by the promised hope of healing and new life, we join our voices and prayers with God's people in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are 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 fruits for the dominion of God through witness, work and service in the power of His resurrection. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make us one in our labor in the vineyard. Help us stand with one another even when our opinions differ, and tempers may flare. Give us hearts to make the Gospel the hub and unifying reality as we press on for the Gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love. Hear our prayers for all yearning for healing, longing for justice, and all those whose needs we bring before you:

all who need medical treatment from any and every cause,
and those unable to receive care...

all who mourn, living with fear and loss and grief...

families stressed and working to meet the needs of work and home...

those struggling and anxious for health in body, mind and finances....

Hear our needs, and the needs known only to You. Be our strength to meet the days ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Thank you for those who have worked in the vineyard before us, for Francis of Assisi and all who witness to the blessing of creation. By his witness, and all who walked in fidelity to the Gospel, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you!**

Pause to share Peace and offer thanks for God's gifts that sustain and bless us. If you wish, offer thanks a loud for blessings received, something or someone for whom you are grateful. Offerings can be made online by going to the website christpipersville.org, using the QR code with your smartphone, or mailed. We are grateful for your continuing support of our mission and ministry!



Then continue:

Let us pray. *Silence* God of mercy and grace,
the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things from your living Word that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

A Brief Silence

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

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

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.**

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.**

Let us pray in the words Jesus taught us:

**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.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

*We give thanks to God that we are able to gather in-house and wherever we are
sheltering in place, and for your faithful support as we move forward serving one
another and out community.*

POSTLUDE

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Sundays & Seasons SB125957

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