



Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2020 - 8:30 a.m.

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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG **Your Power Will Pull Us Through**

We trust, we trust, we trust in you Jesus.
You're all, you're all, you're all that we need.
Your power will pull us through.
We're trusting in you!
We're trusting in you!
 You give us hope and life that's forever.
 You make us bold, And we stand together.
 Your power will pull us through.
 We're trusting in you!
 We're trusting in you!
We're off on this journey; there's no looking back.
With Jesus to lead us, we're on the right track.
Ohh, ohh.
 Wide open spaces for wide open eyes.
 We're looking ahead for the next big surprise.
 Ohh, ohh.
We trust, we trust, we trust in you Jesus.
You're all, you're all, you're all that we need.
Your power will pull us through.



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 We're trusting in you!
 We're trusting in you!
We're trusting in you! We're trusting in you! We're trusting in you!

This is our fourth week on the Rocky Railway. It's five stories from the bible that teach us how **Jesus' power pulls us through**. We learn how sometimes God's people go off the rails or run out of steam. These stories remind us that God can get us back on track. We learned about a man named Ananias who was asked to care for a bully named Saul and he said, O no! God, that's too hard! But **Jesus' power helps us do hard things**. Then that bully named Saul was renamed the Apostle Paul and he helps his shipmates weather a storm and a shipwreck. Paul trusted God and when all seemed lost they learned; **Jesus' power gives us hope**. Then last week we heard how Peter and John cured a man who was lame and used to sit outside the temple gate and beg. When a few people became very angry about what Peter and John did, they spoke up boldly to say, that's what

Jesus would have us do. **Jesus' power helps us be bold.** Let's listen to today's bible story to find out what Jesus' power will help us do next?

BIBLE STORY:

Matthew 26:17-28-10

On the first day of the Passover ceremonies, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where shall we plan to eat the Passover?" He replied, "Go into the city and see Mr. So-and-So, and tell him, 'Our Master says, my time has come, and I will eat the Passover meal with my disciples at your house.'" ¹⁹ So the disciples did as he told them and prepared the supper there. That evening as he sat eating with the Twelve, he said, "One of you will betray me." Sorrow chilled their hearts, and each one asked, "Am I the one?" He replied, "It is the one I served first. For I must die just as I have told you, but woe to the man by whom I am betrayed. Far better for that one if he had never been born." Judas, too, had asked him, "Rabbi, am I the one?" And Jesus had told him, "Yes."

As they were eating, Jesus took a small loaf of bread and blessed it and broke it apart and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take it and eat it, for this is my body." And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks for it and gave it to them and said, "Each one drink from it, for this is my blood, it is poured out to forgive the sins of multitudes. Mark my words—I will not drink this wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom."

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus brought them to a garden grove, Gethsemane, and told them to sit down and wait while he went on ahead to pray. He went forward a little, and fell face downward on the ground, and prayed, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup be taken away from me. But I want your will, not mine." Then he returned to the three disciples and found them asleep. "Peter," he called, "couldn't you even stay awake with me one hour? Keep alert and pray. Otherwise temptation will overpower you. For the spirit indeed is willing, but how weak the body is!" Again he left them and prayed, "My Father! If this cup cannot go away until I drink it all, your will be done." He returned to them again and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy, so he went back to prayer the third time, saying the same things again.

Then he came to the disciples and said, "Sleep on now and take your rest . . . but no! The time has come! I am betrayed into the hands of evil men! Up! Let's be going! Look! Here comes the man who is betraying me!" At that very moment while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived with a great crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent by the Jewish leaders. Jesus said, "My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for." Then the others grabbed him and led him to the home of Caiaphas, the high priest, where all the Jewish leaders were gathering. ⁵⁸ Meanwhile, Peter was following far to the rear, and came to the courtyard of the high priest's house and went in and sat with the soldiers, and waited to see what was going to be done to Jesus.

The chief priests and, in fact, the entire Jewish Supreme Court assembled there and looked for witnesses who would lie about Jesus, in order to build a case against him that would result in a death sentence. Then the high priest said to him, "I demand in the name of the living God that you tell us whether you claim to be the Messiah, the Son of God." "Yes," Jesus said, "I am. And in the future you will see me, the Messiah, sitting at the right hand of God and returning on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore at his own clothing, shouting, "Blasphemy! What need have we for other witnesses? You have all heard him say it! What is your verdict?" They shouted, "Death!—Death!—Death!" But when the chief priests and other Jewish leaders made their many accusations against him, Jesus remained silent. "Don't you hear what they are saying?" Pilate demanded. But Jesus said nothing, much to the governor's surprise. Meanwhile the chief priests and Jewish officials persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas's release, and for Jesus' death. So when the governor asked again, "Which of these two shall I release to you?" the crowd shouted back their reply: "Barabbas!" ²² "Then what shall I do with Jesus, your Messiah?" Pilate asked. And they shouted, "Crucify him!" "Why?" Pilate demanded. "What has he done wrong?" But they kept shouting, "Crucify! Crucify!"

Then Pilate released Barabbas to them. And after he had whipped Jesus, he gave him to the Roman soldiers to be taken away and crucified. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and made a crown from long thorns

and put it on his head, and placed a stick in his right hand as a scepter and knelt before him in mockery. “Hail, King of the Jews,” they yelled. And they spat on him and grabbed the stick and beat him on the head with it. After the mockery, they took off the robe and put his own garment on him again, and took him out to crucify him.

Two robbers were also crucified there that morning, one on either side of him. ³⁹ And the people passing by hurled abuse, shaking their heads at him and saying, ⁴⁰ “So! You can destroy the Temple and build it again in three days, can you? Well, then, come on down from the cross if you are the Son of God!” And the chief priests and Jewish leaders also mocked him. “He saved others,” they scoffed, “but he can’t save himself!

That afternoon, the whole earth ^[n] was covered with darkness for three hours, from noon until three o’clock. About three o’clock, Jesus shouted, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Then Jesus shouted out again, dismissed his spirit, and died.

The curtain secluding the Holiest Place in the Temple was split apart from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and rocks broke, The soldiers at the crucifixion and their sergeant were terribly frightened by the earthquake and all that happened. They exclaimed, “Surely this was God’s Son.”

When evening came, a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, one of Jesus’ followers, ⁵⁸ went to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. And Pilate issued an order to release it to him. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ and placed it in his own new rock-hewn tomb, and rolled a great stone across the entrance as he left. ⁶¹ Both Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting nearby watching.

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it. ³ His face shone like lightning and his clothing was a brilliant white. Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be frightened!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified, ⁶ but he isn’t here! For he has come back to life again, just as he said he would. The women ran from the tomb, badly frightened, but also filled with joy, and rushed to find the

disciples to give them the angel’s message. ⁹ And as they were running, suddenly Jesus was there in front of them!

“Good morning!” he said. And they fell to the ground before him, holding his feet and worshiping him.

Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be frightened! Go tell my brothers to leave at once for Galilee, to meet me there.” Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had said they would find him. There they met him and worshiped him—but some of them weren’t sure it really was Jesus! He told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and earth. Therefore go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you; and be sure of this—that I am with you always, even to the end of the world.”

There are things we hear about that can make us sad or afraid or even angry. One of the hardest things we might think about or experience is the death of a pet, or friend, or relative. In our gospel story lots of people are sad, afraid, and angry; so angry they want to be nailed to the cross. Jesus took all that sadness, fear and anger with him on the cross. It that sadness and fear and anger lost its power and when Jesus rose again at Easter, there was joy and much rejoicing. When Jesus died and rose again we learned, **Jesus’ Power lets us live forever.**

We’ve met Ramsey, Ava, Sierra, and now lets met a finn-tastic buddy named Finn who will teach us how **Jesus’ Power Lives forever.**

BIBLE MEMORY BUDDY Let’s watch our video and meet – Finn- Finn reminds us that God, “The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you” (Romans 8:11). Let’s sing a good ole song about “*The Old Rugged Cross*”

VBS SENDING SONG *The Old Rugged Cross*

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame.

And I love that old cross
where the dearest and best

For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down.

And I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown.

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame.

And I love that old cross
where the dearest and best

For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down.

And I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown.

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And exchange it some day for a crown.

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

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.

WORD

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!

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p.205

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

The Holy Gospel according to 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.

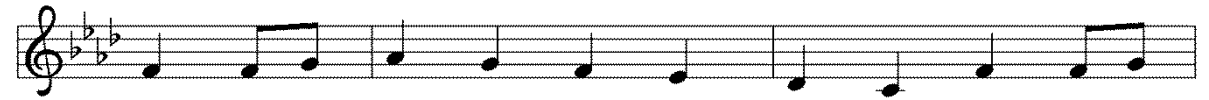
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

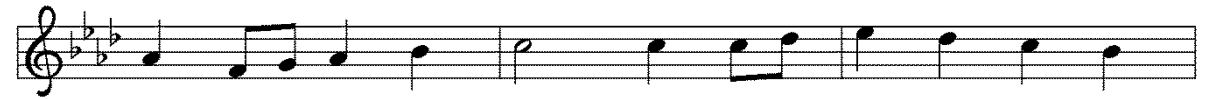
SERMON HYMN

All Who Love and Serve Your City

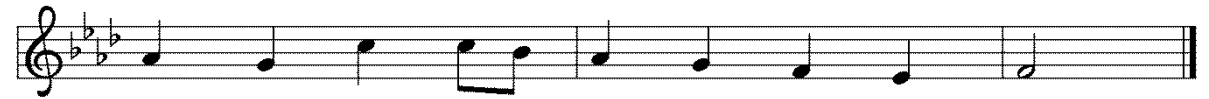
ELW #724



1 All who love and serve your cit - y, all who
 2 In your day of loss and sor - row, in your
 3 In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed
 4 For all days are days of judg - ment, and the
 5 Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y be the



bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for peace and
 day of help - less strife, hon - or, peace, and love re -
 work and wast - ed play, call to mind the word of
 Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near a world that
 cit - y of de - spair? Come to - day, our judge, our



jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless,
 treat - ing, seek the Lord, who is your life.
 Je - sus, “You must work while it is day.”
 spurns him, of - f’ring peace from Cal - v’ry’s hill.
 glo - ry. Be its name “The Lord is there!”

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostle’s Creed

ELW p.105

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. 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, those we love and care for and name before you now. 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. 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

The peace of the Lord be with you always
And also with you.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, 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.

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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 acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

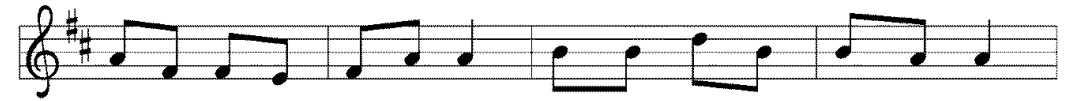
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Jesus Loves Me!

ELW #595



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THOSE DISTRIBUTING THE SACRAMENT TO OTHERS

PRAYER AT SENDING OF HOLY COMMUNION

O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table with our sisters and brothers who are *sheltering at home due to the pandemic are sick or*

homebound. May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

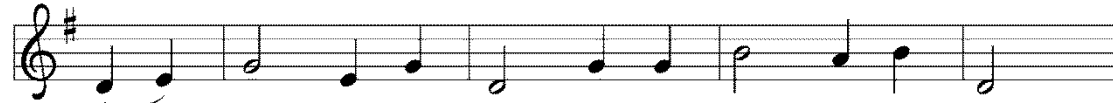
Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

Amen.

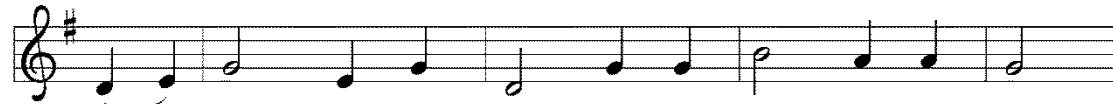
SENDING SONG

How Firm a Foundation

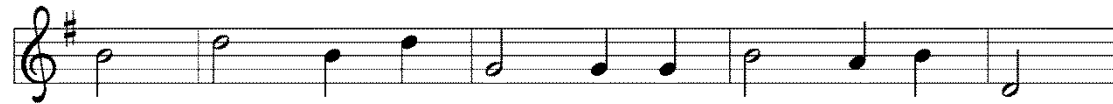
ELW #796



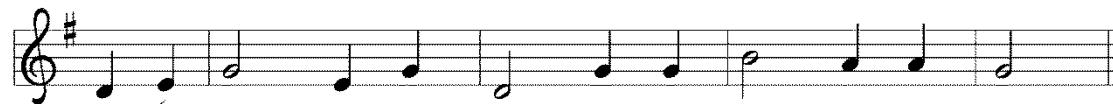
1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand?"
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Preaching: Pastor Steve Smith Organist: Ruth Sheldon	Altar Guild for October: Linda Helgeson Gloria Kvale
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The radio broadcast this morning is given in memory of Vernell Kvale's Birthday on September 30th from Violet and family.

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