



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

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
October 8, 2023 – 9:00am

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**OUR MISSION:** We are God forgiven and mission driven.

**OUR VISION:** To be that Lake Mills Place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

**Sunday—9:00am Worship Service**

**Preaching: Pastor Ken Jensen**

**Organist:** Ruth Sheldon

**Reader:** Cindy Haugsdal

**Sound:** Al Skellenger

**Live Stream:** Brad Evenson

**Acolytes:** Betsy Byars, Jaden Swanson

**Liturgical Choir:**

**Communion Servers:**

**Ushers:** Lyle & Orloue Thomson, Al Sterrenberg

**Altar Guild for October:** Gloria Kvale, JoAnn Villa

**Worship Coordinator:** Becky Helgeson

**The Live Stream Broadcast is Given In Loving Memory of Michael Gardner from His Family. Michael passed away 2 years ago on Sept. 28th, 2021**

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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.*

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## GATHERING

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### PRELUDE

### BELLS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(\*\*\*Please stand as you are able.)*

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

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,

**you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.**

**We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.**

**We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;**

**in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**Amen**



1 Lord our God, with praise we come be - fore you.  
 2 God is God, though lands were all for - sak - en.  
 3 Vales and hills shall move from their foun - da - tions;



Let all na - tions hum - bly now im - plore you.  
 God is God, though all by death were tak - en.  
 heav'n and earth shall crash in con - ster - na - tion;



May we en - deav - or to praise you ev - er, and  
 Al - though all rac - es had left no trac - es, in  
 moun - tains tran - scend - ing will have their end - ing. Then



ceas - ing nev - er, may we for - ev - er a - dore you.  
 star - ry spac - es God's love em - brac - es cre - a - tion.  
 Christ de - scend - ing shall bring un - end - ing sal - va - tion.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

(*\*\*\*Please be seated.*)

*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.**

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## WORD

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### FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

<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!

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM

Psalms 80:7-15

*We will speak today's psalm responsively beginning with the women.*

<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.**

**SECOND READING**

Philippians 3:4b-14

[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.

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(\*\*Please stand as you are able.)*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW p.151**



## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 21:33-46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.**

(*\*\*\*Please be seated.*)

**SERMON**

(\*\*\*Please stand as you are able.)

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth* ELW #727



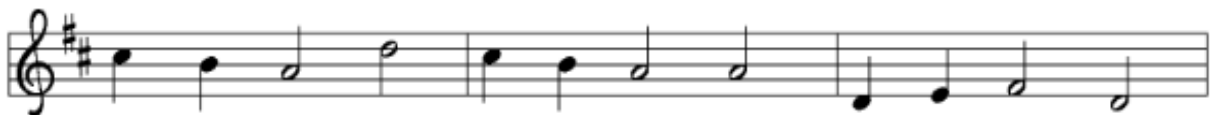
1 Lord Christ, when first you came to earth, up -  
2 O awe - some Love, which finds no room in  
3 New ad - vent of the love of Christ, will  
4 O wound - ed hands of Je - sus, build in



on a cross they bound you, and mocked your sav - ing  
life where sin de - nies you, and, doomed to death, shall  
we a - gain re - fuse you, till in the night of  
us your new cre - a - tion; our pride is dust, our



king - ship's worth by thorns with which they crowned you. And  
bring to doom the pow'r that cru - ci - fies you, till  
hate and war we per - ish as we lose you? From  
vaunt is stilled; we wait your rev - e - la - tion. O



still our wrongs may fash - ion now new thorns to pierce that  
not a stone is left on stone, and then the na - tions'  
an - cient doubts our minds re - lease to seek the king - dom  
Love that tri - umphs o - ver loss, we bring our hearts be -



stead - y brow, and robe of sor - row round you.  
pride, o'er - thrown, will nev - er - more de - fy you!  
of your peace, by which a - lone we choose you.  
fore your cross; come, fin - ish your sal - va - tion.



## PROFESSION OF FAITH

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.**

*(\*\*\*Please be seated.)*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence*

God of all grace, you are the source of life and joy. Strengthen the resolve of your church throughout the world (*global mission partners may be named*), that together we press on toward the goal of your heavenly call in Jesus Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all creation, you plant and nourish the earth as your own precious vineyard. Bless fields and orchards and the hands of those who labor in them, that your people are fed with an abundant harvest of good fruit. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all the earth, you desire peace and justice between nations and peoples. Guide leaders of nations, states, provinces, and cities, that they faithfully govern your people with wisdom, integrity, and compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all compassion, in Christ, you lovingly poured yourself out like wine for your people. Have mercy on all who mourn, who struggle with their mental health, who cry out for justice, who hunger, and all in any need (*especially*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all steadfastness, you set Christ as the cornerstone and foundation of the church. Build up this congregation as living stones, that it stands in the community as a witness to your enduring faithfulness and love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all hope, the saints who came before us lived and died with their hearts fixed on you. We give you thanks for their faithful witness, and we wait with hope for the great day when we join their voices in praise. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

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## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

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### **OFFERING**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*(\*\*\*Please stand as you are able.)*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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.**

## BLESSING

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

### My Lord of Light

ELW #832



- 1 My Lord of light who made the worlds, in wis - dom you have spo - ken;
- 2 My Lord of love who knew no sin, a sin - ner's death en - dur - ing:
- 3 My Lord of life who came in fire when Christ was high as - cend - ed:
- 4 My Lord of lords, one Trin - i - ty, to your pure name be giv - en



but those who heard your wise com-mands your ho - ly law have bro - ken.  
for us you wore a crown of thorns, a crown of life se - cur - ing.  
your burn - ing love is now re - leased, our days of fear are end - ed.  
all glo - ry now and ev - er - more, all praise in earth and heav-en.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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