



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"

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27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

October 4, 2020

Welcome! In this week's Gospel Reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and of his own death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's unbounded love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine in Holy Baptism, we seek to gather regularly for worship and are nourished with Word and Sacrament so that we may share Christ's sufferings and daily live in the power of his resurrection.



Prelude

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now by Johann Gottfried Walther

Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Humbling ourselves, yet held in grace,
let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

(A brief silence for reflection)

God of Promise:

**We confess that we have not lived as a people you would have us be,
and we have fallen short of your desire for us.
In your mercy, forgive us our failings, the wrongs we have done,
as well as the right and good things we have neglected to do.
Blow your Spirit among us, to open our hearts and hands anew,
that we may live as a people raised to new life, even here, even now. Amen.**

Our God is faithful, and for ✝ Jesus' sake forgives you all your sins.
May his Spirit surround, fill, strengthen, and heal you,
to be living expressions of his grace, and indeed,
to lead you always toward everlasting life. **Amen.**

Choir

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

[The Prophet Isaiah speaks on behalf of God:]

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.

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.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:33-46

The good news of Jesus Christ according to St. 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

Pastor James Dew

Anthem

***God is My Shepherd* by Antonin Dvorak**

Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we confess our faith...

**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.

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. 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 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, including *Bob Cauble, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Kim Friesenhahn, Kenny and Cherie Knippa, Jeff and Lori Sackett, Frances Franz, Alwin Schaefer, Bill Brewer, Paul Mason, Paul and Gloria Boenisch, Beth Knox, Lee Iredale, Mary Jane Schessenhagen, Dean Olson, Joe Reiner, the family of Tom Bartholomew*, and all else whom we also name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 good work 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.

(Please verbally greet those nearest you these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")

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, Mighty, and Merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love for us and for all your creation, you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who took upon himself our own flesh and blood, who showed us your face,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

For on 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, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit, O God, upon these gifts of bread and wine,
that they become for your people the Body and Blood of Christ.
Send your Spirit also into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in this holy meal.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and help 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.**

Agnus Dei

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. Amen.**

Holy Communion

We believe that Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and we welcome all who wish to receive the Holy Sacrament. During this time of pandemic, individual servings of the Eucharist are being offered in the pews at the direction of the Pastor.

Communion Prayer

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.**

Benediction

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, protect you, and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Choir

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

Dismissal

Let us go in peace and seek the ways of the Lord.
In the Name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing by Paul Manz

Worship is central to who we are as a people of God. Every time we gather to hear and respond to the Word, to offer up our prayers for the needs of many, and to receive Christ's living presence in the consecrated bread and wine, we seek to "become what we receive", namely, the Body of Christ for the sake of the life of the world. As we are gathered, fed, and then sent back out in mission, God empowers us to be bearers of blessing and vessels of grace, commissioning us to intentionally live out the reign of God throughout the course of our weekly living.

This Week at St. John's

Today, October 4 @ 8:30am	Pastor's Class
Today, October 4 @ 10:00am	Worship
Tuesday, October 6 @ 11:00am	CAM Sandwiches
Wednesday, October 7 @ 12:15pm	Word, Silence, and Prayer - Online (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86586116513)
Wednesday, October 7 @ 7:00pm	Confirmation Class - Online (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88644413966)
Saturday, October 10 @ 11:00am	Larry Foster Memorial

*Please see our online calendar at www.stjohnssa.org for other events.
For prayer requests, please contact the church office
(210) 223-2611 or info@StJohnsSA.org*

Opportunities to Make a Positive Difference

CAM Clothing Needs CAM is currently accepting gently-used clothing items for both adult men and women; casual wear, jeans, khakis, t-shirts, tennis shoes, and athletic shoes. (They are not accepting at this time any slacks, suits, heels, men's dress shoes, prom dresses, or business wear.) Contact Sarah Kory at skory@cam-sa.org or call 210-223-4099 with any questions.

CAM Sandwiches Every other Tuesday, we deliver sandwiches to CAM to help feed others. This past week, we provided 41 dozen much-needed sandwiches! The next scheduled Tuesday is October 06. For more information about this ministry, please contact Bea Imken at 210-887-2217.

Habitat For Humanity We will be participating in a build on Saturday, October 31. If you are able to help, please email Bea Imken at beafitt@gmail.com. Experience is not required. A full list of safety precautions will be emailed to all volunteers prior to the event.

Lutheran Disaster Response The ELCA is often the first on the scene to provide emergency help and continued assistance whenever trouble strikes. Right now, the Lutheran Disaster Response is in need of your generous donations to speed aid to those whose lives have been impacted by recent hurricanes, wildfires, and other calamities. You can donate at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>

Synodical Ministries Closer to home, you can donate to any number of our own synodical ministries at <https://www.swtsynod.org/give>



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

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