

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Service of Word and Table

in the 167th Year of the Parish

October 4, 2020. 8:00 & 10:30 am

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

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Our Mission: "To know Christ and to make Christ known."

PRELUDE

Locus Iste (This Place).....Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

(Please stand where there is an asterisk.)

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P 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.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. 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, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P 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.

C Amen.

***HYMN**

The Church's One Foundation.....LBW 369

**The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.**

**Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.**

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.*

THE FIRST LESSON.....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!

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:7-15 (*Read responsively*)

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.

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.

THE SECOND LESSON.....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.

C Thanks be to God.

***THE GOSPEL.....Matthew 21: 33-46**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C 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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope we affirm our faith:

**C 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 INTERCESSION**

Response: [P] Lord, in your mercy [C] **Hear our prayer.**

***THE PEACE** [P] The Peace of the Lord be with you. [C] **And also with you.**
Please remember to share the peace without physical contact.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P 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.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.
**C 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 COMMUNION**

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

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P 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.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE BLESSING**

P May the God of nurture and nourishment, God, the Father, ✠ God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you in the way of truth and love.

C Amen.

***HYMN**

***Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*.....ELW 645**

**Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and corner stone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever and our confidence alone.**

**Here to bestow on all your servants what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.**

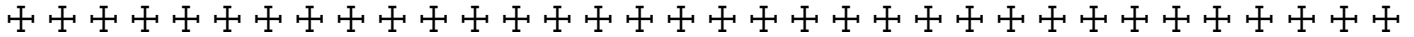
*DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Volles Werk.....Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)



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Announcements:

Today, October 4:



World Communion Sunday. Today we join Christians far and near in celebrating our Lord's Supper.

Blanket Sunday is today, Sunday, October 4th. Join in a Synod-wide contribution to purchase blankets for Lutheran World Relief. Even warm countries can get cold at night. Blankets help to spread God's love. Send your donation to St. Mark's with a designation for "BLANKETS". Envelopes are in the narthex for those who prefer to use them.



Pet Blessing. 2 pm in our Parking Lot. All pets and their people welcome.



Sunday, October 11:

Harvest Home Sunday. Collection of non-perishable food items for the Lycoming County Food Bank. Collections may be brought to the church on Sunday, October 4 as well as Sunday, October 11.

First Communion Class, 9:15 am, Nursery. Instruction for all children grades Kindergarten-Second grade who have not had instruction or wish to have a refresher on the meaning of Holy Communion. Each student needs to be accompanied by a parent/guardian. This is a two week class and Pastor Vasey is the teacher.





CROP Walk, 1 pm. Register at St. Mark's for the walk. For more information and to participate in our CROP Walk please contact Brenda Gair at: **(brendag1@comcast.net or 570-321-7561).**

Sunday, October 18:

First Communion Class Continues (9:15 am, Nursery)

Sunday, October 25:

Reformation Sunday. A time to say, "Thank You" to God for all our blessings through our intended giving to the church in 2021.



Healing: Liz Ruesskamp, Richard Albright, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Ruth Pile, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Paul Young, Bob Shaible, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Randy Knauss, Patricia Alexander, Diane Osbaugh, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Pr. Frank Showers, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Esteban Mazer, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Cheryl Williams, Bernadette Jones, Cindy Huff and Kay Poliska.

Our flowers today are given to the glory of God:

✝ *In loving memory of my husband Jim Buckman and parents Mary Jane and Dorsey Ringler and Doris and Sydney Buckman by Deb Buckman and Family*

✝ *In loving memory of parents Myron and Florence Ditchfield, husband Charles Ditchfield and Daughter-in-law Mary Ditchfield by Bunny Ditchfield and Family*





Assisting in Worship Leadership 10/4

ALTAR GUILD	Connie Shaible & Sally Bjornstad	
	8:00	10:30
USHERS	Dick Miller and Herb Poff	Tim Maggs (Captain), Carl Heiber, Charlie Fortin, Nancy Larson (Side Door)
LECTORS	Drew Haussmann	Lou DeSeau
PARISH MUSICIAN	Sam Robinson	