***13 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, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14***

**Beloved, I Do Not Consider That I Have Made It On My Own**

Does anyone feel like Charlie Brown when Lucy once again promises not to pull the football from him as he is about to kick it, and then does? Arggh! The changes and daily chaos brings us to feeling like things are just changing too much and we feel alone and anxious.

It is in these times we hear once again hope and encouragement. The Apostle Paul continues to write his letter in Philippians. He admits he is not doing this on his own. He admits that we need reminders of God’s love through his Son, Jesus Christ. He might have needed to hear that himself as well.

**But This One Thing I Do: Forgetting What Lies Behind And Straining Forward To What Lies Ahead.**

We yearn for those things that we once did in our life and in the faith. We wonder what lies ahead. Yet we do so with the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

At this time we are on a two-week hold on worshiping, meetings, and In-Gathering and Radio Transmission. October 4th will be posted on YouTube and live on Facebook, as well as your printed copy. 7-9 grade confirmation will be on Zoom at 5-6 pm on Wednesday’s and FIA is cancelled. We will print out activities for kids to follow along at home. No Bible studies inside the building at this time.

There is hope in what we have lived in our lives of faith and look forward to a God that continues to love us and watch over us.

**I Press On Toward The Goal For The Prize Of the Heavenly Call of God In Christ Jesus**.

Be of good courage. Be strong. Keep the faith even when it is hard. Be the leader and voice of Jesus Christ in love. Stay safe, wash your hands, social distance and wear the mask for love of your neighbor. Encourage one another in great love as we all walk together.

Peace, Always Peace,

Pastor Brenda Wicklund.

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**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Pastor Brenda Wicklund**

**October 4, 2020**

**18th Sunday after Pentecost**

 **OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**

**“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”**





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.

**Prelude Deanna Gorsenger**

**Welcome**

### Confession and Forgiveness

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

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C: Amen.**

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

 *Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Faithful God,

**C: 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.**

L: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God’s work in the world.

**C: Amen.**

**Song- “The Church’s One Foundation” Red Worship Book 654**

1 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.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,

 yet one o'er all the earth,

 her charter of salvation

 one Lord, one faith, one birth:

 one holy name she blesses,

 partakes one holy food,

 and to one hope she presses,

 with ev'ry grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder

 this world sees her oppressed,

 by schisms rent asunder,

 by heresies distressed,

 yet saints their watch are keeping;

 their cry goes up: "How long?"

 And soon the night of weeping

 shall be the morn of song.

4 Through toil and tribulation

 and tumult of her war,

 she waits the consummation

 of peace forevermore;

 till with the vision glorious

 her longing eyes are blest,

 and the great church victorious

 shall be the church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union

 with God, the Three in One,

 and mystic sweet communion

 with those whose rest is won.

 Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!

 Lord, save us by your grace,

 that we, like saints before us,

 may see you face to face.

**Greeting Red Worship Book pg. 203**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**Kyrie Red Worship Book pg. 203**

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.** **We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.** **Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.** **Renew us with your saving pow’r; create in us new hearts!**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: 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.**

**C: Amen.**

### First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

### *The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God’s loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth “wild grapes” of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.*

 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 briers 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!

### Psalm: Psalm 80:7-15

*Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine.*(Ps. 80:14, 15)

 L: 7Restore us, O | God of hosts;
  **C:** **let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.**
 L: **8You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;**
  **C:** **you cast out the nations and | planted it.**
 L: 9You cleared the | ground for it;
  **C:** **it took root and | filled the land.**
 L: **10The mountains were covered | by its shadow**
  **C:** **and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs. R**

 L: 11You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
  **C:** **and its branches | to the river.**

 L: **12Why have you broken | down its wall,**
  **C:** **so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?**
 L: 13The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
  **C:** **and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.** L: **14Turn now, O | God of hosts,**  **C:** **look | down from heaven;**
 L: 15behold and | tend this vine;
  **C:** **preserve what your right | hand has planted. R**

### Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ’s resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] 4bIf 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.

 **Gospel Acclamation Red Worship Book pg. 205**

**C:** *Alleluia.* Jesus says, I chose you and appointed you\* to go and bear fruit | that will last. *Alleluia.*

**The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken) Red Worship Book pg. 206**

### Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

[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**

**C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken) Red Worship Book pg. 206**

**Sermon Pastor Brenda Wicklund**

Sometimes we ask, is the Good News, really the Good News.

Jesus Christ is in the city of Jerusalem and is on the way to the cross. The crowds are changing when he gets there. The religious leaders see his following and maybe at the very least are upset or curious. If you had been one of the hordes of people that were following him, what would you have thought if the religious people and those whom you thought had authority were after him in a sense, would you have backed off? Would you have been scared? Would you have become anxious?

 He once again shares another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. It was great and he rented it to some tenants so that they might use the land and profit, and the landowner would receive a portion when harvest time was finished. He sent first his servants, then more, of which they killed all of them. Finally, he thought he would send his son. Certainly they would honor him. He even thought they would respect them. Yet, the tenants thought if they killed the son, they would inherit the vineyard. Now, I am pretty sure that would not happen yet here we are in the parable. They killed the son. Now what will the landowner do to the tenants Jesus asked?

Now the Pharisees, chief priests and the elders, who were asking Jesus by what authority he spoke answered this: “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.” Arguably, the harshest and most violent part of the parable and by those assumed to have authority and a take-charge attitude. They were quick to have the answer. New tenants, the other ones thrown out. Who will the new tenants be? Will judgement happen and act the same way? Certainly, those with authority did not recognize what Jesus was saying to each of them and who they were in the parable.

We wonder at times how they did not recognize Jesus, yet they were following the law, and when Jesus started talking about the vineyard, they knew he was talking familiar examples of Israel. They were trying to follow the laws. He was right there with them and these leaders did not walk with him and did not know that Jesus was talking about them at first. Jesus replies, “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone, the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce fruit.”

Now those with authority knew whom he was talking about and it was each of them. After their anger and angst, they only solution they had was to kill him. Yet, they were afraid of the crowds because they thought he was a prophet. This was God’s plan so that we might receive eternal life and a full and gracious life given by God the Father and he might be saving you are not tending the vineyard like I wanted, you are not bringing the love and mercy as I told you, you are missing a few important messages from me.

New tenants. New kingdoms. New understandings. New beginnings. It is not just the Pharisees, chief priests and those who gave harsh judgement and advice to Jesus to get after those tending the vineyard. We cannot just pass judgement on all of those that appear not to listen to Jesus Christ at the time thinking we may not have ever done this or will ever participate in this merry go round.

We might examine ourselves at this time and place. As we picture and imagine what the city of Jerusalem looked like for the poor and rich, workers and non-workers, essential or not who were or are hopeless in time of chaos. Add to those trials, division and taking sides, those who desire forgiveness and mercy, and those who will never grant it, those who turn to violent words and actions instead of the love of God, we look to what God wants through his son Jesus Christ. Jesus called them and calls us to “produce fruit.”

What are the fruits? In Matthew we need only go back to hear the “Sermon on the Mount” (Matthew 5: 1-12). Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, meek, hunger for righteousness, the merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, and persecuted, yours is the kingdom. Jesus says, “Yours is the Kingdom of God.” We are called to nurture and tend this vineyard, wherever you are in life, at home or at work, in school or online, on your walk or in your car, God calls us to tend the vineyard.

Who are the new tenants? Who needs a reminder? Who needs someone to hand them over some love, even in these times? What are the fruits of the Kingdom of God? What is going to be taken away and who will it be given to? What calls you to do even in these different and difficult times of pandemic, illness, mourning and loneliness? Might you say, God reigns, Jesus Christ lives, and He lives in me?

Might you share some good news and love, even when it is hard to find and actually hand over, and show love to your neighbor (even if it is just with a smile under your mask?) and grant yourself some mercy and grace? You, yes you, the very beloved of the Father? You are important to others and to God.

We end with the words from the Apostle Paul as he writes encouragement in heartache and trials, from jail. He keeps the faith. We follow his lead.

12 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. 13 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, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Amen

### Song- “Rock of Ages” Red Worship Book 623

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,

 let me hide myself in thee;

 let the water and the blood,

 from thy riven side which flowed,

 be of sin the double cure;

 cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

2 Not the labors of my hands

 can fulfill thy law's demands;

 could my zeal no respite know,

 could my tears forever flow,

 all for sin could not atone;

 thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring;

 simply to thy cross I cling.

 Naked, come to thee for dress;

 helpless, look to thee for grace;

 foul, I to the fountain fly;

 wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,

 when mine eyelids close in death,

 when I soar to worlds unknown,

 see thee on thy judgment throne,

 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,

 let me hide myself in thee.

### Nicene Creed Red Worship Book pg. 104

**C: We believe in one God,** **the Father, the Almighty,** **maker of heaven and earth,** **of all that is, seen and unseen.**

 **We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,** **the only Son of God,** **eternally begotten of the Father,** **God from God, Light from Light,** **true God from true God,** **begotten, not made,** **of one Being with the Father;**

**through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation** **he came down from heaven,** **was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary** **and became truly human.** **For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;** **he suffered death and was buried.** **On the third day he rose again** **in accordance with the scriptures;** **he ascended into heaven** **and is seated at the right hand of the Father.** **He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,** **and his kingdom will have no end.**

 **We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,** **who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\***

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,** **who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.** **We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.** **We look for the resurrection of the dead,** **and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### Offering Prayer

L: 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, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen**

**Prayers of Intercession**

L With confidence in God’s grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

L: 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,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

 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 (*especially Francis of Assisi, whom we commemorate today*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Curb the impulses of greed and pride that lead us to take advantage of others. Grant that world leaders (*especially*) seek the fruits of the kingdom for the good and welfare of all people. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L 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 (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,**C: hear our prayer.**

L 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,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard (*especially Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society*). May our chorus join theirs until our labor is complete. Lord, in your mercy,**C: hear our prayer.**

L: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer Red Worship Book pg. 208**

 **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.**

## Song- “Touch the Earth Lightly” Red Worship Book 739

1 Touch the earth lightly,

use the earth gently,

nourish the life of the world in our care:

gift of great wonder,

ours to surrender,

trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

2 We who endanger,

who create hunger,

agents of death for all creatures that live,

we who would foster

clouds of disaster—

God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

3 Let there be greening,

birth from the burning,

water that blesses, and air that is sweet,

health in God's garden,

hope in God's children,

regeneration that peace will complete.

4 God of all living,

God of all loving,

God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,

teach us, deflect us,

Christ reconnect us,

using us gently, and making us one.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

*the worship is ended … let the service begin...*

**Prayer Concerns** ~ **(Names will be on for one month unless requested longer.)**

Judy Smith, Peter Thorvig, Kay Conway, George and Joan Wells (brother/sister-in-law of Gary and Gail Wells), Eric Mettling (deployed for service), Gracie Edin, Kyalani Robbins, Jessica Lindahl, Carol Bostrom, Leigha Ness (Pastor Brenda’s great-niece), Bob Pyle (friend of Dave and Kay Kadous) and Barbara Ekberg (sister of Loretta Sprado.)



**Welcome to worship!**

Do you know what a cornerstone is? Have you ever seen one? It is usually a big stone in the corner of a building that helps hold the whole building up. Listen today and you’ll hear that Jesus is a cornerstone for the whole world. Jesus holds us up!



**Draw Jesus as the cornerstone of the earth. He’s holding us up!**

**Bible trivia**

The Bible is full of books and stories. Jesus loved to tell stories and often told parables—short stories with more than one meaning. Today’s gospel is a parable from the book of Matthew. Discover more about your Bible by completing the sentences following. Ask an adult for help, and have fun!

Matthew is the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ book of the New Testament.

The Bible is all about \_ \_ \_.

Matthew is the first of the four \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .

Short story with more than one meaning: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ is the first book in the Bible.

How many pages are in your Bible? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite Bible story? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How many books in the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How many books in the New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Brimming with blessings**

Jesus’ love fills us up with blessings. During communion, look for a cup like the one here. When we celebrate communion, we’re filled with Jesus’ blessings!

**

*Thank you, Jesus, for all your blessings. Help us share. Amen.*

**This week:** Look through your closets for outgrown clothes to share with others.

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