

# 18th Sunday after Pentecost

## Sunday, October 4, 2020

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### GATHERING SONGS: **This Is the Day**

This is the day, this is the day  
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice  
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day that the Lord has made;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this the day that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24

#### **God Is So Good**

- 1 God is so good, God is so good.  
God is so good, he's so good to me.
- 2 He cares for me, he cares for me,  
he cares for me, he's so good to me.
- 3 He saved my soul, he saved my soul,  
he saved my soul, he's so good to me.
- 4 I praise his name, I praise his name,  
I praise his name, he's so good to me.

Text: traditional

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

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

**OPENING SONG: Amazing Grace —My Chains Are Gone**

Amazing grace  
How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone  
I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, Who called me here below  
Will be forever mine

My chains are gone  
I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love, Amazing grace

Songwriters: Ron Eschete

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) (Live) lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, The Bicycle Music Company  
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**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



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **Christ, have mer - cy.**  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE: We Praise You, O God

- 1 We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.
- 2 We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;  
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.  
When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,  
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.
- 3 With voices united our praises we offer  
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us,  
your strong arm will guide us.  
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC: Sanctuary with God's Holy Temple (Thompson/Scruggs/Larson)

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

*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.*

<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!

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 80:7-15**

<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**

A reading from Philippians.

*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:] <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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46**

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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:] <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.**

### **SERMON "THE REJECTED CORNERSTONE"**

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY: How Firm a Foundation**

1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,

for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.  
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."

4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove  
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,  
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.

## **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.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

### **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. 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 (*especially*) 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 (*especially*). 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.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach 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.**

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace** *Prayer of St. Francis*

- 1     Make me a channel of your peace.  
      Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;  
      where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;  
      and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
  
- 2     Make me a channel of your peace.  
      Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
      where there is darkness, only light;  
      and where there's sadness, ever joy.
  
- 3     O Master, grant that I may never seek  
      so much to be consoled as to console,  
      to be understood as to understand,  
      to be loved as to love with all my soul.
  
- 4     Make me a channel of your peace.  
      It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
      in giving of ourselves that we receive,  
      and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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