

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 4, 2020

**Faith Lutheran Church**

**Online**

**Georgetown, TX 78628**

512-863-7332

flcms.org

*(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)*

**WELCOME**

**INVOCATION:**

*Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**People: Amen.**

**KYRIE (“Lord, Have Mercy”):**

*Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.*

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.*

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Pastor: 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.*

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Pastor: For this holy house and for all who in-person or on-line offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.*

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

**People: Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION: Psalm 80:19**

*Pastor: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let Your face shine, that we may be saved.*

**People: We confess to You, almighty Father, that we have fallen far short of Your glory. We have thought, spoken, and acted wickedly toward You and each other. Half-hearted prayer does not please You; superficial repentance gives You no joy; and while deeds done out of selfish motives may still serve a neighbor’s needs, they render You no honor. Forgive our fruitlessness, we beg You! Turn us to Jesus, Your Son, that beneath His**

**cross and in the light of His empty tomb we may live by faith and abound in good works. Amen.**

*Pastor: Fear not, dear friends! God delights in You. The face He turns to You is radiant with love. Jesus' death in Your place has secured God's favor for you, now and forever. As a called and ordained minister of this gospel, and by the authority the risen Lord bestowed on His Church, I, therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**People: Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

*Pastor: Let us pray:*

**People: With grateful hearts we sing Your praises, holy Lamb of God. You offered Yourself as the perfect sacrifice for all sin. By Your word of life, fertilize our faith so that it grows daily and reveals itself in helpfulness toward others and humility before God. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN:** "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (Lutheran Service Book, #528, verses 1, 6, and 7)

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace!

See all your sins on Jesus laid;  
The Lamb of God was slain.  
His soul was once an off'ring made  
For ev'ry soul of man.

To God all glory, praise, and love  
Be now and ever giv'n  
By saints below and saints above,  
The Church in earth and heav'n.

*Text: Public domain*

**THE OLD TESTAMENT READING:** *Isaiah 5:1–7*

Let me sing for my beloved  
my love song concerning His vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard

on a very fertile hill.  
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;  
and He looked for it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.  
And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,  
judge between Me and My vineyard.  
What more was there to do for My vineyard,  
that I have not done in it?  
When I looked for it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?  
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.  
I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and briers and thorns shall grow up;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.  
For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
are His pleasant planting;  
and He looked for justice,  
but behold, bloodshed;  
for righteousness,  
but behold, an outcry!

**RESPONSORY:** Psalm 80:14-15a, 18

*Lector: Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that Your right hand planted.*

**People: Then we shall not turn back from You; give us life, and we will call upon  
Your name!**

**EPISTLE READING:** *Philippians 3:4b–14*

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

*Lector: This is the word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Lector: Please rise, as you are able.*

*Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter:*

**People: Glory to You, O Lord!**

**GOSPEL READING:** *Matthew 21:33–46*

[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard

comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

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 marvelous in our eyes'?"

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest Him, they feared the crowds, because they held Him to be a prophet.

*Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.*

**People: Praise to You, O Christ!**

*Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the Apostles' Creed*

### **CONFESSIO OF FAITH:** The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

The Children's Message will return to its regularly scheduled place when we are able to increase the length of the worship service. Until then, it is available online at

[www.flcms.org/index.php/media/sermons](http://www.flcms.org/index.php/media/sermons).

**HYMN:** “Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing” (LSB, #691) sung to the tune: Hyfrydol)

Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s sowing,  
May we ripen and increase,  
Fruit to life eternal growing,  
Rich in love and joy and peace.  
Laden branches freely bearing  
Gifts the Giver loves to bless;  
Here is fruit that grows by sharing,  
Patience, kindness, gentleness.

Rooted deep in Christ our Master,  
Christ our pattern and our goal,  
Teach us, as the years fly faster,  
Goodness, faith, and self-control.  
Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s tending,  
May we grow till harvests cease;  
Till we taste, in life unending,  
Heaven’s love and joy and peace.

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**SERMON:** “To the Letter” (Isaiah 5:1-7)

**OFFERTORY:**

While the Coronavirus may have changed the way we come through the front doors of church, thanks be to God it has not prevented us from coming to Church! Please consider, as you are able, returning thanks and giving today at [www.flcms.org/index.php/give](http://www.flcms.org/index.php/give).

**OFFERTORY HYMN:** “Christ, the Word of God Incarnate” (LSB, #540, verse 3)

Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant  
From the stump of Jesse’s tree;  
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches  
To bear fruit abundantly.  
Graft us into You, O Savior;  
Prune our hearts so we remain  
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard  
Till eternal life we gain.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

### THE 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.

### BENEDICTION: 2 Corinthians 13:14

*Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

**People: Amen.**

### CLOSING HYMN: "Christ Is Our Cornerstone" (LSB, #912)

Christ is our cornerstone,  
On Him alone we build;  
With His true saints alone  
The courts of heav'n are filled.  
On His great love  
Our hopes we place  
Of present grace  
And joys above.

Here may we gain from heav'n  
The grace which we implore,  
And may that grace, once giv'n,  
Be with us evermore  
Until that day  
When all the blest  
To endless rest  
Are called away.

Oh, then, with hymns of praise  
These hallowed courts shall ring;  
Our voices we will raise  
The Three in One to sing

And thus proclaim  
In joyful song,  
Both loud and long,  
That glorious name.

*Text: Public domain*

**DISMISSAL:**

Please be seated  
and kindly wait for an usher to dismiss your row.

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Go in peace and serve the Lord!

**In Christian Service:**

All disciples of the Lord Jesus  
*with*

Proclaimer – Rev. Bill Crowe  
Liturgist – Rev. Walt Pohland

Lay Readers:

Online Reader - Darrel Meinke

9:30 Reader – Melinda Graf

11:00 Reader – Eric Hillin

Musicians:

Adam Perez and Austin Angerman

Children's Chapel:

DCE Jonathan Loesch, DCE Austin Angerman