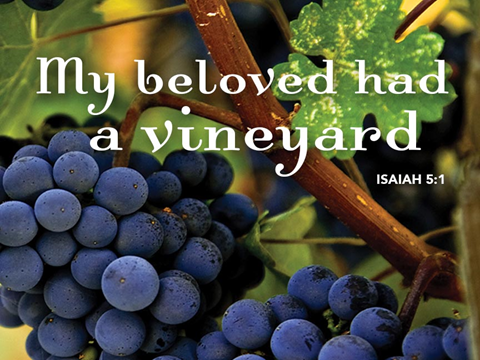
**Grace Lutheran Church**

493 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn IL 630.469.1555

[www.graceglenellyn.org](http://www.graceglenellyn.org)

**18th Sunday after Pentecost October 4, 2020**

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***+ Proclaim Christ + Build Community +***

***+ Serve Our Neighbors +***

**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.*

***For those gathering with a House Church via Zoom:***

***Please mute your mic during the hymns and the sermon video;***

***you may unmute it for the rest of the service.***

***If there is background noise in your context, please leave your mic muted***

***except when you are speaking a response in the liturgy.***

**Gathering**

**The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

**Prelude**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,*

*as the worship leader begins.*

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

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**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.**

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: Our sins are forgiven in the name of **☩** Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, let us live in freedom and newness to do God’s work in the world. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW#796 How Firm a Foundation

sts. 1, 2, 4

C:\Users\Grace Lutheran\Downloads\How Firm a Foundation (Melody).tif

***(You may unmute your mic)***

**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.**

**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.**

**Word**

**God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.**

**First Lesson 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!

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm** *Read responsively by verse* **Psalm 80:7-15**

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

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.

**Second Lesson 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

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

**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 the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

***(Please mute your mic)***

**Sermon**  The Rev. Melody Eastman

***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Apostles’ Creed**

With the whole church, let us 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.

*A brief silence.*

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 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* Marilyn, Sigrid, Chris, Dorothy, Anita, Evelyn, Carol, Norma, Dorothy, and those we name before you now. . . 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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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.**

*(If your House Church is celebrating Communion, refer to that liturgy here.)*

**The Lord’s Prayer** Ecumenical Version

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Sending**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

**Blessing**

Mothering God, Father, **☩** Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW #538 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

**C:\Users\Grace Lutheran\Downloads\The Lord Now Sends Us Forth Enviado soy de Dios (Melody).tif**

***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Sent to the World**

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

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**Current Prayer Requests**

**Name Relation to Grace Prayers For**

Family and Friends of Marty Friend Sister of Pr. Melody Comfort in Grief

Family and Friends of Ramon Jacobo Father of Joe Jacobo Comfort in Grief

Marilyn Goodrich Member Healing & Strength

Chris Danly Son of Mark & Pat Danly Healing & Strength

Sigrid Elliott Friend of Grace Healing & Strength

Dorothy Tracy Member Healing & Strength

**Prayers for our homebound Members**

Anita Blakemore, Evelyn Elson, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen, Dorothy Stein

**Weekly Announcements**

**Fellowship at St. James Farm, Sunday, October 4, 11:30am:**  We are so excited to gather for some social distance fellowship with you this morning at St. James Farm located at 2S541 Winfield Road in Warrenville. This is a fellowship event only and NOT a worship service. We will still be virtually meeting with our House Church groups at 9:30am. Please remember to bring your face mask, and a sack lunch if you would like to. There is some seating available at picnic tables, but bringing a blanket or lawn chair is a good idea too. We look forward to seeing you and having a nice outdoor visit. We hope you will join us!

**Articles and pictures for the November issue of *Grace to You* are due to the church office on Wednesday, October 7.**

The **Oct/Nov/Dec issue of *The Word in Season* and *Christ in Our Home*** are available to pick up in the narthex at Grace. Please let the office know if you need a copies mailed to you.

**Blood Drive, Saturday, October 10, 9:00am-1:00pm:** From Brad Goertzen: Usually we try to have a summer blood drive but for several reasons we have been unable to do so this year. Versiti, formerly Heartland, was very understanding when we had to cancel our July standing appointment.

However, they have contacted us again because they are in need of donations now more than ever. They have assured us that they can safely coordinate a drive where we all are physically distanced and protected with masks. A Q&A handout is available if you have questions about the safety of donations during this pandemic.

Additional good news is that every donation taken will be tested for Covid-19 antibodies. This will confirm whether or not you have been exposed and recovered from virus.

Please consider giving a donation and passing along the request to friends and family. You can sign up today at the following link to donate:

[**https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\_schedule/5580681**](https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5580681)

**House Church Worship via phone or internet every Sunday morning at 9:30am!** We will have 4-5 “House Churches” of worshipping members (each House Church consisting of 6-8 members/families meeting via Zoom or calling in by phone.) Those of us that have experienced House Church have found this to be a very sacred experience. Pastor Melody will join one House Church each week on a rotating basis to celebrate communion. If you are unsure how to sign on, go ahead and register and let us know you need some help; we’ll walk you through it! We would be so blessed to have you join us. And the best part!? Inviting friends to join us is always welcomed!

Register online for a House Church at [graceglenellyn.org](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fgraceglenellyn.org%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0Hfv_r7Lkk0l-PSfwxo5IuvGdumHQ3QCEP7v4ZvaR0WOJKVA5hbrjxKAE&h=AT1soNxFTUJFeYviMArEGKelFeVj5prKjMKXk0UJTSFn5xaDSLNHlHWl9jolaFvljgE6OlBV9vpq3vIE5HfsX4lEUbwYpfdYpMW57h6Tyc58-9jrGuramUJOJJ1Qd_RvJw&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT2EpYQU1esaMoWfP5JtqUBhBqXEjGx5atvDW6kLdBJviMugmDClI27DYHudyuPviP9Hv6sjAHveGxQGTojgtZKHh3Ar39pGN4cSEtsbiD_E96uHBoM53nY40A4mpgsxH7Ee_La5kZ5CLFMRaCbeBMrb7-BmRa8JDzOlS6vBJ2YxwbmuqBlPHi9nylzaWrSwmlhCSx9Ig0m3keY) (on the main page Announcements) or contact Becky Ficarella directly at 847-347-0928 or [bficarella@graceglenellyn.org](mailto:bficarella@graceglenellyn.org).

**Tuesday Evening House Church at 7pm:** Are Sunday mornings at 9:30am not a convenient time for you to worship? Come join Becky Ficarella for an Evening Worship opportunity on Tuesdays at 7pm. Please register on the Grace Website or contact Becky and let her know that you would like to be a part of the Tuesday Evening House Church.

**"Cars Under the Stars" Jazz Concert Fundraiser:** Join the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry for a drive-in concert featuring award-winning jazz musician, Alfonso Ponticelli, in "Cars Under the Stars" on **Friday, Oct. 9 from 7-9pm.** Ponticelli, whose style is self-described as "classic gypsy jazz," has been featured at the legendary Green Mill Jazz Club in Chicago and has performed at opening night of Chicago's Millennium Park. He’ll appear live in the parking lot at Faith Lutheran Church, 41 N. Park Blvd. in Glen Ellyn.

Tickets are required. A suggested donation of at least $50 per car is requested in order to support the capital campaign that will allow us to renovate our new home. This special event is expected to sell out so buy your tickets soon!

[**https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\_s-xclick&hosted\_button\_id=U5C5KQEX5E4ML**](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=U5C5KQEX5E4ML)

**Lutheran Disaster Response for Hurricane Laura and U.S. Wildfires:**Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response which are assessing the immediate needs and initiating a response. While the extent of the damage is not yet known, we will accompany devastated communities from immediate relief through long-term recovery. This is our commitment as a church.  
**What you can do: Pray -**Please pray for people who have been affected by hurricanes and wildfires. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.  
**Give:**Your gifts designated for **“**[Hurricane Response](https://stlukeglenellyn.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ee9d5e8f0f660ac5ab463e199&id=0a5b7bf6e2&e=c669907788)**”** or “U.S. Wildfires Response” will be used entirely (100%) for direct response until it is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes or wildfires.   
**Give Online:**  https://community.elca.org/hurricane-relief or https://community.elca.org/uswildfires   
**Give by Mail:**  *Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response. Write "Hurricane Response" or “U.S. Wildfire Response” on your check's memo line and send to:***Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116**  
**Give by Phone:**Call **800-638-3522** to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

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**Every Member a Minister and Missionary!**

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