

## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 4, 2020

Trinity Free Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND

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### INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### INTROIT: PSALM 118:1, 22-24 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>22</sup> ***The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.***

<sup>23</sup> This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> ***This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.***

### OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your Holy Word. We pray that You will open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness.

As we receive the Holy Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood, grant us faith to believe that He is truly present, and grant us repentant hearts, that we may receive Your gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation with joy and thanksgiving.

Hear us for Christ's sake.

**Amen.**

### #143: "CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION"

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone,  
Chosen of the Lord, and precious,  
Binding all the Church in one;  
Holy Zion's help forever,  
And her confidence alone.
- 2 All that dedicated city,  
Dearly loved of God on high,  
In exultant jubilation  
Pours perpetual melody;  
God the One in Three adoring  
In glad hymns eternally.
- 3 To this temple, where we call Thee,  
Come, O Lord of hosts, today:  
With Thy wonted lovingkindness,  
Hear Thy people as they pray;  
And thy fullest benediction  
Shed within its walls always.
- 4 Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants  
What they ask of Thee to gain,  
What they gain from Thee forever  
With the blessed to retain,  
And hereafter in Thy glory  
Evermore with Thee to reign.

### CONFESSION OF SIN

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9) And so with confidence we bow before the Lord to confess our sins.

***Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ's sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us***

***true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.***

**KYRIE**

***O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us!***

***O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us!***

***O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy upon us!***

**ABSOLUTION**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name, He gives power to become sons of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes, and is baptized, shall be saved. Grant this, LORD, to us all.

***Amen.***

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: ISAIAH 5:1-7 (ESV)**

- 1 Let me sing for my beloved  
my love song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.
- 2 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.
- 3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.
- 4 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?
- 5 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.
- 6 I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and briars and thorns shall grow up;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.
- 7 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!

**EPISTLE LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14 (ESV)**

<sup>4b</sup> If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> 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; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> 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 <sup>9</sup> 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— <sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: NICENE CREED**

***I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible.***

***And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made: Who for us, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.***

***And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.***

**GLORIA PATRI**

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.***

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

Ruby Leach

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERING RESPONSE**

***We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be.  
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust O Lord from Thee. Amen.***

**#579: “O THE DEEP, DEEP LOVE OF JESUS”**

- 1 O the deep, deep love of Jesus—  
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
In its fullness over me,  
Underneath me, all around me,  
Is the current of Thy love—  
Leading onward, leading homeward,  
To my glorious rest above.
  
- 2 O the deep, deep love of Jesus—  
Spread His praise from shore to shore!  
How He loveth, ever loveth,  
Changeth never, nevermore.  
How He watches o’er His loved ones,  
Died to call them all His own;  
How for them He intercedeth,  
Watcheth o’er them from the throne!
  
- 3 O the deep, deep love of Jesus—  
Love of ev’ry love the best!  
’Tis an ocean vast of blessing,  
’Tis a haven sweet of rest.  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus—  
’Tis a heav’n of heav’ns to me;  
And it lifts me up to glory,  
For it lifts me up to Thee.

**GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 21:33-46 (ESV)**

<sup>33</sup> “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. <sup>34</sup> When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. <sup>35</sup> And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup> Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them.

<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 have his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup> And they

took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. <sup>40</sup> When therefore 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 let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

<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 marvelous 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 producing its fruits. <sup>44</sup> And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

<sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup> And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

**SERMON: "THE ABSURD PARABLE"**

**#292: "THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION" (STANZAS 1-2)**

- 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.

**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)**

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

***Amen.***