



October 4th, 2020

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Resurrection Lutheran Church exists to proclaim Jesus Christ as Saviour, in an open accepting fellowship, a loving caring community that reaches out to all people to serve Christ through worshipping, teaching, learning, sharing and giving of ourselves to meet the needs of this congregation, the community and the world, as the Holy Spirit moves us.”

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophet's 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.

GATHERING

Announcements

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn* The Church's One Foundation ELW 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.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

Confession and Forgiveness (ELW p211)

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

L: Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we

may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Greeting

Prayer of the Day (ELW p215)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

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

Children's Chat

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

The song of the vineyard.

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 briars 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!

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

Psalm 80:7-15 (We will read this responsively)

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 Reading

Phillippians 3:4b-14

Nothing surpasses knowing Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If 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.

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

Gospel Acclamation (ELW Service of the Word p216)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Mathew 21:33-46

The parable of the vineyard owner's son.

Gospel Response

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.**

Sermon

Prayers of the People

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

We pray the sick and all who grieve. We pray for comfort for those who mourn: Flora Tabien and her family, Bob and Eunice Huber, and the family of Pastor Gene Grant. We pray for healing for Grace Janke, Dominique's mother Marie, Gloria Powell-Smith, Judy Pannell, Ruth Hilderman, Esther Cherland's sister, pastor Ron Bjorgan, and Kristi Witt. 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. Keep us safe as we resume with in-person worship, and grant us your wisdom. 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.

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

Offering

Offertory

Offertory Prayer

Merciful father,

We offer with joy and thanksgiving, what you have first given us. Our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself to us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen!

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (ELW p. 220)

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (ELW p221)

**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

Blessing

Sending Song On Our Way Rejoicing ELW 537

1 On our way rejoicing gladly let us go. Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe. Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy; who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?

Refrain

On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

2 Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing; unto God the Savior

thankful hearts we bring; unto God the Spirit bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing now and evermore. **Refrain**

Dismissal Go in peace. Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Special thanks to our musician Bonnie Semenoff, our Worship Assistant Brian Hogan, our Readers Bob Berikoff, Brady Witt, David Kirton for technical support, and Dorlan Oxelgren and Garry Booth for Zoom support.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR OCTOBER 11th

Isaiah 25:1-9, Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

PRAYER LIST

Flora Tabien as she mourn the passing of her brother Edson, Grace Janke who is in hospital, Bob and Eunice Huber as they mourn the passing of Bob's sister Donna Joyce Lindsay, Dominique's mother Marie who is recovering from surgery, Gloria Powell-Smith for healing after hip replacement surgery, Ruth Hilderman (Esther Cherland's sister), Judy Pannell, the family of Pastor Gene Grant and Pastor Richard Engel who is starting at LuMinHos as Chaplain.

To add or remove names from the list, please contact the church office or call Pastor Ali.

Givings:

2020 Monthly Budget: **\$15,125**

September envelope givings in total: **\$12,890.00**

Estimated PAR on October 20th: **\$8,131.25**

Chequing Account Balance: **minus \$16,773.67**

Thank you for your generous givings especially during this extraordinary time!

Reopening In-Person Service Plans

The reopening committee is well into planning for a potential reopening date of Oct. 4, 2020 for Resurrection's in-person services.

There will be many changes to what in-person services will look like in order to maintain safety and follow guidelines for worship set out by the Synod.

As with all activities during this pandemic, each member/family must decide whether or not attending in-person services is the right choice for them at any given time.

We are striving to provide you with all of the information you need in order to make informed decisions. In this regard, please see and review the communications sent out on September 9, 2020 regarding updated Synod guidelines and the presentation from Pastor Ali. There will be opportunities later in September after our live zoom services for Question and Answer periods for those who want to discuss details further. Questions/concerns can also be directed to Pastor Ali and/or Angela England directly.

Thanks to the Reopening committee for their hard work and time: Bob Berikoff, Betty Harper, Elaine Leite, Bonnie Semenoff, Shelley Witt, Brian Unverricht, Kara Zapf, and Angela England, with support from Ryan Baker and guidance from Pastor Ali. If you would like to help with reopening please contact Ryan Baker, Pastor Ali, or Angela England.

To register you and your family for the in person worship services, please use the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COD4EADA72AA4FEC52-sunday> or call the church office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. In order for everyone to have an opportunity to participate in in-person worship, we are asking that you only **register for one of the two services in October, either October 4 or October 18.** We are accepting registrations for either **November 1 or November 15.**

The schedule for our city-wide joint on-line services for 2020/2021 is as follows:

October 11 – Zion

November 8 – Redeemer

December 13 – Augustana

January 10 – King of Glory

February 14 – Good Shepherd

March 14 – Trinity

Are you experiencing pandemic fatigue? Are you feeling exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the pandemic? Are you or someone you know struggling with challenges like: isolation and loneliness, anxiety over health, grief due to many different kinds of losses, tension from juggling work, childcare, and

schooling, financial strain or job loss, uncertainty about the future, other unexpected life challenges? If so, you don't have to face it alone. Our Stephen Minsters are ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional spiritual support. A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately – by phone, by video chat, or, if safely possible, in person – to offer care and support. It's free and completely confidential. For information, call Adri Booth at 306-221-2490 or Sharon Babcock at 306-291-0084.

The office will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 am until 4 pm. If you need to come in to the church or are dropping something off, please call Ryan first at 306-242-4042.

At the present time, we cannot accept any donation for the Food Bank. We will inform you when donations can be accepted again.

Please follow along with **Pastor Ali's blog** on the response to the COVID-19 Pandemic at <https://covid19pastoralresponse.ca/>

We are working on updating the directory. If you can, please send in a new picture. If you have recently moved or changed your phone number, please send that new information as well. We would like to include email addresses this time. If you don't want to have yours in the directory, please let Ryan know. The directory will only be made available to our congregation members and will not be published anywhere.

The ***Eternity for Today*** devotional for October/November/December has arrived. If you would like one, please call Ryan and arrangements can be made for you to pick one up. They are also available on the ELCIC website at <https://elcic.ca/EternityforToday.cfm>

Caring for your Congregation during Social Distancing

One of the best things you can do during this time of difficulty and uncertainty, is to call fellow members within your congregation to see how they are coping during these times and offer support in whatever way we can. Many will be isolated and alone.

Here are a few tips to help make that call a truly Christian caring call and things you will need to know:

1. You will need to be well equipped to provide caring over the telephone (or other media) ...*active listening * validating feelings *being as fully present as possible over the phone.
 2. Offer prayer – pray with and for the person being called. People vary in terms of how comfortable they are praying over the phone, but most often the prayer support will be greatly appreciated. Build the prayer to what the person is specifically going through and what kinds of supports are most needed.
 3. If part of your call is to gather information for the church office, inform the person you are calling and get permission to pass along any sensitive or difficult information from your conversation or prayer request. Otherwise, anything you share during your conversation should be kept confidential.
 4. Know the resources your congregation has available for help if requested i.e. food ministry, clothing programs, financial assistance programs, etc. Whatever the needs are, follow up on them while keeping your pastor informed.
 5. Throughout this process, provide care for yourself, the pastor, church staff and other congregation caregivers. Check In with each other regularly, lift one another up, and provide mutual care and support.
- It's amazing what we can do by listening to people and being present for their pain, let God do everything else!**