



The Stories
**Jesus
Tells**

16th Sunday
after
Pentecost

September 20, 2020

*Please continue to care for yourself and your neighbor
by wearing your mask and maintaining safe social distancing
during worship.*

Confession

P: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

*P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us gather with true hearts that
confess our sins to God, that earnestly ask for forgiveness and that
trust in our renewal through the work of our Savior Jesus the
Christ.*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth. [Psalm 124:8]

P: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin. [Psalm 32:5]

A: Almighty God, merciful Father:

**C: I confess to you all my sins with which I have offended
you and my neighbors. I am sorry for them. I devote
myself to repentance and pray for your mercy. In your
boundless grace and compassion send me your Holy Spirit
that I may be strengthened in my faith and made ready for a
life obedient to your will and your way.**

*P: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of steadfast
love. [Exodus 34:6] Therefore, in obedience to the command of our
Lord Jesus Christ, I declare the entire forgiveness of all your sin in
the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

C: Amen.

Prelude

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Psalm of Praise

*P: O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.*

**C: The Lord has made known his salvation;
has revealed God's righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

God remembers his steadfast love and faithfulness . . .

**All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

*Sing praises to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of melody.*

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

*Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.*

**Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord,**

for he is coming to redeem the earth.

**God will rule the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.**

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

**C: Gracious God, what is planted bears fruit and we are
nourished and sustained by it. Make your word planted
in our hearts bear fruit within us that we and all who**

seek goodness, wisdom and compassion will find it
nurtured and sustained in our words and actions.
Through the vine to whom we have been grafted in grace,
Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Entrance Hymn

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Lord of light, whose Name outshineth
All the stars and suns of space,
Deign to make us Thy coworkers
In the kingdom of Thy grace;
Use us to fulfill Thy purpose
In the gift of Christ Thy Son.

Refrain

Father, as in highest heaven
So on earth Thy will be done.

By the toil of lowly workers
In some far outlying field;
By the courage where the radiance
Of the cross is still revealed;
By the victories of meekness,
Through reproach and suffering won.

Refrain

Grant that knowledge, still increasing,
At Thy feet may lowly kneel;
With Thy grace our triumphs hallow,
With Thy charity our zeal;
Lift the nations from the shadows
To the gladness of the sun.

Refrain

By the prayers of faithful watchmen,
Never silent day or night;
By the cross of Jesus bringing
Peace to men, and healing light;
By the love that passeth knowledge,
Making all Thy children one.

Refrain

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;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people 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 expected 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 it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
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 people of Judah
are his pleasant planting; he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

*Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

**You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.**

*You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.*

**The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches;**

*it sent out its branches to the sea,
and its shoots to the River.*

**Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**

*The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.*

**Turn again, O God of hosts;
look down from heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine,
the stock that your right hand planted.**

Gospel Acclamation

P: Listen now for the Gospel;

All: Alleluia!

It is God's word that changes us;

Alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit,

**melt and break our hearts of stone
until we give our lives to God and God alone.**

Come, Holy Spirit,

**root in us God's living word,
that we may show the faithfulness of Christ our Lord.**

Come, Holy Spirit,

**bind the broken, find the lost,
confirm in us the fire and love of Pentecost.**

Listen now for the Gospel;

Alleluia!

It is God's word that changes us;

Alleluia!

Zimbabwean liturgical acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel _____ Matthew 21: 33-46

While Jesus was still in the Temple speaking with the Pharisees, the Chief Priests and the Elders of the people he told them another parable.

There was a Householder who planted a vineyard, and he built a fence around it and he dug a wine press in it and built a fortified watchtower over it. Then he gave the vineyard over to vintners and traveled abroad. But, when the critical time of the harvest came near he sent his slaves out with the vintners to collect his fruit. However, the vintners collected his slaves instead! They beat one. They killed one. And they stoned one.

So, the Householder sent other slaves, more than he did first time but, the vintners did the same things to them, too.

Later the Householder sent his son to them saying, 'They will be humbled before my son.'

But when the vintners saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir! Brilliant! If we kill him, we may take his inheritance.'

And the vintners collected the son and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

Having finished the parable Jesus then asked the Pharisees, the Chief Priests and the Elders of the People, "When the Lord of the vineyard comes what will he do to those vintners?"

They said to him, "He will destroy those evil vintners and give the vineyard over to other vintners who will hand over the grapes when the critical time of the harvest comes."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

*The stone rejected by those building,
this one has been put in as the keystone;
this comes from the Lord, and it is amazing in our eyes'?*

[Ps 118:22]

Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and will be given to a people producing the fruits of it.

And hearing his parable, the chief priests and the Pharisees realized he was speaking about them. They schemed to gain control of him, but were afraid of what the crowds might do if they did. For, the crowds

thought Jesus was a prophet.

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

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*For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.*

**For his gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.**

*For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.*

*In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.*

**In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.**

*In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.*

*For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.*

**For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.**

*For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.*

APOSTLES' Creed

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**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.

Offering is Presented

Offeratory Prayer

P: Let us Pray

C: In thanks for all the blessing of life, for work and rest, for food and shelter, for love and laughter, for beauty and harmony, we return these offerings to You, O God. We pray that our thanks is pleasing in Your sight, that what we offer is used again for sustenance and growth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Prayers

The LORD'S Prayer

Benediction

Dismissal

Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Dir. of Music*

Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Vinnie Tipa, *Sexton*

Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*