

Sunday, October 8, 2017
18th Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable of the vineyard, 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, that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

PRELUDE

"Prelude in C Minor"

J.S. Bach

*GATHERING SONG

"Listen, God Is Calling"

ELW 513

Refrain

L Listen,

C listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

L Listen,

C listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

L Jesus gave his mandate:

C share the good news

L that he came to save us

C and set us free. *Refrain*

L Let none be forgotten

C throughout the world.

L In the triune name of God

C go and baptize. *Refrain*

L Help us to be faithful,

C standing steadfast,

L walking in your precepts,

C led by your Word. *Refrain*

*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.

“God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”

God's word is our great heritage
and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age
shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while time shall last
your church may hold it fast
throughout all generations.

*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!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“How I Love Your Word”

Mark Hayes

Karen Jensen, soprano

FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reflection

What is the Word of God in this text? What does the Word of God accomplish? Is this Word a one-time event? Or does it continue today?

SECOND READING

Psalms 119:105-112

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
¹⁰⁶I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.
¹⁰⁷I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O LORD, according to your word.
¹⁰⁸Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD,
and teach me your ordinances.
¹⁰⁹I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.
¹¹⁰The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.
¹¹¹Your decrees are my heritage forever;

they are the joy of my heart.
¹¹²I incline my heart to perform your statutes
forever, to the end.

Reflection

What is the Word of God in this text? What does the Word of God accomplish? Is this Word a one-time event? Or does it continue today? How many words for the Word of God can you find in this text? How does this Word of God work in your life? How does it work in our life together?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*sing twice*)

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.**

***GOSPEL**

John 1:1-5

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Reflection

What is the Word of God in this text? What does the Word of God accomplish? Is this Word a one-time event? Does it continue today? How does this Word of God create your life? How does it create our life together?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Misty Coyle

LUTHER MOMENT

Phil Hornbostel

SERMON

"The Word"

Rev. Roger Lenander

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 511

"Thy Strong Word" vv. 1, 3, 5

**Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
at thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank thee,
while thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia without end!**

**Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
bright with thine own holiness,
glorious now, we press toward glory,
and our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise to thee who light dost send!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia without end!**

**Give us lips to sing thy glory,
tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
throats that shout the hope that fills us,
mouths to speak thy holy name.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**May the light which thou dost send
fill our songs with alleluias,
alleluias without end!**

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**☩ 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!**

***PRAYER SONG**

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

**Hear our prayer, O Lord,
Hear our Prayer, O Lord;
Incline Thine ear to us,
And grant us Thy peace.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Restore what is broken in your church, loving God. Heal divisions among Christian communities, give courage to leaders facing hardship, and open our ears to the prophets' cries among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore what is broken in creation, gracious God. Revive farmlands and vineyards, protect waters needed by all living things, and move us to care for this earthly home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore what is broken in our world, mighty God. Quell the rush to violence between peoples and nations. Break down dividing walls and promote growth for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore our broken bodies, O God. We pray for those suffering any loss: the grieving, those who have lost homes or property, the imprisoned, those neglected or abandoned, and the sick especially Kay, Ron, Elaine, Dee, Lin, Robert, and Linda. We also pray for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (*pause for 10 seconds*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore our faith in you, saving God. We pray for Bible study and small group leaders, Sunday school teachers, musicians, devotion writers, and for all whose work nurtures our faith especially Pastor Philip and the South Sudanese Congregation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all the men and women of our armed forces, at home and abroad. We especially lift up to you, Jason Shields. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember the saints whose devotion proclaimed your saving help. As you have root us firmly in your everlasting love help us to spread that love to our neighbors in Las Vegas. Help those who have lost loved ones and heal those whose wounds only your love and strength can heal. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

- P** *The peace of Christ be with you always.*
- C** **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

ELW 512

“Lord, let My Heart Be Good Soil”

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

ELW 167

“Now the Feast and Celebration”

Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!

***OFFERING PRAYER**

- P** *God of life,*
- C** **you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen!**

***DIALOGUE**

- P** *The Lord be with you.*
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** *Lift up your hearts.*
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE**

- P** *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all*

the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full,
are full of your glory.
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Hosanna in the highest.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

G **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!

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P *Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.*

***BLESSING**

P *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

G **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P *Life-giving God,*

G **in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

P *God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.*

G **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG**

"What A Mighty Word God Gives"

**What a mighty Word God gives!
What a mighty Word God gives!
When he speaks, our faith is fed.
Give us, Lord, our daily bread.
What a mighty Word God gives!**

**What a mighty Word God gives!
What a mighty Word God gives!
God sent us the only Son,
who for us the victory's won.
What a mighty Word God gives!**

***DISMISSAL**

☞ *Go in peace. Sound the good news.*

☞ **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“Postlude in F”

Eric Thiman