

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lectionary 27 A

October 4, 2020 † Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Focus on the Season: The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 27 A

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, however, we realize in the Resurrection that instead of judgment, God's love is poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Not earned by our adherence to the law (which we hear in the Exodus reading today), Paul reminds us, but purely by the grace and love of God in Christ.

Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship today. The links are embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the links in the email.



Centering and Gathering

Light your candle. [Start the video by clicking here](#); it will continue through the Postlude.

PRELUDE: "Teach Me, O Lord" Thomas Attwood
Sung by the Mount Olive Cantorei on the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, Lect. 6 A, February 12, 2017.

ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW 654, "The Church's One Foundation"
Sung at Mount Olive on the Feast of the Confession of St. Peter, January 18, 2015.

Word

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Apostolic greeting is on the video)*

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

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; reader – Brian Jacobs, lector

Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

¹⁸When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, ¹⁹and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." ²⁰Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

PSALM: Psalm 19 *Sing along with the leaders in the video; the tone is there.*

Recorded on Wednesday, September 30, 2020, by friends of Mount Olive, Steven Branstad and Timothy Schmidt.

¹The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God, * and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

²One day tells its tale | to another, * and one night imparts knowledge | to another.

³Although they have no | words or language, * and their voices | are not heard,

⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends | of the world, * where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber; * it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of | it again; * nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul; * the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to | the simple.

⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart; * the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever; * the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold, * sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.

¹¹By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened, * and in keeping them there is | great reward.

¹²Who can detect one's | own offenses? * Cleanse me from my | secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion | over me; * then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight, * O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14; reader – David Anderson, assisting minister

Paul writes: ⁴If 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 174, "Celtic Alleluia"

Sung before and after the Gospel reading.

Sung at Mount Olive on the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 18 B, August 5, 2018.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

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. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They 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."

⁴² 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 amazing in our eyes?' ⁴³ Therefore 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. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

SERMON

Stumbling

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Silence for reflection

HYMN: ELW 757 "All My Hope on God Is Founded"

Sung at Mount Olive on the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 14 A, July 9, 2017.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Our Assisting Minister for today, David Anderson, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this morning. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. (Our weekly prayer list is on the last page.) Response: **Hear our prayer.***

PEACE *Please greet one another with Christ's peace.*

OFFERING

There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. The Olive Branch has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:

<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

Sending

LORD'S PRAYER *Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

BLESSING *Response: **Amen***

HYMN: ELW 826, "Thine the Amen"

Sung at Mount Olive on the Sixth Sunday of Easter, year C, May 26, 2019.

DISMISSAL *The assisting minister leads the dismissal.*

☒ Go in peace to love and serve as Christ.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: Improvisation

Recorded on Thursday, October 1, 2020, Cantor David Cherwien, organist.



In Our Prayers

- *Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Elizabeth Beissel, Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Victor Gebauer; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Kandi Jo Nelson; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; John Wall, Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Jodi Royce, daughter of Julia Adams and daughter-in-law of Evelyn Royce; Kjell Thompson, Reba Zumberge, relatives of Nancy Anderson; Tommie and Susie Hunter, Danna Nelson, Jacques, friends of Jim Bargmann; Tom McCarr, friend of Keith Bartz; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Randy Caverly and Nancy Stelling, nephew and friend of Marcia & Dan Burow; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Klarrisa Ramirez, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; Logan Bushaw, friend of Allen & Lora Dundek; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Susan Bary, friend of Judy Graves; Dolores & David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr., parents and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Lynn Kernkamp, friend of Peggy Hoeft; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Craig Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Donald Johnson, father of Nicholas Johnson; Nicole Sanders and Ann Clark, daughter and friend of Mary Rose Kaliher; Danielle Pitzen, friend of Ellen Kormanik; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linqvist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Janet Freeburg, friend of Lisa Nordeen; Michael Waechter, friend of Rod & Connie Olson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Jay Heffern, friend of Gary Pagel; Todd Erickson, friend of Jean & Doug Parish; Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbeshier Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; Leila Jeffers, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; Scott Kingman, father of Anna Scott; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; Norlene Bateman, aunt of Ted Thompson; Jennifer Kobylinski, cousin of Kathy Thurston; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Andrew Weichman, Levi Boswell, son and nephew of Grace Wiechman; BJ Wilkes, Joshua Wilkes, LaTrell Wilkes and Julius Underwood, and Lonnell Wilkes, son, nephews, grandson and brother of James Wilkes; Sandra Dycus, Becky Groska, Diane Ristrom, Cathy Reid, Karen Swanson, Patrick Clark, Annie Hose-Ryan, Marcia Van Gorden, friends of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Anne-Marie Lundberg, cousin of Eric Zander; Jeff Sartain, husband of former Mount Olive Cantor, Mark Sedio; Judy Bonnes, Jan Harper (spouse of former Mount Olive vicar, the late Jean Hay); Tommie & Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.*
- **At the death of:** Dan Adams; Marge Pearson, mother of Greg Pearson.
- **For those celebrating their baptism anniversaries this week:** Genevra Beilke, Karla Hanson, Jerry Ostlund, Adam Ruff, Jessinia Ruff, and Gary Wilson.
- **Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world** who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.

- **Our continual prayers are offered for peace:** We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: Solveig & Philip, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and Tyson Crosby, relative of the Crosby family.

- **We remember the saints who have gone before us:**

October 4: *St. Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226* – Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

October 4: *Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864* – Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.

October 6: *William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536* – Tyndale was ordained a priest in England, and wished to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.

October 7: *Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787* – Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.

Blessing of Animals Drive-Through

Today, October 4, 3-4 p.m.

All are invited to drive through the south parking lot with any animals they wish to have blessed. People will remain in their cars, unless it's necessary to access the animal that way. Enter the lot through the alley from 10th St., please, not the main streets.

Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting

The October semi-annual Congregation Meeting for 2020 will be held virtually during the morning of Sunday, October 25. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Mount Olive's 2021 budget. Additional information, including specific agenda, budget materials, and instructions for accessing the meeting online will be sent out closer to the time of the meeting. Please plan to attend to hear and join in the discussion.