The 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 4th, 2026

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



LIVING FAITH LUTHERAN

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Council Secretary: Kay Michaelson 712-540-5368

Pastor Paige Quanbeck: pastor@livingfaithlemars.com

712-541-3782 | www.livingfaithlemars.com

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who pours love into our hearts, and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hear this good news:
…Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN **ELW 803**
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

GREETING

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

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**.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

1 I will 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;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people 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 expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten 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 wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
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 people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

Word of God. Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:7-15
7 Restore 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.
9 You 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.
11 You 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?
13 The 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;
15 behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.
Amen.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14
[Paul writes:] 4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised 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; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More 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 9 and 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. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the
sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the
dead.
12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for
which Christ has laid hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one
thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on
toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God. Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **ELW p. 142**

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46
The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders, revealing that their plans to kill him will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **ELW 651, v. 1-5**
Oh, Praise the Gracious Power

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 Pontious 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING **ELW 466**
In the Singing

OFFERING PRAYER
Let us pray.
God of creation, you send rain, and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY **ELW p. 144**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE
…For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

…And let the church say, "Amen." **Amen!** [2x]

…all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS **ELW 835 & 482**

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Let us pray. **Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN **ELW 595**
Jesus Loves Me!

SENDING
Go in peace. Embody God's love.
Thanks be to God.

Thank you, worship leaders!

Greeter/Usher: Tim Kass
Accompanist: Gail Kass
Reader: Karen Schroeder
Communion Assistant: Bailey Quanbeck
Altar Guild: Kay Michaelson
Livestream: Jenni Mack
Audio/Visual: Tim Kass & Kay Michaelson

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