

*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes You!*



By Grace you have been saved!

*"We have decided to follow Jesus and
There's no turning back!"*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 8, 2023

Pastor Jim Helgren

Prelude & Announcements

Opening Hymn "O Zion, Haste" LBW # 397

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The Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46 See Insert

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Children's Message

People's City Mission Presentation Earl Richardson

Hymn of the Day "Take My Life, that I May Be" LBW # 406

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The Offering

Offertory "Ask the Complicated Questions" See Back page

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Benediction and Dismissal Page 97

Closing Hymn "I Love to Tell the Story" LBW # 390

Postlude

We pray always for . . .

Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Eric Fass, Gayleen Eden,

Haleigh Werner & Will Yank

We also remember in our prayers . . .

*Anna, Vanessa, Meshack & Evance, orphans we are sponsoring
in Tanzania.*

Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary's box in the south office. You may email the church office grace68329@gmail.com

You may contact Pastor Helgren by calling 402-864-4201 (church) 402-864-2113 (home) or 402-826-0613(cell)

Today 10/8/23 MISSION FESTIVAL

Breakfast – 9:00 a.m.

Luther League Meeting – 9:30 a.m.

Joint Worship – 10:00 a.m.

No Sunday School

Monday 10/9/23

Bible Study – 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday 10/11/23

Kids for Christ – 4:00 p.m.

Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

Next Sunday 10/15/23

Worship with Communion – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

**Thank you, Earl Richardson, for your
presentation today for People's City
Mission**

*Senior members if you wish to share a meal
with our Kids for Christ on Wednesday,
October 11th, please call the church
@ 402-864-4201, by tomorrow noon.*



Today's Readings

Sunday, October 8, 2023

19th Sunday after Pentecost

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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

Let 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.

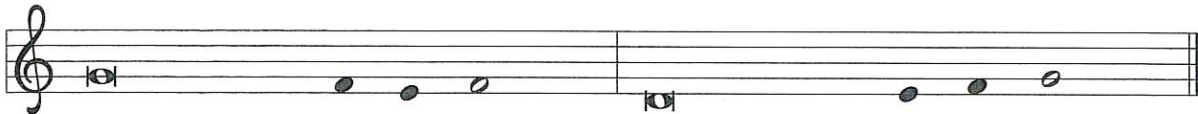
⁶I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briers
and thorns;

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!

Psalm

Psalm 80:7-15; tone 6



Restore us, O ¹ God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us,
and we ¹ shall be saved.

⁸**You have brought a vine**
¹ out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations
and ¹ planted it.

⁹You cleared the ¹ ground for it;
it took root and ¹ filled the land.

¹⁰**The mountains were covered**
¹ by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees
¹ by its boughs.

¹¹You stretched out its tendrils ¹ to the sea
and its branches ¹ to the river.

¹²**Why have you broken ¹ down its wall,**
so that all who pass by
pluck ¹ off its grapes?

¹³The wild boar of the forest
has ¹ ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field
have ¹ grazed upon it.

¹⁴**Turn now, O ¹ God of hosts,**
look ¹ down from heaven;

¹⁵behold and ¹ tend this vine;
preserve what your right ¹ hand
has planted.

[Paul writes:] 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.

Gospel

Matthew 21:33-46

[Jesus said to the people:] “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?’

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. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

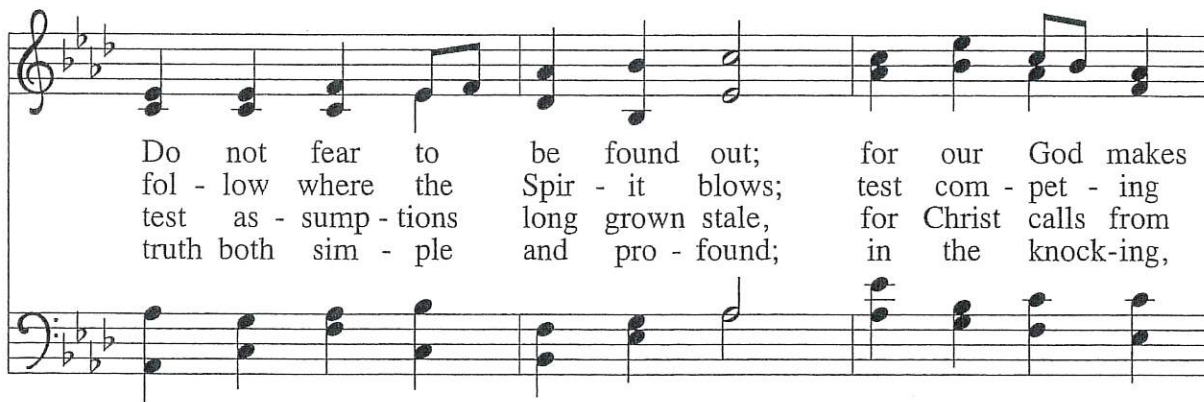
⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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Ask the Complicated Questions [H]



1 Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions.
 2 Seek the dis - con - cert - ing an - swers,
 3 Knock on doors of new i - de - as,
 4 For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er



Do not fear to be found out; for our God makes
 fol - low where the Spir - it blows; test com - pet - ing
 test as - sump - tions long grown stale, for Christ calls from
 truth both sim - ple and pro - found; in the knock - ing,



strong our weak - ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
 truths for wis - dom, for in ten - sion new life grows.
 shores of won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.
 ask - ing, seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.