

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*



19<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
after  
Pentecost

*By Grace you have been saved!  
"We have decided to follow Jesus and  
There's no turning back!"*

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 8, 2023

Pastor Jim Helgren

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Prelude & Announcements

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People's City Mission Presentation      Earl Richardson

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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](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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.  
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?

<sup>5</sup>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.  
<sup>6</sup>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.  
  
<sup>7</sup>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!

## Psalm

Psalm 80:7-15; tone 6



Restore us, O <sup>1</sup>God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us,  
and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.  
<sup>8</sup>You have brought a vine  
<sup>1</sup> out of Egypt;  
you cast out the nations  
and <sup>1</sup> planted it.  
<sup>9</sup>You cleared the <sup>1</sup> ground for it;  
it took root and <sup>1</sup> filled the land.  
<sup>10</sup>The mountains were covered  
<sup>1</sup> by its shadow  
and the towering cedar trees  
<sup>1</sup> by its boughs.

<sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils <sup>1</sup> to the sea  
and its branches <sup>1</sup> to the river.  
<sup>12</sup>Why have you broken <sup>1</sup> down its wall,  
so that all who pass by  
pluck <sup>1</sup> off its grapes?  
<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest  
has <sup>1</sup> ravaged it,  
and the beasts of the field  
have <sup>1</sup> grazed upon it.  
<sup>14</sup>Turn now, O <sup>1</sup> God of hosts,  
look <sup>1</sup> down from heaven;  
<sup>15</sup>behold and <sup>1</sup> tend this vine;  
preserve what your right <sup>1</sup> hand  
has planted.

[Paul writes:] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>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; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>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 <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not 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. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, 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, <sup>14</sup>I 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. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ <sup>41</sup>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.’

<sup>42</sup>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?’

<sup>43</sup>“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. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them.

<sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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Ask the Complicated Questions <sup>TH</sup>

1 Ask the comp - 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 Spirit 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.