



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.

WELCOME MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND VISITORS.

“Individuals need to follow healthy hygiene practices, stay at home when sick, practice physical distancing to lower the risk of disease spread, and use a cloth face covering... in community settings when physical distancing cannot be maintained. These universal precautions are appropriate regardless of the extent of mitigation needed.” [The Center for Disease Control]

Therefore out of love for one another as part of the Body of Christ, we will all wear masks, stay six feet away from other households, sanitize our hands, refrain from singing, and speak together very quietly only for the Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed. The louder we speak, the more potential viral spread there would be, even from behind masks.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

18th Sunday after Pentecost – October 4th, 2020

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemchurch.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDES

Now Thank We All Our God
Phil Kriner, Handbell & Beverly Kriner, Piano

The bell rings calling us to worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands and faces the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,

And turn us again to life in you

Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 5:1-7

The assembly is seated.

¹Let 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 briars 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!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

The assembly stands for the gospel.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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. 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’?
⁴³Therefore 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor David Rowe

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

645

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever
and our confidence alone.
- 2 To this temple, where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your lovingkindness,
hear your people as they pray;
and your fullest benediction
shed within these walls today.
- 3 Here bestow on all your servants
what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever
with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.
- 4 Praise and honor to the Father,
praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory
while unending ages run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

APOSTLES CREED

Spoken together quietly enough not to wake a baby, in order to share as little airborne

virus as possible from community speaking. We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.

**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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood.

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

Holy God, you call us to work for peace and justice in your vineyard. Refresh the church with your life, that we may bear fruit through work and service. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, you have called your church into being. We give you thanks for brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world, but especially for the other congregations in this community, as together we prepare to walk to raise awareness and money to alleviate hunger. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Thank you for the abundant harvest of the earth. Bless and care for those whose hands bring the fruits of the earth to the tables of all who hunger. Give strength to firefighters who battle wildfires, and comfort to those who have grieve the loss of lives or homes. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Curb the impulses of greed and pride that lead us to take advantage of others. Grant that world leaders may seek the fruits of the kingdom for the good and welfare of all people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sustain all who suffer with the promise of new life. Assured of your presence, give insight to researchers seeking a Covid vaccine, and strength to those who care for people with the coronavirus. We call to mind those who are struggling today, especially those who are sick, as we raise them in prayer before you.... Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for businesses in our community and for all who seek employment during this difficult time of pandemic. Give hope and a future to those who lack meaningful work, those who have been marginalized or abused in the workplace, and those who desire new opportunities. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard. May our chorus join theirs until our labor is complete. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

We greet each other with a nod or gesture of Christian fellowship from a distance, and we also invite you to text or email a word of peace to someone who cannot be here! Yes, now is the time to use our phones in church, on silent of course!

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE: AUTUMN

Holy God,

our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,

you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,

and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners

and to become food for the world.

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.
Remembering, therefore,
his life given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

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THE LORD'S PRAYER

Spoken together quietly enough not to wake a baby, in order to share as little airborne virus as possible from community speaking.

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

**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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

During this time of the pandemic we are following ecumenical safety guidelines. The ushers will dismiss you by pew, and you will approach the altar by the center aisle (please allow a six-foot separation between households, as the blue tape on the floor indicates). The pastor, who has thoroughly disinfected his/her hands, will drop the consecrated wafer into your outstretched palms. Then we ask that you maintain a six-foot distance as you make your way toward the table that is holding prefilled glasses arranged far enough apart to take one without touching another. First lower your mask, then eat the host, and finally take either a glass of

wine or grape juice. As you leave, drop the used glass in the nearby basket, replace your mask, and then sanitize your hands – and rejoice that although this is different, that we can resume receiving the Lord's Supper if we continue to strive to keep one another safe with precautions.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,
the body and blood of Christ.
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

ANTHEM(s) **(8:00) *For the Beauty of the Earth***
(10:30) *Praise God for Every Gift*

John Rutter
J. Paul Williams

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may be seated.

BLESSING

The assembly stands. The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.
Mothering God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

693

- 1 Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we

wholesome grain and pure may be.

- 3 For the Lord our God shall come
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.
- 4 Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Doxology Postlude

John Stearns

OFFERING

You may drop your offering in the plates as you leave. If you are worshipping at home, please mail your offering to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA. Or you can drop it through the slot in the door at the back, office entrance of the church building.

To avoid crowding and therefore lessening the six-foot physical distance, we ask you to leave starting from the front pews to the back. If you and others feel comfortable, you can continue fellowship conversation in the lobby and outside with masks from a safe distance.

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MINISTRY NEWS

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Gemma Geary, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Cathy Hale, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin Rodriguez & family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Deanna Carl, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Nancy Cooper, David and Angela Weiser, Fay Sausser, Kim O'Donnell, Denise Eiler, Brian Shwenk, Jim and Keven Shwenk, Leslie Wagner

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Karen Cockill, Janice Barr, Donna Dizenzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Kathrine Smiley, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Stefichack, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson, Jerry Stoutland, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Phil Kriner	Lloyd Wertz
Cantor(s)	Bev & Phil Kriner	Lloyd Wertz
Guides	Bill Shay	Jane Mahoney
	Joy Heffner	Frank Mahoney
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Gary Reager
Acolyte		Jillian Gipe
Altar Guild	Leslie Wagner & Sue Moyer	
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb Reed, Marie Shay	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Karen Ochenrider	Jim Covert
Cantor(s)	TBD	TBD

Guides	Deb Reed	Lloyd Wertz
	Faith Batz	Don Boyer
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Rick Heckrote
Acolyte	Ellayna Boyer	Marla Freiwald
Altar Guild	Leslie Wagner & Sue Moyer	
Counters	Lou Messina & Janet Sattizahn	

WEEKLY NEWS

THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES are to the Glory of God, in loving memory of Mark Reed, by Deb, Amy, and Phil.

HOLY COMMUNION RESUMES TODAY! There will be “Communion Servant” orientation today following each worship service for those who signed up to take Holy Communion to our members who cannot worship with us in person.

TODAY, WE WILL OBSERVE HARVEST HOME with a special offering of money and food for our Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry. Your gifts will help to provide food to about 180 families who need assistance with meals and receive food at the Pantry each month.

THE ANNUAL CROP WALK sponsored by the Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity Council of Churches will be held today behind the Walk-In Center, with registration and devotions beginning at 12:45, and the walk starting at 1:00. Please sign up with Shirley Shackleton or Cheryl Miller, and turn your money into them. Shirley Shackleton can be reached on her cell phone at 570-294-0910.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS TODAY AT 9:15. Sunday school for kids ages 3+ will be held in person. Children must wear a mask and proper social distancing will be observed. Confirmation class will also start up. 1, 2, and 3rd year confirmands will meet with teachers in class. Those about to be confirmed on Reformation Day, Sunday, October 25th will meet with Pastor Rowe.

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS will be held at 1:00 on Sunday, October 11. Critters of all kinds are welcome to receive a blessing in the tradition of Saint Francis of Assisi (his witness is commemorated on October 4). And of course, please leash or restrain your pets since there will be others there (and the pastor may bless snarling or snake-like critters from a distance).

JERUSALEM’S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN total has reached \$207,315.53 as of September 28th, 2020.

MUSIC NEWS. The organ pipe repainting project is nearing! The pipes will be taken out on the week of October 12th, 2020.

BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS event is going to be bigger and better than before! On October 14 *and* 15 from 9 am to 9 pm you are encouraged to shop at Boscov's...either in person or online. Then, prior to checkout, select Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church as the organization you want to help and Boscov's will donate 5% of your total

purchase to us! It's so easy...no coupon to purchase like in years past. Just shop, choose Jerusalem, and you're done! All shoppers get 20% off Boscov's lowest sale prices (some merchandise receives 10% off). We get 5% of your purchase! Tell your friends and family about this, too!

FREE DRIVE-THRU NARCAN DISTRIBUTION. A Narcan can treat individuals who overdose in emergency situations. There will be two free drive-thru distributions:

- Friday, October 2nd, from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at 410 North Center Street, Pottsville, PA 17901 (rear parking lot). For questions call 570-826-2483.
- Tuesday, October 13th, from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm at Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972.

FROM THE FAMILY OF KENNY NOECKER: Thank you Jerusalem family for sending birthday greetings to Ken Noecker on his 90th birthday.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

TODAY 8:00am Worship
 9:00am Holy Communion Servant Orientation
 10:30am Worship
 11:30am Holy Communion Servant Orientation
THURSDAY 3:30pm COVID-19 Task Force Meeting (Via Zoom)
 6:30pm Girl Scout Meeting (Lobby)

STAFF AND LEADERS

Rev. David Rowe, *Pastor:* 610-987-9798(H), 570-933-5511 (C),
pastorrowe@jerusalemlutheran.com

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Tanya Cartwright, *Director of Faith & Families:* faithandfamilies@jerusalemlutheran.com

Rachel Kramer, *Parish Administrator:* mail@jerusalemlutheran.com

Jill McCloy, *Treasurer:* treasurer@jerusalemlutheran.com

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Mike Sausser, *Sexton:* linknomad@hotmail.com

Deborah Reed, *President of Church Council:* dreed1955@comcast.net