

The Parable of the Tenants

Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. Matthew 21:37 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 21:33-46 (NIV)



H W F K F X X L K S C J J T G
A F A W F D Q L I E R L I M S
R R Z L V P A I L R E A V K E
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B A I D Y P W T R O Y Y T D E
I W C L E J A J C V S Z D W N
S T S S T W V I N E Y A R D T

LISTEN	WATCHTOWER	PARABLE	SON	SERVANTS
SENT	WALL	HARVEST	KILLED	COLLECT
BUILT	LANDOWNER	LAST	TIME	FARMERS
DUG	FRUIT	REJECTED	VINEYARD	JOURNEY



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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October 4, 2026 ✝ Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

✝ GATHERING ✝

Prelude

(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God’s grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord’s meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

When we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

**But if we would confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Today we look at ourselves as the vineyard of the Lord.

(Let us take a moment of silence for reflection and confession.)

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have not produced the sweet fruits of faith you seek;
we have claimed ownership of your domain.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God sent messengers with his Word throughout the ages,
and in these days he has sent his Son, whom he has given to die for us;
for his sake forgives us all our sins.
By his sacrifice he has given us the kingdom and citizenship in heaven.
As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,
and by his authority, I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Parable of the Tenants

Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. Matthew 21:37 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



the stone that the builders
rejected has become the
corner stone ...
Matthew 21:42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
S	L	H	N	R	Q	A	W	B	D	J	Z	G	F	U	C	O	V	K	E	M	I	X	T	P	Y

- 2-22-1-24-20-4 _____
- 1-17-4 _____
- 25-7-5-7-9-2-20 _____
- 14-5-15-22-24 _____
- 19-22-2-2-20-10 _____
- 3-7-5-18-20-1-24 _____
- 1-20-5-18-7-4-24-1 _____
- 14-7-5-21-20-5-1 _____

FRUIT FARMERS	KILLED HARVEST	SON SERVANTS	LISTEN PARABLE
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Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*
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 ✚

Announcements

Benediction

God all mighty, God most merciful,
bless us, keep us, and grant us peace.
In the name of the Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

My Song is Love Unknown (LBW # 94, v. 5-7)

- 5

They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suff’ring goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.
- 6

In life, no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death, no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav’n was his home;
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.
- 7

Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Opening Hymn

My Song is Love Unknown

(LBW #94, v. 1-4)



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
re - sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they
Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.
'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

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Opening Litany

In great love and great hope for the future,
our Lord created the world and all that is in it —
Plants and trees, lakes and rivers, vines and leaves,
fruits and vegetables, animals and creatures of the sea.

And God allowed them to grow.
 In that same spirit of great love and endless hope for the future,
 our Lord created people and placed them on earth —
Men and women, husbands and wives, parents and children.

And God allowed us to grow.
 But in many places upon the land, things started to grow worse.
**The soil turned rocky, the winds tore leaves to shreds,
 the floods uprooted trees, and the vines choked life out of crops.**

And God saw that something needed to be done.
 What was happening on the earth
 was happening in peoples' lives as well.
**Relationships got rocky, people were poking holes in God's plans,
 priorities were being rearranged,
 and sin had a stranglehold on our every thought and action.**

And God saw that something needed to be done.
 So God sent his Son into the world —
**To make the rough places plain,
 to bring water to the deserted places,
 to bless the fields with fertility.**

And God sent his Son into our lives —
**To make his righteousness flow through our hearts,
 to allow his justice to take root in our actions,
 and to provide the fruits of the Spirit to our hungry souls.**

May all the earth be renewed
 because of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.
**And may our lives grow in God's love
 and show forth the hope he has for us.**

Apostolic 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.



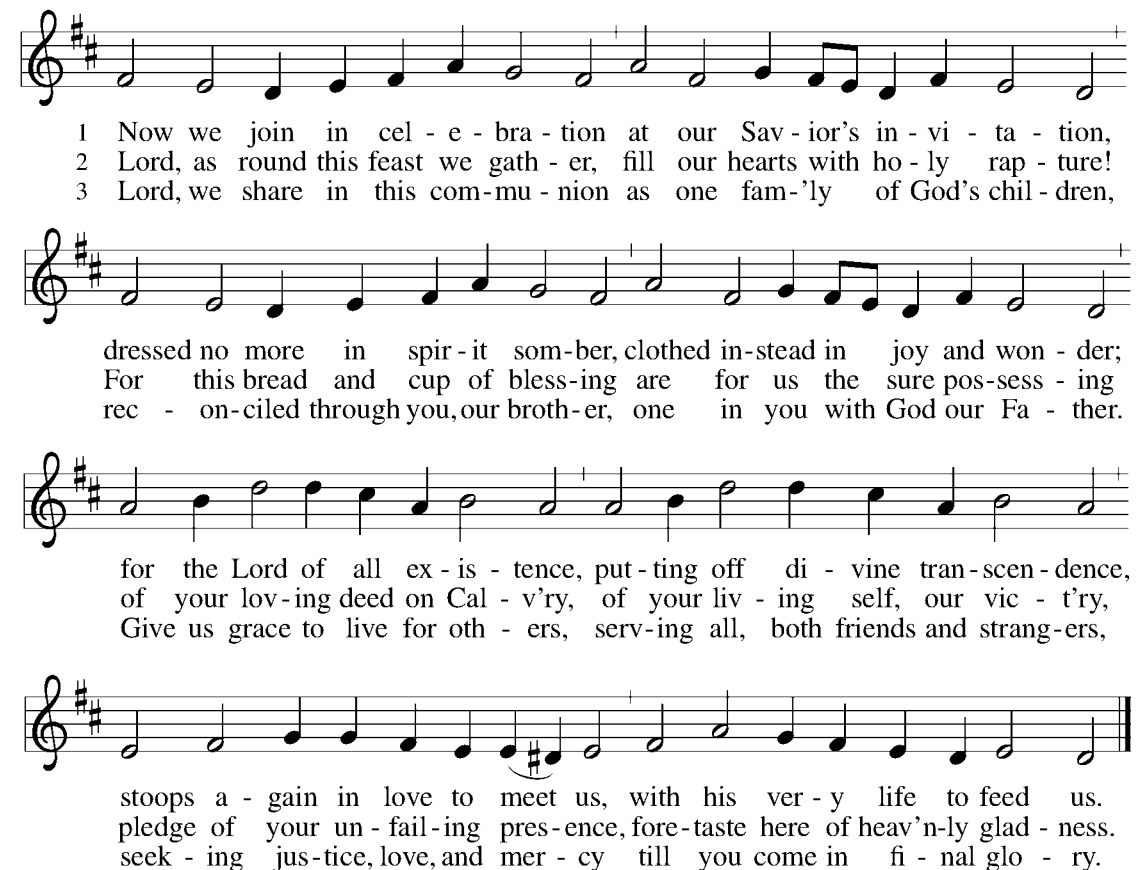
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Distribution Hymn

Now We Join in Celebration

#462



Agnus Dei
Lamb of God
Family of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace. Grant us peace.

Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:
The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.
The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Distribution Hymn
Jesus Loves Me!
#595

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;
lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.



Hymn of Praise
Glory Be to God
Family of God

Glo - ry be to God on high! Peace on the earth to all is giv'n!
Join us as we glo - ri - fy, Send - ing our prais - es to the heav'ns!
1. You, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King, O God the Fa - ther, might - y One;
2. You sit at the right hand of God; Oh, hear our hum - ble prayer to - day;
3. You, O Lord, are the Ho - ly One, and you a - lone are Lord of heav'n,
1. Je - sus Christ, to you we sing, O Lord, on - ly be - got - ten Son. (Ref.)
2. Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us- Je - sus, take our sins a - way. (Ref.)
3. Reign - ing with the Ho - ly Spir - it and the Fa - ther. A - men. (Ref.)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*
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 ✚

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

A reading from Isaiah.

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.**

Psalm 80:7-15

Let us read Psalm 80 responsively.

⁷Restore 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.**

⁹You 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**

¹¹You 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?**

*Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

God the one Father of us all, you gather us
in one faith, one hope, and one baptism.

Draw near to your children
when their lives are overshadowed by what divides.

Where wars have not yet ceased, come quickly.

Where hostility tears apart brothers and sisters,
open your path of peace.

Where the relationship between your people
and your creation falters,
renew our awe in the wonders you have made.

Where your church's diversity fails to reflect
the glorious kaleidoscope of your kingdom, lead us to greater love
and wider mercy than we have ever before imagined.

Hasten the day when we who share Christ's body
will join with him in perfect and holy communion,
in the everlasting embrace of the Holy Spirit,
as you draw all things to yourself, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together 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.**

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

Family of God

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, our God of pow'r and might, Sing
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Heav'n and earth are full of your maj - es -
ty! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Blest is he who
comes in the Name of the Lord! Sing loud, Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the
high - est! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

God of holy unity, you are perfectly three and perfectly one:
from many, make your people one in you.

Sanctify your church around the world
and transform our fractures into fruitfulness.

Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and this cup,
that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord
Jesus Christ; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread,
gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them saying,
*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this for the remembrance of me.*

After supper, Jesus took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

¹³The 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;**

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

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

A reading from Philippians.

[Paul writes] ^{4b}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.

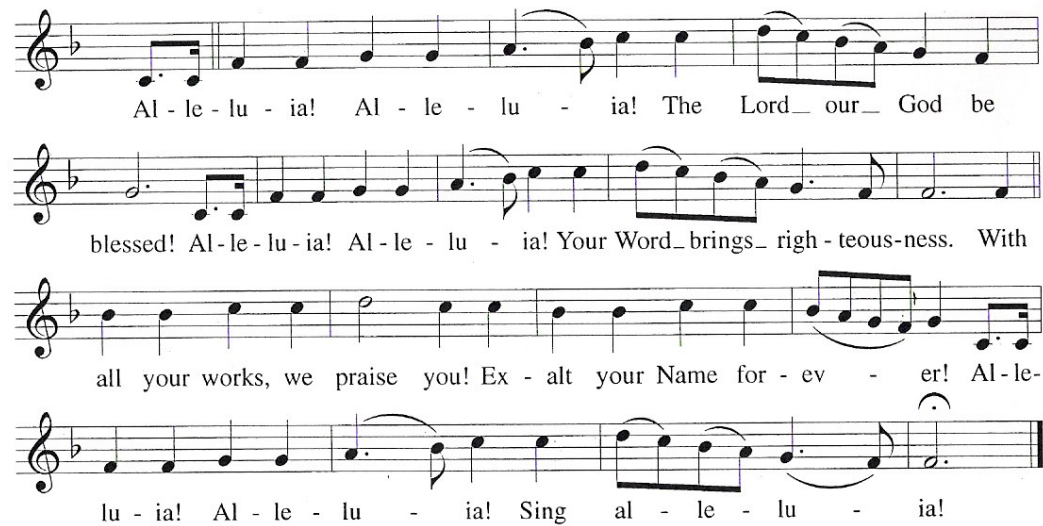
¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing
of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,
¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

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.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

Family of God



Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.
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.”

May God bless us as we celebrate our love of Christ
**and our fellowship with Christians throughout the world
and down through the ages this day.**

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 our thanks and praise.



Proper Preface

Blessed be your name throughout the earth, Lord God,
for you have created wonders and, from the beginning,
have drawn every living thing into communion with you.

In the bounty of your creation you fashioned land and sea,
sun and stars, plants and animals,
that we might know the constancy of your love for us.

In covenant life you drew a people to yourself,
to give and receive love in your name.

In the fullness of time you drew near to us in your Son,
to bind us to you in the promise of everlasting life.

In every time and place you offer us brothers and sisters
with whom to live your ways of forgiveness and grace.

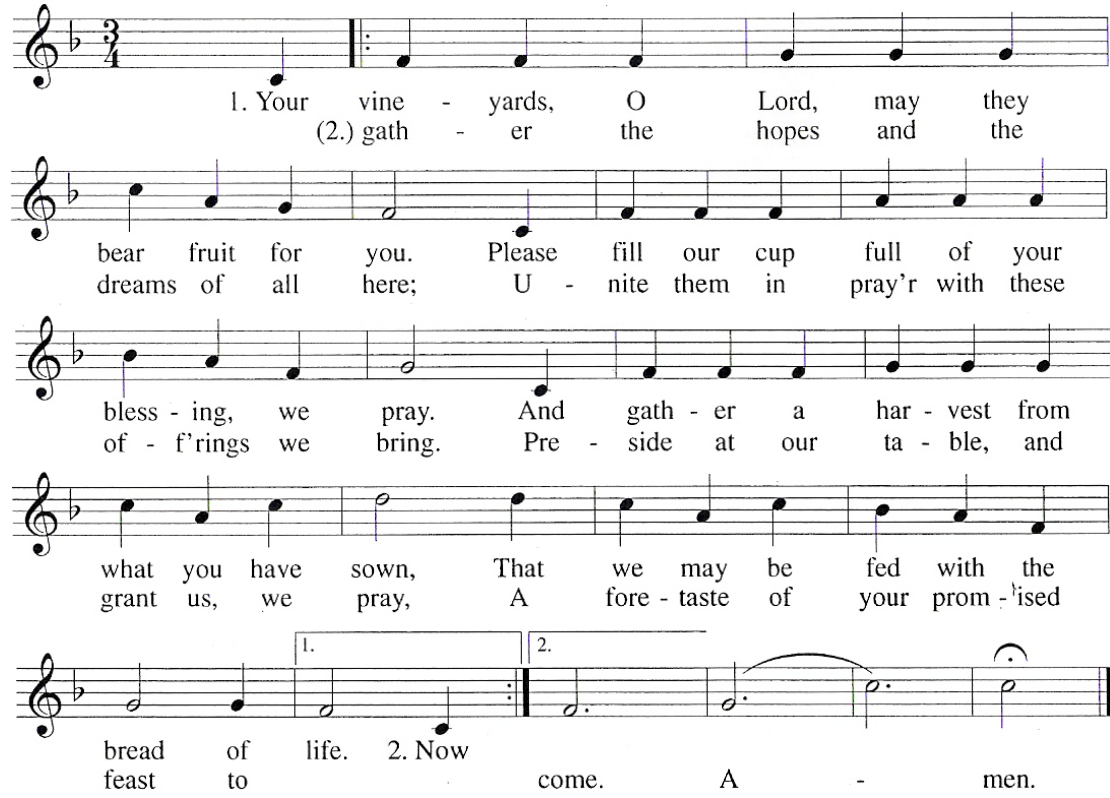
In every age you surround us with a great company of saints
that we might be bound to one another
in this world that you so love.

And so with the company of earth and heaven
we praise your name and join the unending hymn.

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

Family of God



1. Your vine - yards, O Lord, may and they
(2.) gath - er the hopes and the

bear fruit for you. Please fill our cup full of your
dreams of all here; U - nite them in pray'r with these

bles - ing, we pray. And gath - er a har - vest from
of - f'rings we bring. Pre - side at our ta - ble, and

what you have sown, That we may be fed with the
grant us, we pray, A fore - taste of your prom - ised

bread of life. 2. Now come. A - - men.

✠ MEAL ✠

World Communion Litany

Friends, this is the Table of our Lord.
We come, not because we are strong,
but because we are weak.

**We come, not because of any goodness of our own,
but because we need God's mercy and help.**

We come because we love the Lord a little
and would like to love Him more.

We come because Christ loves us and gave Himself for us.



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."

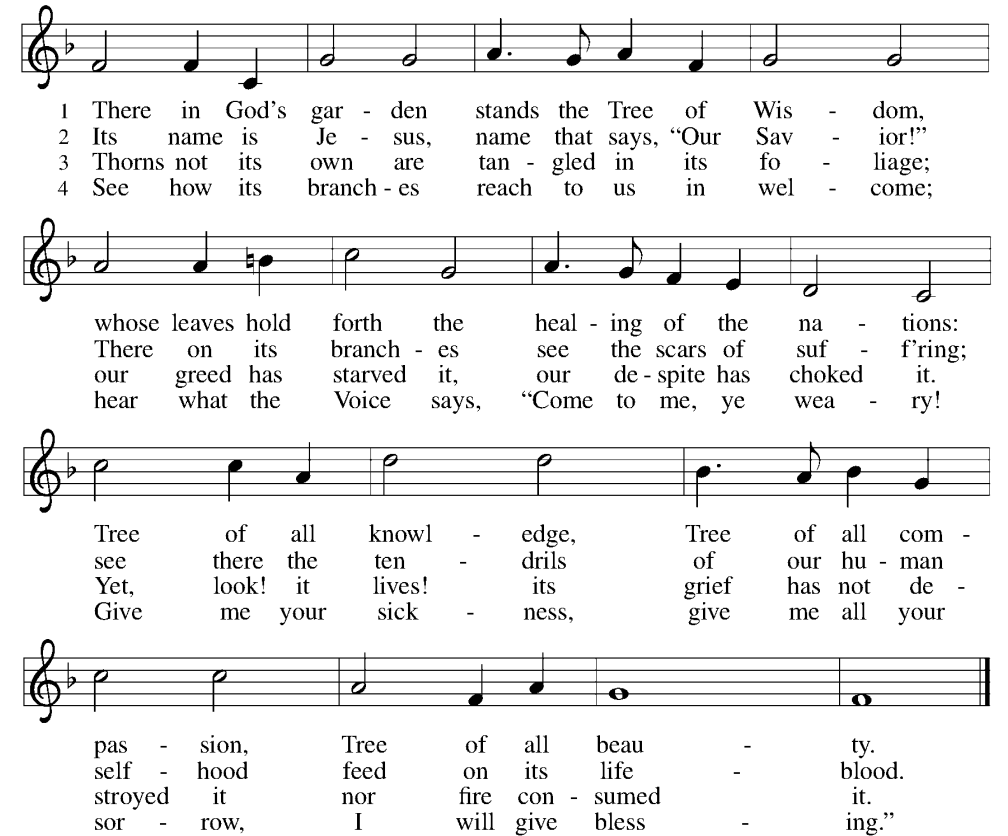
⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they
realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him,
but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time Sermon

Hymn of the Day

There in God's Garden

#342



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!

Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your

pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
self - hood feed on its life - blood.
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending
this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord,
I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for;
now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!

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Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**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 into hell.**

**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 the People

P Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new,
we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence is kept.

A God of every generation, we give thanks
for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church.
Inspire us to follow their example in our own day.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P God of every creature,
bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it.
We give thanks for those who have helped us
to see your Spirit in creation.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A God of every tribe and nation,
restore peace to the world's conflict zones,
and shelter those who live within them.
We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P God of every comfort, you made us in your own image.
Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering, *especially...*
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A God of every truth,
you draw us nearer to you through your holy word.
We give thanks for teachers of the faith.
Fill their hearts with your Spirit,
that they inspire others with your truth.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home.
We give thanks for all the saints
who have been restored to perfect unity with you.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P Trusting in your boundless grace, O God,
we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.