

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

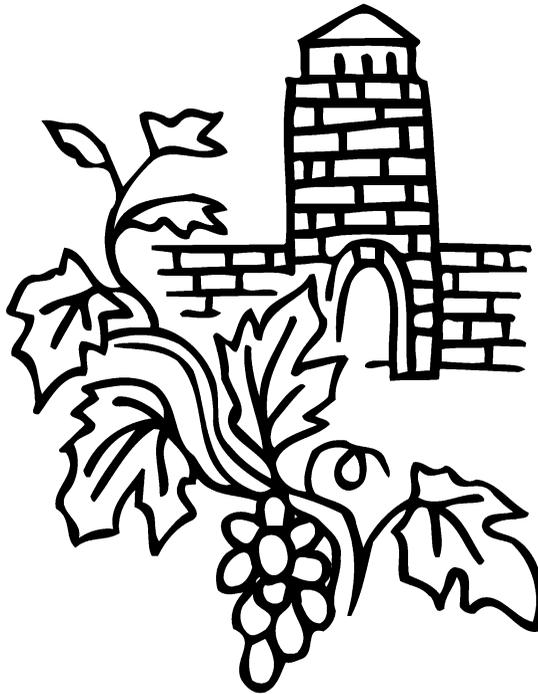
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

October 4, 2020

9:00 AM

EIGHTEENTH 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

Mark Jones, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, Father, Son † and Holy Spirit, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Faithful God,

C 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.**

P 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.

C Amen.

- 1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.
- 2 Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.
- 3 Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.
- 4 For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.
- 5 We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
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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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

- 1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. ☒
- 2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. ☒
- 3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. ☒
- 4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. 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

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.

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 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 (read responsively)

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**⁸You 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.

**¹⁰The 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.

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

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

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

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

THE 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.

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

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord!

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.

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.* ³⁴*When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce.* ³⁵*But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.* ³⁶*Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way.* ³⁷*Finally 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.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

SERMON

Pastor Shari Duminy

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

ELW 775

- 1 **Jesus, priceless treasure,
source of purest pleasure,
truest friend to me:
ah, how long I've panted,
and my heart has fainted,
thirsting, Lord, for thee!
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb;
nothing in this world can hide thee,
naught I ask beside thee.**
- 2 **In thine arm I rest me;
foes who would molest me
cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking,
every heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash and thunders crash;
yet, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.**
- 3 **Hence, all fears and sadness,
for the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in.
God, who dearly loves us,
from all trial saves us,
gives sweet peace within.
I have borne this worldly scorn;
still in thee lies purest pleasure:
Jesus, priceless treasure!**

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677;
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C 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

Response: **P** Lord, in your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Ellie Mae Durio, daughter of Dustin and Molly Durio; for the baptism of Silje Ruth Pignatore, daughter of Amy and Nick Pignatore

Illness: Christine Bachman, sister of John Natvig, Richard Bock, Don Burton, Carol Coffey, Carol Duncan, sister of Debbie Robinson, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Richard Holzer, father of James Holzer, Renee Johnson, daughter-in-law of Ken & Linda Johnson, Rod Kammrad, partner of Ken Johnson and Ron Brown, Harlan Kirkvold, father of Steve Kirkvold, Marcie Lafleur, Mary Olson, Eva Reed, mother of Lorie Groenjes, Gary Rodene, Chris Saklar, father of Kristian Placzek & Tracy Saklar, Evelyn Sueper, grandmother of Melissa Osentowski, Sheri Tipton, Teresa Valentine, Dorothy Vancaster, Ed & Darlene White, Kimberly Wilson, Joanne Worm, Mary Yocum

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military*—Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission*—Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

Other Prayers: *Seminarists*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

- ☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

As we share the peace today – and you do so in your home – You are invited you to contact a fellow member by phone, email or letter. You can do that today or any time during the week. Pick someone from the church directory. We could email each other or call each other during this time when we cannot meet. Then each week select another person to contact. Try to make it someone you don't really know and get acquainted with them. Always be sure to leave your address, email, and phone number on your message in case they do not have a directory. Talk to people you know and get the names and addresses of those who might not have directories and try to contact them. By the time we meet again we will have made many new friends.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Please Support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Panis Angelicus”

César Frank
arr. Van A. Christy
Amy & Nick Pignatore, *soloists*

Panis Angelicus
fit panis hominum;
dat panis caelicus
figuris terminum
O res mirabilis:
manducat Dominum
pauper, servus et humilis

Thus Angels' Bread is made
the Bread of man today:
the Living Bread from heaven
with figures dost away:
O wondrous gift indeed!
the poor and lowly may
upon their Lord and Master feed.

*~Latin from the Liturgia Horarum. English translation is a cento based upon a translation
by John David Chambers (1806-1893)~*

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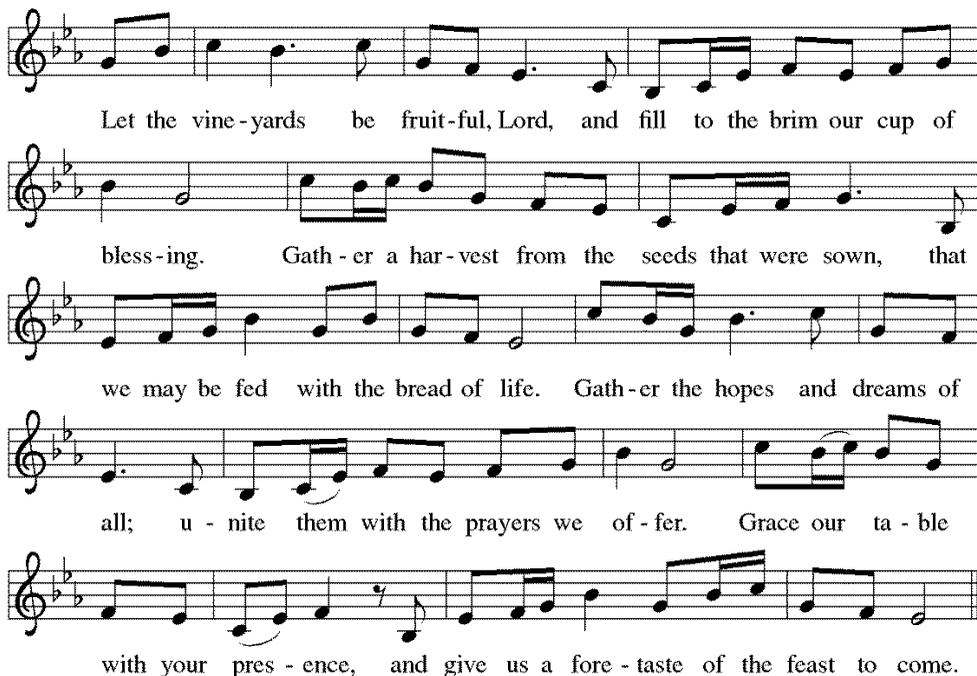
THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW 184



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
- C** You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR TIME AFTER PENTECOST

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

- ☑ **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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** Come to the banquet table
C where Jesus Christ gives himself as food and drink.

(sit)

AGNUS DEI

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Now We Join in Celebration"

ELW 462

- 1 Now we join in celebration
at our Savior's invitation,
dressed no more in spirit somber,
clothed instead in joy and wonder;
for the Lord of all existence,
putting off divine transcendence,
stoops again in love to meet us,
with his very life to feed us.
- 2 Lord, as round this feast we gather,
fill our hearts with holy rapture!
For this bread and cup of blessing
are for us the sure possessing
of your loving deed on Calv'ry,
of your living self, our vict'ry,
pledge of your unfailing presence,
foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.
- 3 Lord, we share in this communion
as one fam'ly of God's children,
reconciled through you, our brother,
one in you with God our Father.
Give us grace to live for others,
serving all, both friends and strangers,
seeking justice, love, and mercy
till you come in final glory.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen
Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** We give you thanks, gracious God,
G that you 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.

SENDING

BLESSING

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, Son ✠, and Holy Spirit.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

ELW 547

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.**
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.
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DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Remember the poor.
G Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, Organist

✠ ✠ ✠

Special Notice

If you plan to attend Worship in person, please call/e-mail the church office no later than noon on the Thursday before the Saturday or Sunday you want to attend. Please note that the plans set forth are subject to immediate change. You may still join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
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October 3 & 4, 2020

Kountze Food Pantry

Volunteers Needed

Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM; 9:00 - 11:00 AM; 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

The Kountze Food Pantry is short of volunteers and urgently needs your help. If you can, please consider volunteering



for one or more shifts. Volunteers are needed from 7:30 - 9:00 AM, 9:00 - 11:00 AM, and 11:00 AM-1:00 PM on Mondays. We are also open Friday evenings and could use your help from 4:00 - 7:00 PM. If you would like to help with this very important mission, please sign up for a time slot at the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Saturday In-Person Worship

Beginning October 3, we will be resuming our Saturday 5:00 PM worship service. The same procedures will be followed as on Sunday mornings with the exception that everyone will enter through the handicapped entrance on the northeast corner of the church building. Wearing a mask during worship is still required as is physical distancing. You must also pre-register with the church office (by phone or email) by Noon on the Thursday before the service you wish to attend.

Attendance and Giving

Online Attendance: 124

9:00 AM Attendance: (Reservation Only) 57

Pantry Guests Served: 892

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 29

Offering:

\$7,593.04 (Regular) \$9,694.27 (Specials)

\$612.00 (Debt Reduction)

Today at Kountze

We welcome Pastor Shari Duminy, Associate Candidate for Kountze Memorial

Pr. Duminy is preaching this weekend.

The Call Committee unanimously endorsed and the Congregation Council unanimously voted to recommend to the congregation to call The Reverend Shari Lounsbury Duminy to serve as Associate Pastor.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Linda and Wilfred Higa's 50th wedding anniversary given by David & Pat Studts; in loving memory of Arnold Steffen in recognition of our 72nd wedding anniversary given by LeClare Steffen

Online Sunday School

Lessons are videotaped and posted on the KMLC Parents Facebook page as well as the Kountze Memorial Facebook Page. In addition, there will be pintables and activity suggestions that complement the lesson. If you would prefer to receive the lessons by email, please contact Kristin Boe at - kristin@kmlchurch.org.

Youth Forum

Sundays at 10:10 AM

IN-PERSON: The youth group will meet in-person in the green space on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. The 1st Sunday of the month will be current event Sunday. Please bring an article or current event to share (must be non-COVID related).

ZOOM: The youth group will meet via Zoom on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.

We want to know Christ Jesus.

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46	Parable of the vineyard tenants
Monday	Isaiah 5:1-7	A song about a vineyard
Tuesday	Philippians 3:4b-14	To know Christ
Wednesday	Exodus 20:1-20	The Ten Commandments
Thursday	Psalms 19	The wonders of God
Friday	1 Peter 2:1-10	A chosen people
Saturday	Psalms 80:7-15	Prayer for Israel's deliverance
Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast



I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death. **Philippians 3:10 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to trust that in your death there is eternal life and in suffering there is the power of love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Nurturing God, we thank you for this food; help us to use food wisely so that others may have enough to eat. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. (Philippians 3:10)

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Describe or think about what you feel are the characteristics of a good friend.
- Are you a good friend? How would others describe you?
- How does your faith in Jesus free you to care for—even feel the pain of—others?

Read: Philippians 3:4b-14.

We don't get it. According to research on American religious views, we want to be saved by God because we are "good people." We prefer to rely on our own merits rather than trust the power of Christ's death and resurrection that conquers our sin. Perhaps this is part of the sinful self-centeredness that Christ comes to cleanse us of. Paul writes to the church at Philippi and points out that if anyone has a claim to self-righteousness based on the law that measures our goodness, Paul would be pretty unbeatable; he would be "blameless" (v. 6). But he counts all of his religious success as "loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (v. 8). The truly amazing part of his testimony is that knowing Christ does not free him from suffering; he is not concerned about why "bad things happen to good people." Paul announces his freedom to suffer with Christ. This "theology of the cross" sees life in death, sees joy in suffering and sees hope in despair. Paul presses "on to make it my own" (v. 12). He is announcing a view of life, and this way of life sees Christ as the source of all our hopes of salvation. How is freedom from judging our own goodness important to our salvation?

Pray: **Dear God, help us to know Jesus; may we focus our attention on the needs of others and to care for them through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Grapevines and vineyards are written about more than any other plant in the Bible. They were important in Biblical times and part of the culture. They were often used as symbols of producing fruit. In this context, fruit means one's actions that come from the heart. Place grapes in a bowl and as you eat them, think about what it means for you to produce good fruits (take positive actions). What positive actions can you take to care for others?

In Philippians 3, Paul talks about pressing towards the goal to reach the prize of knowing Christ Jesus. Think about a time you tried to reach a goal. What happened? Whether we reach the goal or not, God is always with us. Pray: **Lord, help us to keep our eye on the goal, the prize of the "heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14