

# 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 4, 2020 - 10:00 AM

## Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223  
www.livingspringscolumbia.org

*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.*



*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus... (Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-2)*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING OF CALL COMMITTEE & CALL PROCESS

*We stand as able*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**Pastor:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)*

**Pastor:** Faithful God,

**People:** **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.**

**Pastor:** 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.

**People:** Amen.

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

## GATHERING SONG

"The Church's One Foundation"



1 The church's one founda - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.

*The Church's One Foundation; Text: Samuel J. Stone; Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley.*

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

**Pastor:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People:** **And also with you.**

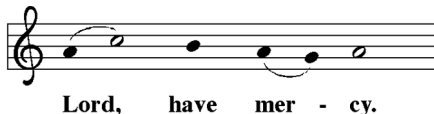
## KYRIE & PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

**Pastor:** For the peace from above  
and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



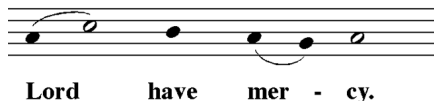
Lord, have mer - cy.

**Pastor:** For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

**Pastor:** For this community of faith,  
and all who offer their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.

**Pastor:** Help, save, comfort, and defend us Gracious Lord.



A - men.

**Pastor:** 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.  
**People: Amen.**

*We are seated*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Rev. Eric Fink

*Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. You may collect your coins or dollars at home for the bucket collection and bring them to in-person worship, to the Parking Lot Communion Distributions, or drop them off at the church office. Current collection is for the Disaster Response Fund.*

*For-ward in faith! (clap-clap)*

*For-ward in faith! (clap-clap)*

*Solid in our hope...*

*(God's movin' us) For-ward in faith!*

*For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)*

*For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)*

*With our eyes on Jesus*

***WE'RE RUNNIN' THE RACE!***

## **MUSIC FOR REFLECTION**

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

*LS Virtual Choir*

## **FIRST READING**

*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.*

Lector: A reading from Isaiah.

*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? 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. 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. 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! (Isaiah 5:1-7)*

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 80:7-15**

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

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

Lector: You cleared the ground for it;  
it took root and filled the land.

**People: The mountains were covered by its shadow  
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

Lector: You stretched out its tendrils to the sea  
and its branches to the river.

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

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

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

Lector: behold and tend this vine;

**People: preserve what your right hand has planted.**

## SECOND READING

*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.*

Lector: A reading from Philippians.

*[Paul writes:] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 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; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 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 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. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. 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. 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, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:4b-14)*

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*We stand for the reading of the Gospel*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*[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. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" 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." 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'? 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. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet. (Matthew 21:33-46)*

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"If You But Trust God to Guide You"



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle  
3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -  
qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in  
fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.  
cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.

*If You But Trust God to Guide You; Text: Gerog Neumark; tr. composite Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark;  
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APOSTLES' CREED

**People: 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

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

Assist: 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,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assist: 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. May we be inspired by your servants who cared deeply for your creation, *especially Francis of Assisi, whom we commemorate today*. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

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

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assist: Sustain all who suffer with the promise of new life. Assured of your presence, heal our pain and suffering, and equip us to embrace all bodies aching for wholeness of mind, body, and soul. We call to mind those who are struggling today. We pray especially for: *Elizabeth Maddox; Karl Schmidt; Frank Weick; Henrietta Kaiser; Jim Grimmer; Gwen Brantley; Debbie Smith; Tammy Mancuso; Ed Brennan; Margaret Blank; Charles Kauffman; Bunie Talbert; William Appleton; Steve Koelver; Kelly Koziol; Lila Bell; Wilma Bracey; Charles Levitt; Karen Turnmire; Danny Goff; family of Brandi Moore; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...Lord, in your mercy,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assist: We pray for all managers in our community and for all who seek employment. 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,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assist: We pray for our confirmation students who are in their final weeks of preparation to affirm their baptism: *Lauren Bloss; Preston Ginn; Anna Leigh Graves; Lina Mooney; Dakota Shannon*. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Assist: Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard, *especially Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, whom we commemorate today*. May our chorus join theirs until our labor is complete. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O God, as we face ongoing uncertainties around coronavirus, we continue to pray for our nation and the world. Protect the most vulnerable among us, those who are currently sick, in isolation, or awaiting test results. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to scientists, vaccine researchers, educators, and health care/food/essential workers as their daily work puts them at risk. Fill us with patience and guide us as we consider how best to continue to respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, schools, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear or self-centeredness, but with compassion, concern, and acts of loving service for others, trusting that you abide with us always. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

## SHARING OF PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

*We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."*

## OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

*Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.*

Google Play



App Store



## OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Spirit of love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**People: 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

Pastor: Friends of Jesus, come to this table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

+ THE ELEMENTS ARE SYMBOLICALLY CARRIED OUT OF THE CHANCEL +

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*THIS WEEK: Our worship will continue with **distribution of Holy Communion on Sunday from 12:15 - 1:00 pm** in the Parking Lot. We will utilize sanitary-packaged individual communion elements, which have been consecrated during the worship service. There will be an "usher" in the parking lot to direct vehicles to the distribution altar, and the pastor will be there, wearing mask and gloves (he will change gloves after each vehicle). Everyone please remain in your vehicle throughout the process. Once it's your turn, drive up and put your vehicle in park. The pastor will come to your car window(s) to distribute Holy Communion. AFTER you have consumed the elements, the Pastor will offer a blessing – and then you can pull away. While in the parking lot, everyone should be in prayerful worship-mode, as you represent God's people gathered to continue the worship experience from the morning service. Think of this in the same way you would think about "coming up to the communion rail for distribution" in your vehicle during an ongoing worship service.*



## COMMUNION REFLECTION

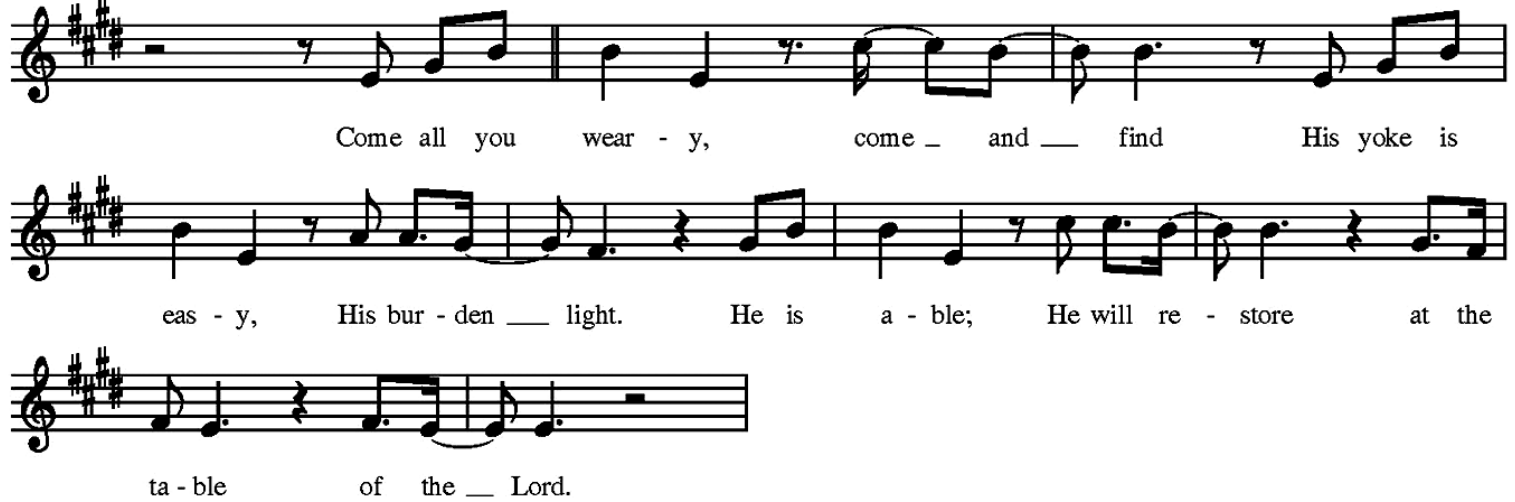
"The Table"

*I will feast at the table of the Lord*

*I will feast at the table of the Lord*

*I won't hunger anymore at His table (Repeat)*

### CHORUS 1a



Come all you wear - y, come \_ and \_ find His yoke is  
eas - y, His bur - den \_ light. He is a - ble; He will re - store at the  
ta - ble of the \_ Lord.

#### Verse 2

*There is peace at the table of the Lord*

*There is peace at the table of the Lord*

*I won't worry anymore at His table*

#### Verse 3

*There is healing at the table of the Lord*

*There is healing at the table of the Lord*

*Oh and I won't suffer anymore at His table (Chorus 1a)*

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*The elements are symbolically carried back to the altar.*

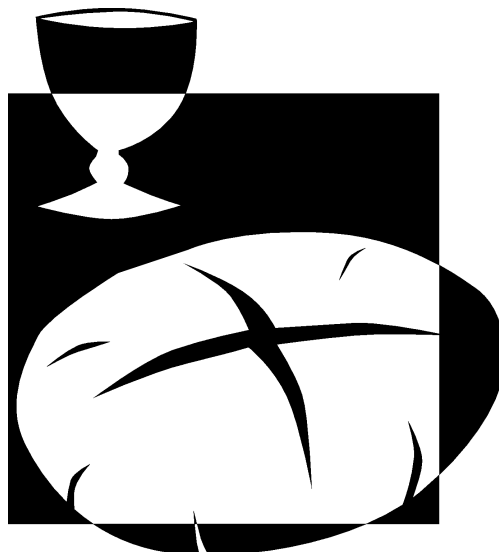
## POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

**People: Amen**

**Pastor:** Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

**People: Amen**

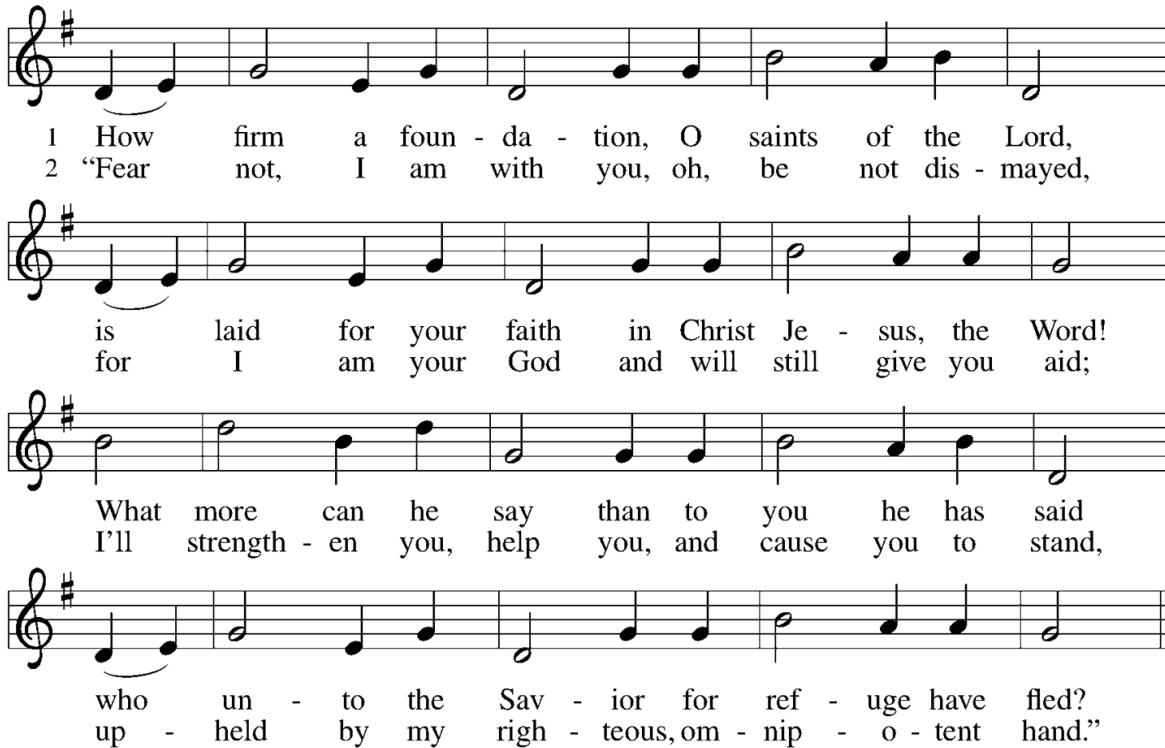




## SENDING SONG

### "How Firm a Foundation"

(While we sing, we turn and face the processional cross as it is carried out the center aisle.)



1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."

*How Firm a Foundation; Text: J. Rippon; Music: FOUNDATION, Early American*

## DISMISSAL

**Assist:** Surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses, go in peace to run the race and move forward in faith!

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## WORSHIP HELPERS FOR TODAY'S STREAMED SERVICE - THANK YOU!

Jan Berger (Assisting Minister); John Imbert (Acolyte/Lector); Karen Kranz (Crucifer); , Cathy Lowman (Leader Worship Singer); Christopher Girardeau (Guitar/Lead Worship Singer); Todd Gunvalson, Kay Herbert, Jim Zieche (Congregation Singers); Bob Turnmire (Sound); Trado Mayson (Piano); Gail Buchanan (Altar Guild). *Worship for next Sunday to be recorded this Wednesday at 7:15. Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4baea92fa0f85-worship4> to sign-up to help for upcoming worship recordings (as a family, couple, or individuals).*

## OCTOBER "ALTAR FLOWERS" - THANK YOU!

The following have given monetary gifts in lieu of, or in addition to, the flowers at the altar for our Sunday and Tuesday in-person services:

**October 4:** in memory of parents and in honor of children and grandchildren by Gay Walter.



## ✠ COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY ✠

### Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

### Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864

Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.

# God's Love Shared Through You ...



## One Life Deeper in 2020!

*Our prayerful goal is that God will work in every LS disciple to have an impact of faith and hope in the life of one person during 2020. **What shoes might they be wearing?** It may be someone you know already—at work, at home, at school, in the neighborhood, in your daily life. It may be a stranger whom God will bring to you this year. How will the Spirit work through you to bring someone deeper in 2020? **Deeper in Christ, Deeper in Grace, Deeper in Love!***

**BUILD RELATIONSHIPS: inviting, involving, mentoring, discipling relationships 1 person at a time!**

**BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: for the work of God's kingdom in our community and world!**

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE: with those who are hurting, alone, marginalized, or feeling unloved!**

**SHARING GOD'S STORIES: so we do not remain silent about God's ongoing work in the world!**

### EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

#### *Call to Confession*

Throughout his ministry in Matthew's gospel, Jesus draws in people at the margins of society. As the leader of a reform movement, Jesus spoke as a Jew to fellow Jews. When we read these stories centuries later, we must remember that his intent was to condemn exclusion and abuses of power—not to reject Judaism. His critiques still ring true for the power structures of the religious institutions of our time.

Jesus' parables stirred people up, provoking questions, doubts, even hostility. When his listeners recognized themselves in the parables, it was rarely comforting or affirming. Do we have the honesty and vulnerability to see ourselves critically in the stories as the chief priests and Pharisees did?

There aren't any clear heroes in this story, as in any story of class warfare. Perhaps the tenants turned to violence out of frustration with the economic injustice of their situation. The Pharisees were quick to side with the powerful landowner, asserting his right to kill the tenants and crush their revolt, yet Jesus does not affirm this escalation either.

We begin worship with a prayer of confession, recalling the image of God's goodness in each of us and yet honestly admitting our shame and guilt. Today's parable also issues a call to confession, alluding to the vineyard of Isaiah 5, which yielded wild grapes instead of sweet. God has created a world that can provide abundant life for all. What are the fruits of our congregations? God's heart longs for justice for all people. How might we unintentionally and unknowingly cultivate the sour wine of exclusion, discrimination, and injustice?

In the prayer of the day, we ask: "Beloved God, . . . lead us . . . to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them." Empowered by God's grace and forgiveness, we set to work removing the blinders that keep us from recognizing ourselves in parables' antagonists and repenting of the injustices that we perpetuate.

### October Book of the Month: Ezekiel