



Kingdom people produce
KINGDOM FRUIT

*"The kingdom of God will be ... given to a people
producing its fruits" (Matthew 21:43).*

LWML SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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As We Gather

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has affirmed each woman's identity as a child of God and her relationship with Jesus Christ. Lutheran Women in Mission are women of faith, empowered for active service in Jesus' name and bold support of missions through Mite Box offerings. As Christians, we have been given the kingdom of God to bear its fruit.

Prelude

"Prelude in C"

G. Handel

Opening Hymn Vocal Solo

"How Majestic Is Your Name"

1 O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise Your name.

O Lord, we praise Your name.

O Lord, we magnify Your name:

O Lord, we magnify Your name:

Prince of Peace, Mighty God,

Prince of Peace, Mighty God,

O Lord God Almighty.

O Lord God Almighty.

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Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God inspired Isaiah to write, "Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning His vineyard."

C And he continued, "The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are His pleasant planting."

P Paul wrote that he considered himself, "as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless."

C But he continued, "...whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ."

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Isaiah 5:4; 1 John 1:9; Psalm 80:7; Philippians 3:9, 12

P Although God had done everything needed for His vineyard, He said, "When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?"

C Although our Lord Jesus did everything needed for us to be His pleasant planting today, we confess that we have not valued His sacrifice for us above all else. We have considered the things around us and our very selves to be our own possessions. We have thought, spoken, and acted for our own interests. We have neglected to press on, responding to the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. We have no righteousness of our own for which God might listen to us.

P If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

P Paul wrote of his own struggle: “Not that I have already obtained [the resurrection] or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own.” You are not your own; you were bought with a price: the life, sufferings, and death of our Savior. Moreover, God has bestowed on you the righteousness “which comes through faith in Christ.” Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 118:22–24; antiphon: v. 1

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

C **The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.**

P This is the LORD’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

C **This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;

C **as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!**

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord God, owner of the vineyard that is Your people, whose Son paid with His life that we might live with You forever, grant that each day we give You the fruits of love and the praise You seek until Your Son returns for the final harvest; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

✠ The Vineyard of the Lord Destroyed ✠

Isaiah 5:1–7

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; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men 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 looked for 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 briars and thorns shall grow up; 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 men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem of Praise Solo

“Thy Word Is a Lamp”

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.

And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.
Please be near me to the end. Refrain

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.

2 I will not forget Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.

1 When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way,
Still You’re there right beside me.

Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;
And I will love You to the end. Refrain

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Epistle

✠ Righteousness Through Faith in Christ ✠

Philippians 3:4b–14

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count 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 that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But 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 upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn Solo

“Christ, the Word of God Incarnate”

sts. 1–3

1 Christ, the Word of God incarnate,
Lord and Son of Abraham;
Christ, the radiance of the Father,
Perfect God, the great I AM;
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished,
Light and life You bring to all;
Light our path with Your own presence,
Grant us grace to heed Your call.

2 Christ, the living bread from heaven,
Food for body, food for soul;
Christ, the manna daily given,
Nourish, strengthen, make us whole.
Feed us with the food of heaven,
Foretaste of the feast to be;
Quench our thirst with living water
Springing up eternally.

3 Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant
From the stump of Jesse's tree;
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches
To bear fruit abundantly.

Graft us into You, O Savior;
Prune our hearts so we remain
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard
Till eternal life we gain.

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Sermon

Holy Gospel

✠ The Parable of the Tenants ✠

Matthew 21:33–45

³³[Jesus said:] "...there was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. 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 have his inheritance.' ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore 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 let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

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 marvelous in our eyes'? ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them.

Confession of Faith

The LWML Pledge

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

(© 1955 LWML authored by Rev. Harry Fricke)

Prayer of the Church

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. On this LWML Sunday we are also having a door offering in support of their work, and you're also encouraged to take a Mite Box to collect change in further support of their ministry. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office or use on-line giving at our website, www.stpauloaklawn.org.*

Offertory Meditation

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

- 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 Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

- C** **Our Father who art in heaven...**
- P** In You, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in Your righteousness deliver me!
C **For You are my rock and my fortress; and for Your name's sake You lead me and guide me;**
P But I trust in You, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in Your hand.
C **Love the Lord, all you His saints! The Lord preserves the faithful. Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!**

Closing Prayer

- P** Let us pray together.
C **Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Benediction

Closing Hymn Solo

Serve the Lord with gladness!
It is He alone
Who redeemed us sinners,
Guides us as His own
To enjoy the blessings
Of His love and grace,
Will at last in glory
Meet us face to face.
Onward, then, for Jesus!
Let this be our aim:
“Serve the Lord with gladness!”
Glorify His name.

“Serve the Lord with gladness!”
He gave us command
To proclaim His Gospel
Now in every land
So that fellow sinners
May, like us, be blest.

“Serve the Lord with Gladness”

Leading them to Jesus,
We can serve Him best.
Onward, then, for Jesus!
Let this be our aim:
“Serve the Lord with gladness!”
Glorify His name!

“Serve the Lord with gladness!”
There’s no greater joy
Than to serve the Master,
Work in His employ.
As we build His kingdom
Angels, too, rejoice
Over every sinner
Brought to hear His voice.
Onward, then, for Jesus!
Let this be our aim:
“Serve the Lord with gladness!”
Glorify His name!

LWML Hymn

Text: Prof. Ernest Lewerenz, Tune: LSB 662



Acknowledgments

Vocal Solos by Julia Volk

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