

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 4th, 2026

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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

**We confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen**

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✙ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen**

My Lord of Light

1 My Lord of light who made the worlds, in wis - dom you have spo - ken;
2 My Lord of love who knew no sin, a sin - ner's death en - dur - ing;
3 My Lord of life who came in fire when Christ was high as - cend - ed:
4 My Lord of lords, one Trin - i - ty, to your pure name be giv - en

but those who heard your wise com-mands your ho - ly law have bro - ken.
for us you wore a crown of thorns, a crown of life se - cur - ing.
your burn - ing love is now re - leased, our days of fear are end - ed.
all glo - ry now and ev - er - more, all praise in earth and heav-en.

Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938

Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune; arr. Alice Parker, b. 1925

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***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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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.

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 "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

A reading from Isaiah:

I will sing for my beloved

my love song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard

on a very fertile hill.

² 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 rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem

and people of Judah,

judge between me

and my vineyard.

⁴ 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 rotten grapes?

⁵ 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.

⁶ I will make it a wasteland;

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.

⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts

is the house of Israel,

and the people of Judah

are his cherished garden;

he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!
A Word for God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 80:7-15

Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)

Restore 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.
⁹ You 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. R
¹¹ You 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?
¹³ The 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;
¹⁵ behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted. **R**

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: ⁵ 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; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ 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 ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

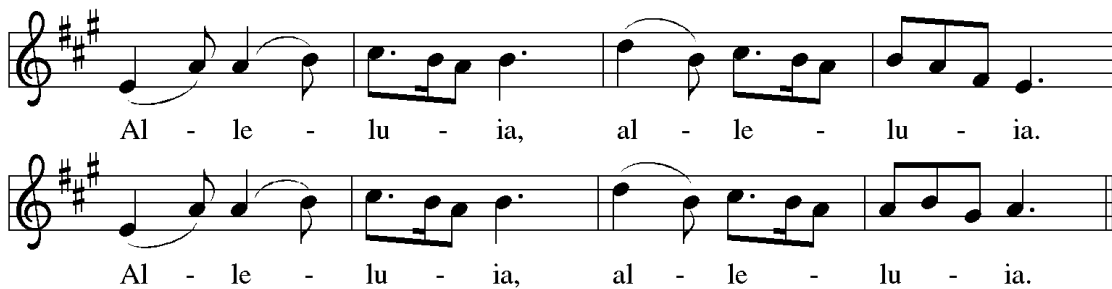
¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

A Word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Gospel Acclamation *Celtic Alleluia*



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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***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 Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. 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 Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ 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.”

⁴² 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’?

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They 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 SERMON

SERMON

Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth



1 Lord Christ, when first you came to earth, up -
 2 O awe - some Love, which finds no room in
 3 New ad - vent of the love of Christ, will
 4 O wound - ed hands of Je - sus, build in



on a cross they bound you, and mocked your sav - ing
 life where sin de - nies you, and, doomed to death, shall
 we a - gain re - fuse you, till in the night of
 us your new cre - a - tion; our pride is dust, our



king - ship's worth by thorns with which they crowned you. And
 bring to doom the pow'r that cru - ci - fies you, till
 hate and war we per - ish as we lose you? From
 vaunt is stilled; we wait your rev - e - la - tion. O



still our wrongs may fash - ion now new thorns to pierce that
 not a stone is left on stone, and then the na - tions'
 an - cient doubts our minds re - lease to seek the king - dom
 Love that tri - umphs o - ver loss, we bring our hearts be -



stead - y brow, and robe of sor - row round you.
 pride, o'er - thrown, will nev - er - more de - fy you!
 of your peace, by which a - lone we choose you.
 fore your cross; come, fin - ish your sal - va - tion.

***APOSTLES CREED**

**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.**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Calm to the Waves

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes that support the vocal lines.

Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Je - sus whis - pers, "Peace, be still."

Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In still - ness, hear his voice.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CALM SEAS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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.

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.

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.

God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

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.

God of the Spirit, be with our congregation, our sister congregation Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Alpena with their Supply Pastors and First Congregational as we all work to spread your word and love throughout our communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

You are invited to share your offering as you enter the sanctuary. An offering plate is located in the center aisle near the back the sanctuary.

OFFERING PERFORMANCE: "Songs of Praises" by Sibelius/Lovelace performed by Trinity Choir

God Bless to Us Our Bread

Ben - di - ce, Se-ñor, nues-tro pan, y da pan a los que tien - en
 God bless to . . us our . . bread, and give bread . . to all those who are

ham - bre y ham-bre de jus - ti - cia a los que tien - en
 hun - gry, and hun - ger for jus - tice to those who are

pan. fed. Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan.
 God bless to . . . us our . . . bread.

Text: Argentine traditional, collected by Federico Pagura, 1923–2016; tr. John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Music: BENDICE NUESTRO PAN, Argentine melody, collected by Federico Pagura; arr. John L. Bell
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***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray:

God of creation,

you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you;

make us generous with what we have.

Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts

in service to you and in love to our neighbors,

today and always.

Amen.

*** WORDS TO LOVE BY**

Who is God? Do you want to know Him better? People have wondered about God for as long as there have been people. They wonder if God still cares about what is going on. Some people think if they get close to God they're afraid they'll have to give up their freedom.

There are many things we don't yet know, but there are many we do. Looking at nature, we can think God is a designer of order and beauty. And He must be pretty powerful. When we look at ourselves and see that we all have some idea about God and that means God put that idea in us!

God is more than an idea. He is more than a symbol for good or a "higher being." God is a very real spirit Being who has always existed in the past, who exists now, and will always exist in the future. God is personal. God is involved in our world. All we have to do is stop, look, and listen. God values you for who you are, not what you do.

One quality of God's nature that should make us treble is His justice.

One quality of God's nature that should give us comfort is His love.

Thank God that your salvation does not depend on you!

From: God is in the Small Stuff by Bruce and Stan

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For thy kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

***BLESSING**

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen

Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in the flow'rs of spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

*DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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tlcbattlecreek.org

Welcome! We believe God created all of humanity in God's image. Since every person is made in the image of God, every person is part of God's family. Whatever your gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, income, mental or physical ability, age, religious background, nationality, or political ideology, you are welcome here. Diversity of skills, gifts, talents, opinions, and experiences are strengthened in the body of Christ. "For all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28b).

As we worship, you're invited to light a candle at the cross on the left wall at any time music is playing or we are singing. This is a way of praying with our bodies and the elements – as we light a flame, we lift up our concerns, gratitude, or whatever else we carry in our hearts.



The Council has a goal of better advertising Trinity and all the things going on in our congregation. One way to reach this goal is to increase our presence on Facebook by having more folks see our posts. If you are on Facebook and you have not already followed Trinity, please do so and then “Like”, “Comment” and “Share” our weekly service and any other happenings. THANKS!!

Coins For Coats starts this Sunday. We are collecting coins (bills too) to be donated to the Charitable Union for their annual coat distribution for kids on October 27 and 28 at Full Blast. Grab a baggie to collect your coins from the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary and return by October 18 so that we can get the money to the Charitable Union on October 19. Thanks!!

Contact Info: For emergency pastoral care contact:

Pr. Ed Ruble, St. Peter Lutheran Church

Cell: 269-569-4721

Email: pastor@saintpeterbc.org

Our thanks to all those who give of their time, talent, and prayers for our church and God's work in the world.

Assisting in worship today:

Preaching: Doug Martens

Lay Assistant: Tresa Garver

Sound Board: John Kolodiziezyck

Streaming: Quentin Valenzuela

Music Director: Ronnie Cung

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

October 4 – October 11, 2026

TODAY: 11:00 am Worship, Coffee Hour

MONDAY: 10:30 Yoga

TUESDAY: 10:30 Yoga, 12:30 Franklin Pantry

WEDNESDAY: 12 AA, 6:30 Choir

THURSDAY:

FRIDAY: 10:30 Yoga

SATURDAY: FCC Cook Out/Car Show Get Out the Vote 4:30 - 6:30

NEXT SUNDAY: 11:00 am, Worship, Coffee Hour

Readings for next Sunday: Isaiah 25: 1 - 9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4: 1 - 9; Matthew 22: 1 - 14

PRAYER REQUESTS Prayer requests are gathered from the spoken prayer requests during worship and can also be added by calling or emailing to office@tlcbattlecreek.org. Prayer requests will stay on the list for three weeks and can be renewed:

September 27: Mark Johnson; **Janelle:** Family of Charles Rothwell, Wayne; **Eric:** Brenon, Chuck; **Tresa:** Herself

September 20: **Gloria:** Wayne; **Mary:** Tish, Charlene; **Connie:** Mary; **Eileen:** Family of Billy Blackburn; **Tresa:** Anyone with unspoken needs & concerns.

September 13: The Family of Ellis Cutler; **Janelle:** Anthony Case, Chelsea & Baby, Linda, John, Wayne; **Eric:** Brenon; **Eileen:** Melissa, Jennifer, Butch, Les; **Connie:** Todd; **Kathy:** Folks impacted by flooding.

The Franklin Food Pantry desperately needs to have its shelves restocked. The items needed are: Canned goods, soups, fruits, vegetables; also, cereal, juice, boxed milk, toilet paper and soap. Cash donations are also appreciated. Please drop off any donations at church placing them in the wagon in the narthex. Thanks!!