

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 08, 2023**

**10 A.M.**

## INTRODUCTION

*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

*The assembly stands.*



+ GATHERING +

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**Congregation (C) Amen.**

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Steadfast and faithful God,

**C you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**C Amen.**



- 1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.  
 2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you,  
 they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

*Refrain*

To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
 God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
 God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
 God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
 God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version

Music: YISRAEL V'ORAFIA, Hasidic tune

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## GREETING

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

C And also with you.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### Refrain

*Congregation:*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,  
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and  
free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -  
er - more!

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

**Verse 1**

*Congregation or Congregation 1:*

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once  
slain, whose blood has freed and u -  
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of  
God. *to Refrain*

**Verse 2**

*Congregation or Congregation 2:*

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and  
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ  
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

**Verse 3**

*Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to  
make us peo - ple of God; to make  
all things new. *to Refrain*



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME



+ 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.*

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. <sup>4</sup>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?

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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!



## **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:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>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; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

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

<sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

**R**      The Word of the Lord.

**C**      **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Optional Repeat*

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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.*

**P** The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the people:] <sup>33</sup>“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. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup>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.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

SERMON *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

*The assembly stands.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

729 *The Church of Christ, in Every Age*



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by  
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000  
Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698-1768  
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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**A** 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**

*Each petition ends: God of grace,*

*Congregational response: hear our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

*The assembly is seated.*



+ MEAL +

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

## ANTHEM

“*Guide My Feet*” - trad. African-American spiritual

Guide my feet while I run this race  
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

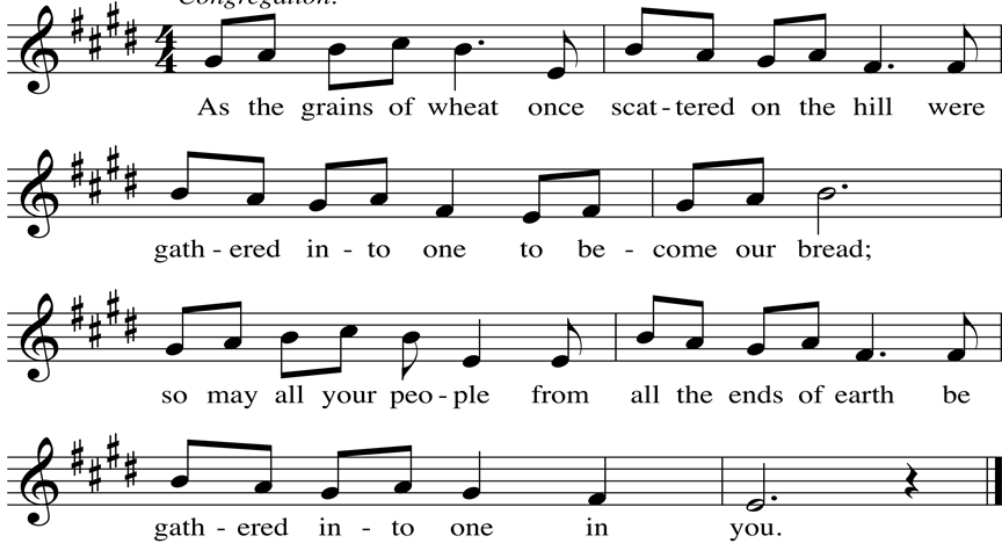
Hold my hand...  
Stand by me...  
I'm Your child...  
Search my heart...  
Guide my feet...

## OFFERING HYMN

*The assembly stands to sing the offering hymn as the collection and the gifts are brought forward.*

### Refrain

*Congregation:*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;  
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be  
gath-ered in - to one in you.

### Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with-in our midst  
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

**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.

P 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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Congregation:*

The musical score is written on five staves of music. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is as follows:  
Staff 1: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
Staff 2: might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
Staff 3: glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Staff 4: Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
Staff 5: san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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*The presiding minister continues to give thanks.*

P 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.

C **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

C **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 the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

*The assembly is seated.*





## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

## **+ SENDING +**

**BLESSING** *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

P The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SENDING HYMN 826** *Thine be the Amen*



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise  
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be  
3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest  
4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise  
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread  
thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee  
thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be  
thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways  
thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup  
gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry  
then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war  
thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least  
then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee




thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.  
gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.  
thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.  
then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.  
thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

**DISMISSAL**

- A We believe out loud that God’s mission for us is:  
C **to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God’s call.**
- A Go in peace. Go in peace. Share the harvest.  
C **Thanks be to God!**

+ + +

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	<p><b>SUE AND MARK CANNING DEDICATE TODAY’S ALTAR FLOWERS IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARK'S PARENTS BEV AND MILLIE, MARK'S BROTHER REED, AND SUE'S PARENTS ELINOR AND TED.</b></p>
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<b><u>Calendar for October 08 - 15</u></b>				
Oct.	8	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
	10	Tue.	11:30 am	OWLs Lunch at Café de Martin
	11	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
	15	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
			11:30 a.m.	Congregational Open Forum

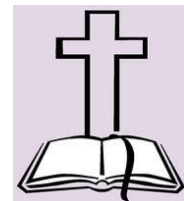
Next Sunday, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost:

[Isaiah 25:1-9](#)

[Psalm 23](#)

[Philippians 4:1-9](#)

[Matthew 22:1-14](#)



<b>SERVING TABLE</b>		
<b>Serving</b>	<b>October 08</b>	<b>October 15</b>
<b>Presiding</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Kirsten Ebbesen	Rob Schiffer
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Jennifer Dritt	Colleen Holdcraft
<b>Lector</b>	Jen Reece	Celia Greeley
<b>Tech Team</b>	Jonas Holdcraft Audrey Post	Caroline Collins Cindy Suhrweir
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Linda Eshleman Lawana Lamb-Daniels Sandy Lamb-Daniels Barbara Sullivan	Billie Reardon Erik Robincon
<b>Counters</b>	Greta Scavone Susan Warren	Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer
<b>Announcements</b>	Denise Bookwalter	Denise Bookwalter

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** The family of Mike Martinez and Nancy Staff, mourning the loss of Mike's mother, Judith Kent; Debee Meyer as she prepares for upcoming surgery; Aubrey Thonvold (Reconciling Works Exec. Dir.), in treatment for breast cancer; Steve Michael (cousin of Rob Schiffer), in rehab after a serious accident.

***For the sick:*** Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor), being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Gordon Fleischer; Stephanie Barber; Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member); Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Laura Ketchum-Jahn, (friend of Cheryl & Steve).

***Health and protection:*** For all affected by the coronavirus – especially those experiencing mental-health difficulties due to isolation, those struggling to recover from the disease, those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel, EMTs), the millions of unemployed people, etc.; for the unaccompanied children entering the U.S., including those “unaccounted for.”

***For prisoners:*** All those on Death Row.

***Other concerns:*** For Karen Olson; Kevin Robinson (son of Erik Robinson), in need of encouragement; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt), for physical and emotional healing.

***Church concerns:*** St. Stephen's Church Council; the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council; all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

***World concerns:*** For all people suffering and/or recovering from hurricanes; migrants and asylum seekers; civil rights for people around the world; a ceasefire in Ethiopia and in Ukraine; peace in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OWLS GATHERING:** OWLS Luncheon at Café de Martin (outside) at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 10. RSVP to Margaret: [ambowersfl@gmail.com](mailto:ambowersfl@gmail.com)

**TALLAHASSEE SWING BAND AT AMERICAN LEGION:** Tuesday, Oct. 17-6:30 p.m. - Dance lessons (free); 7:30-10:00 band music (\$6.00)

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2023:** Do you have an anniversary, birthday, or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service by signing up for the 2023 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$40, and you can place it in the offering plate.

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:** Want to read a sermon you missed? Visit <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>.