



Milton Lutheran Parish

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church – 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 – 570-742-7473

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – 100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 – 570-742-4601

<https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>

Gary Schaeffer, Pastor

Dear Friends of Milton Lutheran Parish:

There is a lot of information this month with a lot going on, and I want to bring your attention to several items of importance.

The first is about our Campfire Worship Service on October 25 in the parking lot at Christ Lutheran. Chad Hersberger from Camp Mount Luther will be joining us and will be helping to lead the service. There will also be a special collection to support the ministry of CML. There will be marshmallows and hotdogs, and all the campfire fun! We ask that you please wear a mask while you are not eating and maintain social distancing guidelines. Campfire Worship will begin at 4:00 P.M. This is the last parking lot worship for this year.

The second is a change in our worship. Starting November 1, we will be worshipping together as a parish at Trinity. Worship will be at 9:30 A.M. In addition to the seating provided in the sanctuary, we are also setting up a livestream of the worship service downstairs if we reach our seating capacity upstairs. We will maintain the same safety procedures that have been recommended to us by the CDC and state government. Masks will be required at all times while inside the building and you will be asked to maintain a distance of 6 feet. We will have hymns during the service, however we will need to refrain from group singing.

Finally, I want to draw your attention to a change we've made in the Parish office. We decided to have all of the office functions work from Trinity. There are a lot of reasons for this change. Mostly we want to be able to increase the efficiency of our administrative work. Having one office gives us the opportunity to do this. It also makes it easier for people to locate the office staff, consolidate our expenses, and create a more welcoming atmosphere for visitors. Over the next couple of weeks will be making this transition and hope to have the transition complete before the new year.

Many Blessings!

Gary



Milton Lutheran Parish

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church – 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 – 570-742-7473

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – 100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 – 570-742-4601

<https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>

Gary Schaeffer, Pastor

Sunday, October 4, 2020, Worship Bulletin Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost Milton Lutheran Parish- Milton, PA

Welcome to Parking Lot Worship Today!

As we gather for worship, here are some procedures and guidelines for our time together:

1. Tune in your car to FM 87.9 for the audio of the service.
2. For communion we will begin with a word of prayer and the blessing of the elements, followed by an invitation to take communion.
3. You are welcome to sing the hymns if you remain in your car. If you are outside, we ask that you refrain from singing unless you are a minimum of 25 feet from others.
4. The ushers will collect offering before and after the service at the entrances and exits of the parking lot.

Welcome and Announcements

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.**

Blessing of the Animals

The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea. They share in the ways of human beings. They have a part in our lives. Francis of Assisi recognized this when he called the animals, wild and tame, his brothers and sisters. Remembering Francis' love for these brothers and sisters of ours, we invoke God's blessing on these animals, and we thank God for letting us share the earth with all the creatures.

Opening Hymn: LBW # 527 "All Creatures of Our God and King"

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice with us and sing: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Oh burning sun with golden beam
And silver moon with softer gleam. **Refrain**

Refrain

**Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfolds rich blessings on our way. Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
The fruits and flow'rs that verdant grow,
Let them his praise abundant show. **Refrain**

Confession and Forgiveness

P- Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

C- Faithful God,
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.**

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.

Amen.

First Reading: 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; 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!

Psalm: Psalm 80:7-15(sung responsively)

⁷Restore 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.

⁹You 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.**

¹¹You 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?**

¹³The 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;**

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

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

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.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

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

Sermon

Hymn: #645- "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever
and our confidence alone.
- 4 Praise and honor to the Father,
praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory
while unending ages run!

Apostles Creed

Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

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,
hear our prayer.

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,

hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

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, and who else and what else shall the people of Milton Lutheran Parish pray for. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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,

hear our prayer.

Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard. May our chorus join theirs until our labor is complete. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Communion

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: #796- "How Firm a Foundation"

1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Weekly Devotional- September 28-October 4

Introduction

This parable has been interpreted to give the early church its legitimacy as the “new tenants” of the vineyard. But its message and its challenge speak to the church of every age. God lovingly, graciously calls us into the vineyard. God plants and equips the vineyard – the church – and then entrusts it to our stewardship. God’s intention is a full, rich harvest of the fruits. The harvest time will come. The question – and the challenge – for us is: “Will we have the courage to be faithful stewards, bearing fruit?”



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.**

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 5:1-7

The song of the vineyard

Psalm 80:7-15

Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine.

Philippians 3:4b-14

Nothing surpasses the value of knowing Christ

Matthew 21:33-46

The parable of the vineyard owner’s son

Questions:

1. Can you relate to the vineyard owner?
2. Have you ever worked on a project with disappointing results? How does it feel?
3. How did the chief priest and the Pharisees respond to this parable?
4. What role does courage have when it comes to bearing fruit?

Lord’s Prayer

Bless one another saying: May God bless you this week and always. AMEN

Resources:

Opening prayer: Sundaysandseasons.com

Questions for discussion: www.workingpreacher.org