

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

This Sunday, we learn from our readings that despite words of judgment, there are also prevailing words of grace because of Christ, the stone rejected by builders, but our cornerstone. If you are able, join the congregation with your own worship at home **at 10am on Sunday** or otherwise engage our home worship resources in ways appropriate to your circumstances at home.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2020
Our Common Prayer at Home**

You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman's sermon, or by adding one or more of the clip-based worship videos, or by engaging the entire worship video. Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle near where you pray. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning my beloved's vineyard:

"My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

²My beloved dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it,
and 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 God's pleasant planting;
for the LORD expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading:

Music may be found at:

<https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20201004/playlist>

PSALM 80:7-15

- ⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- ⁸You 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.
- ¹⁰The 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.
- ¹²Why 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.
- ¹⁴Turn 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

A reading from Philippians.

[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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

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 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. ⁴⁰“Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to Jesus, “The owner 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 dominion of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of it. 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 the people regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Having read these readings, think of this:

Here is an old biblical allegory: Israel is a vineyard from which God, as the vineyard owner, expects to see the good wine of justice and righteousness produced. That image is present in two of our readings as well as the Psalm today. We would misuse this allegory, however, if we make it anti-semitic, as too many Christians have. We ourselves are now the tenants of that vineyard. We are the ones who have contributed to injustice, to the weeping of the misused, even to bloodshed. The son has died because of us. Still, these texts really are a love-song. We are accused because God loves us, wishing to turn us to hear the gospel. For us, Christ is the rejected stone that has become the corner-stone. In mercy, Christ Jesus has made us his own. In the Spirit, he gives us the good wine of himself. Then, in the power of the resurrection and even by sharing his sufferings, we may begin again to do justice for our neighbors in this needy world.

At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman's Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201004/playlist>

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201004/playlist>

HYMN OF THE DAY #645

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

Then pray these intercessions:

Today, October 4, is St. Francis' Day. Francis cared fervently for the church, the earth and its animals, peace, and the poor. Let us now pray for these concerns, responding to each petition with the words "in mercy, receive our prayers."

A brief silence.

God most high, we pray for the church: for our bishop, our pastors, and our own congregation; for the ministry of Pope Francis; for the work of Franciscan friars and sisters; and for churches that are struggling with few resources. *A brief silence.* That all the baptized may produce good fruit, sowing faith where there is doubt, we pray to you, O God our Redeemer;
in mercy, receive our prayers.

We pray for the earth and its animals: for farmlands; for animals whose habitat is threatened; for livestock; for all the animals that we raise for human use; for service animals; and for our dear pets. *A brief silence.* That the earth may be sustained with your care, and that we will sow joy where there is sadness, we pray to you, O God our Creator;
in mercy, receive our prayers.

We pray for peace: between nations; in our cities; among political rivals; throughout our coming election; between generations; between long-time citizens and new immigrants; in our churches and in our homes. *A brief silence.* That we may become instruments of your peace, sowing union where there is discord, we pray to you, O God, our Peacemaker:
in mercy, receive our prayers.

We pray for those who are poor: for the unemployed; for migrants; for those who are marginalized by prejudice; for orphans; for school children with no digital access. *A brief silence.* That we may give assistance where there is poverty and need, we pray to you, O God our Provider:
in mercy, receive our prayers.

We pray for all who are suffering: for those laid low by the coronavirus; for those who like Francis have painful eye disease; for those living with anxiety; for those whose sorrow is known only to you; for those who today will die; and for those whose names we call out to you here: Barb Jensen, Charlotte Boeck, David Collins, Don Hansen, Karen Huff, Lyle Kubly, Jack Mulloy, Gretchen Zeltner . . . *A brief silence.* That we may sow hope where there is despair, we pray to you, O God our Comforter:
in mercy, receive our prayers.

We pray, finally for ourselves. Strengthen our faith in Christ, and hear our personal petitions. *A longer period of silence.* That we may sow pardon where there is injury and love where there has been hatred, we pray to you, O God our Healer:
in mercy, receive our prayers.

We praise you, God most high, for all the faithful who have gone before us into the fullness of your life, especially this week the Lutheran pastors Theodor Fliedner and Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg. *A brief silence.* That at our end, where there is darkness, we will join in your light forever, we pray to you, O God, Eternal One.
in your mercy, receive our prayers.

Enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, as we trust in your salvation through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20201004/playlist>

HYMN #343

My Song Is Love Unknown

343



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es
4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love - less shown that they might
stow; the world that was his own would not its
sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas
way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I that
Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my
to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is
life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to



for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!
all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.
suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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

**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.**

Then speak the Blessing:

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.



We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let this food to us be blessed.
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,
may all the world be clothed and fed.**

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 144. **Tuesday** (commemoration of William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536) 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787) John 11:45-57. **Thursday** Psalm 23. **Friday** James 4:4-10. **Saturday** Isaiah 24:17-23. **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost** Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14.

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