Worship & Holy Communion
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 4, 2026 9:30 a.m.

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.

In God's Service

Worship Leader:	Pastor Charis Combs-Lay
Ministers:	All Baptized People of God
Music:	Mary Groh
Reader:	Diane Murphy
Ushers	Jim & Diane Murphy

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF QUILTS & SCHOOL KITS

Blessing
L: God, our neighbors around the world are in need of hope. Your Spirit is a mighty force, your whispers of hope bring light into the world. Open our hearts and hands to see your presence in our neighborhoods and across the world.
C: Jesus, help us speak words of hope to our neighbors.
L: God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and the items collected for the kits. May their presence be a sign of hope, may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing.
C: Jesus, help us reach out in hope to our neighbors.
L: God, we give thanks for all the hands that fashioned hope into a quilt, for the hands that collected and sorted, for the hands that continually open wider so that no one feels left out.
C: Jesus, help us see hope in our neighbors.
L: God, we ask you to guide the staff and partners at LWR. May their voices and hands be a beacon of hope. Keep them safe. Keep them filled with your strength and perseverance.
C: Jesus, help us share a taste of hope with our neighbors.
L: God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope.
C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

Please kneel, sit or stand. 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.

The assembly stands

GATHERING HYMN ***My Lord of Light*** ***ELW 832***

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Give to Our God Immortal Praise!*

Give to the Lord of lords renown; the King of
kings with glory crown. His mercies ever
shall endure when lords and kings are known no more!

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
The assembly is seated.

RING HIS PRAISES BELL CHOIR

Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)

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 Peter

A reading from Isaiah:
[1] 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 briers 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!
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: (Please read responsively)
7 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.
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.

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.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATON *The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*

Gospel
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.
The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* *ELW 803*

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 (*PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY*)

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

A brief silence.

P: God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church.

C: Inspire us to follow their example in our own day.

P: God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it.

C: We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation.

P: God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones, and shelter those who live within them.

C: We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees.

P: God of every comfort, you made us in your own image.

C: Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering.

P: God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith.

C: . **Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love.**

P: God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home.

C: We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you.

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

Amen.

OFFERING

Please stand as able or comfortable.

OFFERTORY ***In the Singing***

In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing in the breaking, in our presence at this table.

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.**

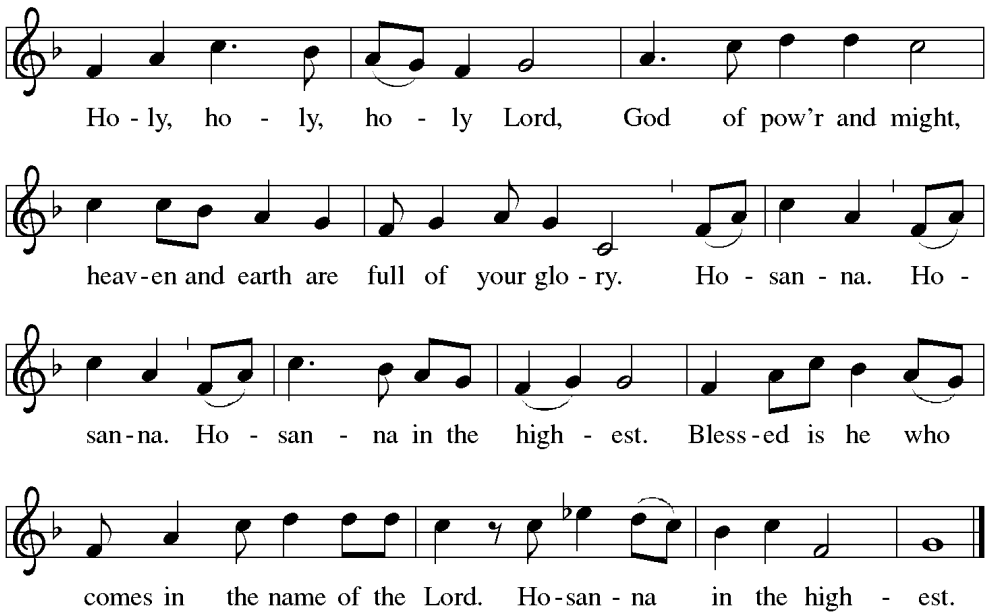
Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

(The assembly is seated)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Each side will be ushered forward down the center aisle. Those on the pulpit side will kneel at the communion rail at the front and fill into the back. Those on the lector side will kneel at the communion rail at the back and fill in to the front. Pastor will distribute the elements from the pulpit front and around the back. Communion is continual. Return your cups to the trays by the pews.

COMMUNION MUSIC *Accompanist Choice*

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. **By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.**

Amen.

BLESSING

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG ***All Creatures Worship God Most High*** **ELW 835**
Vs 1,4,6

DISMISSAL

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

Calendar

This Week:

Sunday, Oct. 4	9:30 am Worship SP
	10:30 am Fellowship
Monday, Oct. 5	9:00 am Quilting OS
	9:30 am Quilting SP
Wednesday, Oct. 7	9:30 am M&M's/WELCA SP
	5:00 pm Bell Choir
	6:30 pm Bible Study SP
Thursday, Oct. 8	4:30-6:30 pm Spaghetti Dinner OS

Next Week:

Sunday, Oct. 11	9:30 am Worship OS
	10:30 am Fellowship
	10:30 Joint Council Meeting
	2:00 pm 2/4 Quilting SP
Monday, Oct. 12	9:00 am Quilting OS
	9:30 am Quilting SP
Tuesday, Oct. 13	Noon Worship Planning OS
Wednesday, Oct. 14	9:30 am M&M's SP
	5:00 pm Bell Choir

Announcements

Welcome to Pastor Charis Combs-Lay from Cresco for leading our worship service this morning. We are so thankful that you can join us.

Thank you seems so inadequate for all the gifts, food, flowers, cards, phone calls, love and support given to me and to Kirk these past months. We are especially grateful for all the prayers. I learned years ago that though I may be by myself, I am never alone. My sincere thank you from Carlyn Schriver & Kirk. p.s,. my beautiful Viking purple prayer shawl is always near me and is being well used!

The Special Offering collected at our services in October will again go to cover the shipping costs of the over 500 school kits we put together for Lutheran World Relief! Thanks to all for supporting this mission!

Now is the time to purchase chances towards the Spaghetti Supper's gift baskets. There are baskets with $50 gift certificates to Cinema West movie theater and Prime 'n' Wine and Pasta Bella Restaurants. Also there is the Family Fun basket of fun and tasty items. Again this year, the Quilts of Valor ladies are offering a wonderful basket of sewing goodies. There is also a beautiful hand-sewn quilt for which to get chances, as well as a Sewer's Delight basket. Tickets are $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00. *See Chris VanDeventer to purchase tickets today and each upcoming Sunday and Monday until Thursday,* October 8th, when the winning tickets will be drawn around 6:00 p.m.

Our Saviour's Take-Out Spaghetti Drive-Thru Supper and Bake Sale is coming up on Thursday, October 8th, from 4:30 p.m. 'til gone. Sign-up sheets to help that day are on the table in the fellowship hall. Also, please, sign up on the bake sale contributions sheet to help us in our planning. Those items need to be brought to the church that day by noon, if possible. The proceeds of the supper and the sale are used to provide for charities each year.

Join us in welcoming Becky Elsbernd with a potluck following the November 1st church service. Please bring a dish to share.

St Paul Lutheran Church **Chili Drive Thru** Monday, October 19th 4-6 p.m. (or until gone), free will offering. Includes-a 2 cup serving of chili, cinnamon roll & crackers. Bring own container for family size order.

SAVE THE DATE-**Fall Field Trip to Cedar Falls** with NE IA Women of the ELCA on Saturday, Oct. 17. Bring a friend, spouse, children & grandchildren. Going to Sullivan Brothers IA Veteran's Museum (& Norris Carson Family Planetarium)/Lunch at Barn Happy/Threehouse Collaborative Campus Ministries. Carpool to leave Our Saviour's at 8:15 a.m.

TRUNK OR TREAT-will be held Saturday Oct. 31 from 5:00 to 6:30 (come when you can) in the church parking lot at Our Saviour's. Members from **BOTH** churches **are invited to come and help** in this neighborhood outreach. If you are unable to come, but still want to support this effort, we invite you to provide candy/treats or money to purchase them. Mark your checks/envelopes "Trunk or Treats" (Feel free to bring coffee, hot cocoa and/or hand warmers.)

Please be sure to sign **friendship registers** located at end of pews.

Reminder: the deadline for turning in announcements for the bulletin is Wednesday by 8 a.m.

If you feel drawn to kneel during the service, please feel free to lower the kneelers and use them.

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