

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
(04.10.2020)

GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
and also with you.

Hold out your hands, God of grace, and receive all that we offer.
Take our lives, our love and all that we bring in faith today,
and use us and our gifts for the well-being of the world.
Amen.

WELCOME

CONFESSION

God, who does not turn away from the truth about our life,
even unto death,
we confess that we have far less courage.
We often pretend to ourselves,
we often pretend to others,
and sometimes we even try to pretend in your presence.
If we are afraid to see who we have become,
if we are too grieved about our lives to ask for forgiveness,
or if we are too proud to ask others for forgiveness:
Stand before us in the truth of your costly grace.

When our lives celebrate comfort and complacency
instead of the journey of faith,
when we close off the reality of the lives of others
because it demands a response we will not give:
Speak before us in the truth of your costly grace, Jesus Christ.
Speak into our hearts in new ways,
the ways of your faithfulness to us, O God.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Even as we pray,
the life of Jesus
moves towards all that would destroy us,
healing, loving and bringing grace.
We are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

COLLECT

Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

READINGS

Isaiah 5: 1-7

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watch-tower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
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?

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.
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.

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!

Matthew 21: 33-46

Jesus said, '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 watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' 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.'

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"?

Therefore 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. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These prayers use the following bidding and response:

God of the vineyard,
help us to cultivate that fruit.

THE PEACE

Let love be genuine. Never pay back evil for evil.
As far as it lies with you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12.9,17,18

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught his disciples, so we pray:

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

BLESSING

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever he may send you.
May he guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.
May he bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders he has shown you.
May he bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors. **Amen.**

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

NOTICES

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