# "Growing God's Kingdom"



## Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059 (717)-436-6213

**RADIO:** AM 1700

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

**TODAY'S 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.

### Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 Church Office: 717-436-6213

Samuel Leister
Andrea Cameron
Bob St. Clair
Slone Smith
Harrison Mummah
Olivia Mummah
Tammy Smith & Tawny Mummah

Vicar
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Acolyte
Offering Presenter
Altar Guild

#### SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

World Communion Sunday October 4, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

\*Please Stand as YOU Are Able

#### **PREPARATION**

**CHIMES** 

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

PRELUDE:

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Faithful God,
- C 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.
- P 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.
- C Amen.

#### **GATHERING**

- \* GATHERING HYMN
- "All Things Bright and Beautiful"
- (vss. 1 & 2) bulletin, pg. 12

- \* GREETING
  - P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
  - C And also with you.

#### \* KYRIE



- 1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol-emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a way our sin.
- 3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de part.



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de - spair. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin. Re - new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

#### \* CANTICLE OF PRAISE (Verse Three)



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for ev er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa-ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

- \* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)
  - P Let us pray...
  - C 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.

#### **WORD**

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.

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 briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ¹For 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!

- L: Here ends the reading.
- C: Thanks be to God.

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>8</sup>You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.

<sup>9</sup>You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

<sup>10</sup>The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

<sup>11</sup>You 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?

<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

<sup>14</sup>Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;

<sup>15</sup>behold and tend this vine;

preserve what your right hand has planted.

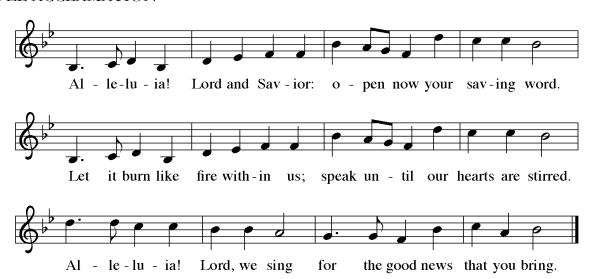
Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

SECOND READING......Phillippians 3:4b-14

[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.

- L: Here ends the reading.
- C: Thanks be to God.

#### \* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.

- \* GOSPEL......Matthew 21:33-46
  - P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.
  - C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

[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. 34When 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.' 38But 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." 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." <sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON Vicar Sam Leister

- \* HYMN OF THE DAY
- "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

(vss. 3 & 4) bulletin, pg. 12

\* 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
  - P Lord, in your mercy,
  - C hear our prayer.
- \* THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)
  - C 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.

\* OFFERING PRESENTATION

\* OFFERTORY ('Create in Me')

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

#### **SENDING**

- \* BLESSING
  - P Mothering God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.
  - C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)
- \* SENDING HYMN

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

bulletin, pg. 13

- \* HOLY COMMUNION
  - 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.
  - P 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.
  - P The Body of Christ given for you. (Wafer)
  - P The Blood of Christ shed for you. (Juice)
  - P Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.
  - C AMEN.
- \* DISMISSAL
  - P Go in peace. Remember the poor.
  - C Thanks be to God.

#### PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF AT HOME!

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#### **WELCOME TO ALL!**

WITH CHRIST'S LOVE AND GOD'S GRACE, we welcome all who worship at Messiah today. If you are a VISITOR or GUEST, we invite you to record your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Vicar. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Young children are also encouraged to join us in our worship experience! We are so thankful that you joined us for worship today!

FOR YOUR COMFORT, restrooms are located in the hallway through the double doors of the Adult Sunday School Room and to the left.

JUST A THOUGHT – Oswald Chambers, Scottish Minister and Teacher (1784 – 1917): Happiness depends on what happens, joy does not.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS <u>THURSDAY NOON.</u>

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Vicar Leister at sleister@gmail.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for <u>one month</u>. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or <u>mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</u>. If you have anyone who is a "last minute" addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not "overbooked" in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email <a href="mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com">mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</a> for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Vicar Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Vicar Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at <a href="mailto:sleister@gmail.com">sleister@gmail.com</a>.

COPIES OF JULY 29, 2020 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

THE OCTOBER 2020 "MESSIAH HERALD" is now available online. Hard copies are available in the church office, Adult Sunday School Room, Kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. If you want something placed in the Messiah Herald, please contact BOTH the church office (mlchurchoffice@gmail.com) and Bob St. Clair (stclairb@embarqmail.com) prior to the newsletter deadline, which is listed on the calendar in the newsletter, or online at mlcmifflintown.org. Also, if anyone would like to add or remove names from our email list, please let Bob know as well.

DUE TO THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND CONCERNS, the start of Sunday School at Messiah for adults and children will be delayed until further notice. The Parish Planning Council in close consultation with the Board of Christian Education will evaluate conditions and make a determination as conditions improve. Thank you for your patience and please stay safe!

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be offered following the sending hymn in order to minimize any contact during the meal. We will be using communion kits that are pre-packaged and sealed that include a wafer and grape juice. Each person desiring to share in the meal will take a packaged kit when you receive a bulletin.

CHURCH CLEANER – Since Dave Phelan has retired, Messiah is looking for a person to clean the church. It would be 10 hours a week. Hours would be flexible. Call the church office at 717-436-6213 for an application and more details.

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

#### WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

September 27, 2020 - Attendance 39		Other Funds	
Total Offering	\$4,300.00	Benevolence	\$ 60.00
Other Funds	<u>2,655.00</u>	Building Fund	1,095.00
General Fund	\$1,645.00	Memorial Fund	<u>1,500.00</u>
		Total	\$2,655.00

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF has launched the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge, a request for volunteers to sew cloth masks that will be sent overseas to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are interested in participating in this challenge, you can make as few or as many as you would like. Please call or email Cynthia Smith for details about this project at 717-994-4999 or <a href="mailto:gramcynthia49@yahoo.com">gramcynthia49@yahoo.com</a>.

#### **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) is continuously collected as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

TODAY IS BLANKET SUNDAY A special Blanket Sunday envelope is included with your bulletin for donations to Lutheran World Relief (please make checks payable to Messiah Women of the ELCA). Blankets will be delivered to the Synod Office by Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

OUR THANKS TO "THE NEEDLERS" for sewing all of the lovely quilts you see today and for decorating the chancel and nave this morning. The quilts on display will be donated by "The Needlers" as their Blanket Sunday offering. Blankets, quilts and kits will be tken to the Synod Office parking lot in Lewisburg on October 10<sup>th</sup>. The quilts will then be sent to Lutheran World Relief and also given to Messiah members who are now in nursing homes. A report of the total number of quilts made and other items being sent will be printed in the bulletin after everything is packed for shipment. The covers on the altar and lecterns were made by Carole Nace.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA are collecting the following items for school kits. Items needed are:

70-80 SHEET NOTEBOOKS (EACH KIT REQUIRES 4)

1 RULER WITH CENTIMETERS AND INCHES

1 PENCIL SHARPENER

1 PAIR OF BLUNT SCISSORS

5 UNSHARPENED PENCILS WITH ERASERS

5 BLACK OR BLUE BALLPOINT PENS (NO GEL PENS)

1 BOX OF 16 OR 24 CRAYONS

1 2½ INCH ERASER

Items for the Seafarers Bags need to be delivered to the Synod Office by November 8<sup>th</sup>. Items needed are:

HOODED SWEATSHIRTS, (L-XL)

ATHLETIC SOCKS, (THERMAL OR WHITE GYM SOCKS)

T-SHIRTS, (M-L)

THE NEXT MESSIAH WELCA MEETING will be held on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

#### **COMMUNITY**

Again this year the Food Pantry will join forces with the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, and <u>YOU</u> to bring Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to as many Juniata County families living in poverty as possible. When the Boy Scouts come to your door in November for their annual food drive, please give generously. If you can help us to begin stockpiling the foods listed below, we would really appreciate it. Our goal is to provide 400 meals for Thanksgiving and 400 for Christmas.

#### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR OCTOBER

<u>HOLIDAY MEAL DONATIONS</u> – (These are the foods that are hard for us to get), Turkeys, Turkey Breasts, Hams (3-5 lbs.), canned Sweet Potatoes, and Fruit Cocktail. A donation of \$20 will purchase one complete meal!

THE 48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JUNIATA COUNTY CROP 5K FUN WALK/RUN will be held on October 11<sup>th</sup> at Walker Township Park. Registration is at 1:30 p.m. and the walk begins at 2:00 p.m. This year's event will have a hybrid walk. Participants will be able to walk in-person at the park and will be asked to wear a mask. Register online at <a href="https://www.crophungerwalk.org/mifflintownpa">www.crophungerwalk.org/mifflintownpa</a>. Supporters can make their donations online if they would like. Collection envelopes and materials are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. Participants can also get a collection envelope by emailing Graham Fowler at <a href="mailto:gfowler66@gmail.com">gfowler66@gmail.com</a> or by calling the Lost Creek Presbyterian Church Office at 717-463-3138. Please make checks payable to CWS/CROP. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised will go to the Juniata County Food Pantry and Juniata County Meals-On-Wheels. For more information, go to Facebook page: Juniata Co CROP 5k Fun Walk/Run.

ON CROP WALK DAY, walkers can deliver the following needed items to the Food Pantry:

<u>Personal Hygiene Supplies</u> – toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, etc.

<u>Cleaning Supplies</u> – all-purpose cleansers, bleach, trash bags, laundry detergent, dish detergent, etc.

Paper Products – paper towels, toilet tissue, tissues.

<u>Infant Needs</u> – diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo, baby lotions.

Non-Perishable Food Items.

#### **PRAYER LIST**

Carole Baker Jane Ann Baney Donna Barton Lindsey Barton Bob Bell Nick Beward Joyce Bradley Andrea Cameron Pam Campbell Ruth Cisney Curtis Clark Terry Coder Leann Crimmel Will DeLancy Guy Dillman Fred & Dot Dowling Renee Dzikowski Neil Fisher Janie Fogleman Jerald (Jerry) Foltz Ed Fraker Bentley Fulkroad Joan Fulkroad Terri Gayer Edie Kay Gill

Paul Goss

Jeanette Gross Beth Harris Harry Heikes Jennifer Heikes Sue Henderson Nox Hepburn Jason Hockenberry & Family Curt & Judy Houtz Jennifer Hutchinson Matt Hutchinson Brenda Imes Peggy Inch Denny King Kevin Kint Pam Lawson Carol Lyter Anthony Martin Carlen McClure Marilyn MaCoy Charlie, Amanda, & Isabel Meinsler Tammy Metz Cecilia Miller Ellwood Miller Larry Miller

Madison Norman Austin Parker Noel Peachey Dave Phelan Butch & Sandy Pines Steve Pontius Betty Ranck Keith Ranck Matt, Amy & Olivia Reed Mary Sanders Mackenzie Shearer Ronald Shearer Mike Sparks Donald Speece Bob & Jeanette St. Clair Charles Stump Alice Swartz Messiah's TEEM Dorothy Towsey Rich Walters Erma Williamson Jim Woltman Mackenzie Wrav Barbara Yocum Dorothy Zeiders Linda Zimmerman

Darve Nace

#### **PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS**

Shirley Miller

Jim Minick

Landon Musser

Ray Bramm Ruth Cisney Max Ernest Margaret Guss Gail Henderson Mona Lawson Iane Marhefka Minnie Minick

Edith Nipple Esther Rhine Carol Simonton Sieber & Ona Stoner Ken & Kay Stuck Velma Suloff Kitty Walters Jim Yetter