



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
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I count
everything
as loss
because of the
surpassing
worth
of knowing
Christ

Philippians 3:8



THE REST OF THE STORY: *Loving God & Serving Others*



GOD MAY BE CALLING
YOU BUT PROBABLY NOT
ON YOUR CELL PHONE
PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8 October 2023, 10:15 am



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AS WE GATHER

We all have a past. From the people whose names are known to all to the anonymous known only to God, we all come with history that has marked us for sin and death. The gift of God is that He forgives that sinful past, removes all condemnation, and bestows a future upon us. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the story of Paul. The Lord forgave his past, restored him beyond every expectation, and gave him a future serving as an apostle in life with the prize of eternal life in death. No matter who we are, we have the same promise. God forgives all our sin, restores us to be His own and live under Him in His kingdom, and bears in us the fruit of the Kingdom now and the prize of everlasting life in His own time. All of this we know now by faith, trusting in the righteousness that God has given to us in Christ and not in ourselves.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC and CANDLE LIGHTING

WELCOME and INVITATION

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING SONGS

Sing To The King

Billy J. Foote, Charles S. Horne

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I Am Holding On to You

David Crowder and Ed Cash

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INVOCATION

REPENTANCE and RESTORATION

Gracious God, You have given us Your holy word in Scripture, which reveals Your grace and mercy shown us in our Lord Jesus Christ. Mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit guide our daily response as we pray, praise, and give thanks; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

We now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

A moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Lord's mercy and forgiveness.

Holy and gracious God,

we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have transgressed Your law and have brought injury to others. We have not always shown forth our faith in every aspect of our lives. We sincerely repent of our sins. Have mercy on us and hear this, our confession, O Lord. Grant us Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit within us, lead us to amend our sinful lives that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.

With confident joy, I announce to you that God hears our pleas and accepts our prayers. To each of us our Lord promises forgiveness, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Following the prayer, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you" as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, then return to their seats.
(Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3)

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Please refer to the back of your service folder or to the screens overhead.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

"The Vineyard of the Lord Destroyed"

Grace Perry

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 80:7-19

René Hutzell

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

You brought a vine out of Egypt;

You drove out the nations and planted it.

You cleared the ground for it;

it took deep root and filled the land.

**The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.**

*It sent out its branches to the sea
and its shoots to the River.*

**Why then have You broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**

*The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.*

Turn again, O God of hosts!

Look down from heaven, and see;
*have regard for this vine, the stock that Your right hand planted,
and for the son whom You made strong for Yourself.*

**They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down;
may they perish at the rebuke of Your face!**

*But let Your hand be on the man of Your right hand,
the son of man whom You have made strong for Yourself!*

**Then we shall not turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call upon your name!**

*Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!
Let Your face shine, that we may be saved!*

EPISTLE READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

Jane Goss

"Righteousness Through Faith in Christ"

Please stand.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

"The Parable of the Tenants"

Pastor Marty

WHAT WE BELIEVE ~ Apostles' Creed *(see hymnal inside back cover)*

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Jane Goss

(Kindergarten – 6th grade students are excused to attend Children's Church in the ANNEX)

SONG OF THE DAY

Cornerstone

E. Mote, E. Liljero, J. Myrin, R. Morgan, Wm Bradbury

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MESSAGE

"The Nothing That Is Everything"

Pastor Marty Tyler

Sermon Notes

Main Point:

Focus Scripture

God's Perspective

Our Perspective

How do the two perspectives help us share God's Good News?

Application:

What Does This Mean for Me?

THANKFUL GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support of Grace Ministries.

Our ability to continue to serve you, the Church, and our community is greatly dependent upon the willingness of God's people to give of their time, talents, and treasures. Please remember to support the LORD'S Church by regularly sending in your tithes and offerings; by mail, online at www.GraceLutheranCC.com/Giving, or download the *GivePlus* Mobile App. As the Apostle Paul writes, "Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). If you brought your tithe or offering with you today, you may place them in the box marked "I Bring An Offering To The Lord" sitting on the table next to the usher's station at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Please stand.

OFFERTORY SONG

Shout Hosanna

Brett Younker, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Kristian Stanfill

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER *(see hymnal inside back cover)*

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE

Paul's dedication might raise these questions for us:

- What is crowding our lives?
- What is taking up too much space, too much time and too much energy?
- Are we going through life on "automatic pilot" – simply engaging in activities and routines because we have always done them that way?

Paul would encourage us to reflect on that and what we can change or discard that we might live a life that focuses on Christ alone.

Please stand.

BLESSING TO DEPART

May He who began His good work in you bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

DEPARTING SONG

Way Maker

Osinachi Kalu and Okoro Egbu

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Thank you for worshiping with us today.

Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the Grace Fellowship Hall.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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About the Cover

Paul had every reason to boast in his flesh and worldly gains. He was revered, respected, and admired for his pedigree and zeal. But he counted it all as loss in comparison to gaining Christ. For Christ first gave His life on the cross to gain Paul. Likewise, Christ has done this for each of us. No individual status or personal achievement can compare to knowing our Lord, who gave His life for us. Everything else is all loss, but Christ is all gain.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 5:1-7

- ¹ Let me 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;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.
- ³ And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
- ⁴ What more was there to do for my vine-
yard,
that I have not done in it?
When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild 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 waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and briars and thorns shall grow up;
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 men of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice,
but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness,
but behold, an outcry!

Epistle: Philippians 3:4b-14

^{4b}If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count 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 that which comes through faith in Christ,

the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But 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 upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

³³[Jesus said:] "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. 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 have his inheritance.' ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore 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 let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

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 marvelous in our eyes?"

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.