

**Sunday, October 8, 2023**  
**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
***Christ the Cornerstone...Redeemed, Restored, and Crowned***



*Like a building, we have a foundation stone on which we rest, a cornerstone on which we build, a capstone that holds it all together.*

*Jesus is each of those stones, the foundation on which our faith is established, the cornerstone on which our faith is built, and the capstone that holds us up.*

*He's also a stone of stumbling.*

*Those who reject His foundation, His cornerstone, and His capstone are broken into pieces in the day of judgment. All of this is revealed in the parable about a master who built a vineyard, planted the vines, and set it out for tenants to produce the wine.*

*Instead, they conspired to keep the vineyard as their own, rejected those whom the master sent, and killed his son.*

*This is the story of Jesus and of the people of God that He had chosen and created to be His vineyard. It's a story of warning, but it's also a story of grace.*

## ***Prelude***

### ***9:00am: #907, God Himself Is Present***

1 God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him And with awe appear before Him. God is in His temple; All within keep silence; Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence. He alone On His throne Is our God and Savior; Praise His name forever!

2 God Himself is present: Hear the harps resounding; See the hosts the throne surrounding. "Holy, holy, holy!" Hear the hymn ascending, Songs of saints and angels blending. Bow Your ear To us here: Hear, O Christ, the praises That Your Church now raises.

3 Fount of ev'ry blessing, Purify my spirit, Trusting only in Your merit. Like the holy angels, Worshiping before You, May I ceaselessly adore You. Let Your will Ever still Rule Your Church terrestrial As the hosts celestial.

Text: Gerhard Tersteegen, 1697–1769, abr.; tr. Frederick W. Foster, 1760–1835, alt.; tr. John Miller, 1756–90, alt.  
Text: Public domain

### ***11:15am: Opening Praise Song***

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** Restore us, O God of hosts;

**C:** let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

**P:** Then we shall not turn back from You;

**C:** give us life, and we will call upon Your name!

*(Silence for meditation and reflection)*

P: Holy and gracious God,

**C: I confess that I have sinned against You. Some of my sin I know, the thoughts, words, and deeds of which I am ashamed, but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Together, we pray,

**C: Merciful Father, in Your abundant love You redeemed us from our sin and restored us as Your own children in Christ. As You have crowned us with love and mercy, keep us in this grace and favor that we may strive to complete the race and receive from Your hand the crown of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.**

## **Children's Time**

### **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 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. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men 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 looked for 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 briers and thorns shall grow up; 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 men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Philippians 3:4b–14**

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, 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 and 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— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not 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. Brothers, 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, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

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. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. 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 have his inheritance.’ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore 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 let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

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 marvelous in our eyes’?”

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

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

**(Matthew 21:33–46)**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

***9:00am: #664, Fight the Good Fight***

1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.  
Lay hold on life, and it shall be Your joy and crown eternally.

2 Run the straight race through God’s good grace; Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.  
Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

3 Cast care aside, lean on your guide; His boundless mercy will provide. Trust, and  
enduring faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.

4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He changes not who holds you dear; Only believe,  
and you will see That Christ is all eternally.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–75, alt.  
Text: Public domain

***11:15am: Sermon Praise Song***

**The Sermon**

P: Please rise and join me as we profess our common faith,

**C: APOSTLES CREED**

**The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes**

**The Prayers of His Children**

P: ...let us pray to the Lord     **C: Lord, have mercy**

P: Jesus, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray,

**C: LORDS PRAYER.**

## **God's Benediction**

### ***9:00am: #912, Christ Is Our Cornerstone***

1 Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build; With His true saints alone  
The courts of heav'n are filled. On His great love Our hopes we place  
Of present grace And joys above.

2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore, And may that grace, once  
giv'n,  
Be with us evermore Until that day When all the blest To endless rest  
Are called away.

3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring; Our voices we will  
raise  
The Three in One to sing And thus proclaim In joyful song, Both loud and  
long,  
That glorious name.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.  
Text: Public domain

### ***11:15am: Sending Praise Song***

## **Ministry Announcements**

### ***Postlude***