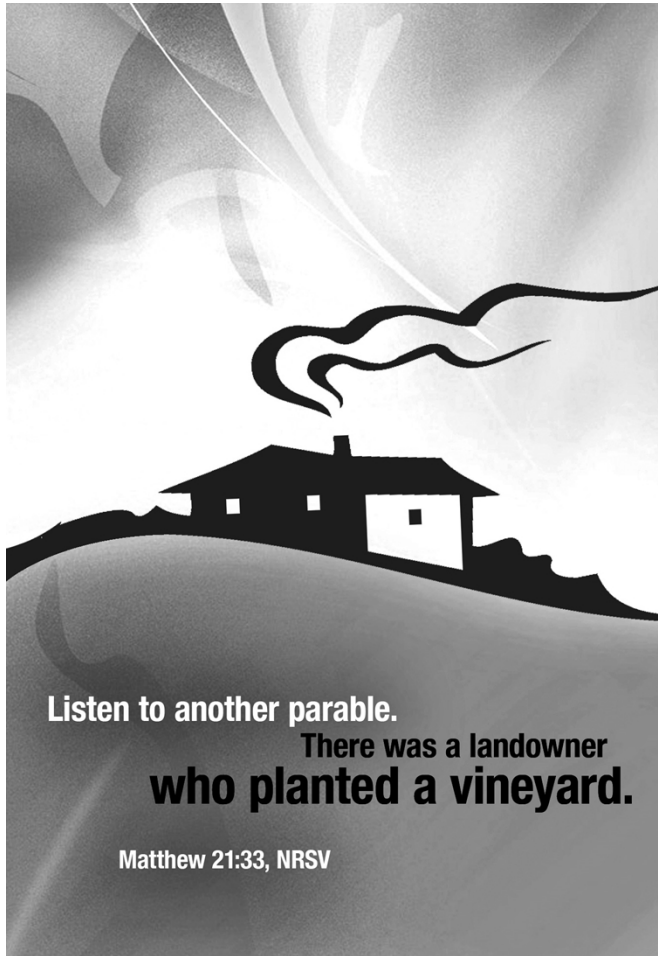


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Listen to another parable.

There was a landowner
who planted a vineyard.

Matthew 21:33, NRSV

STORY TIME:
How Much Patience Is Too Much Patience?
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023



Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

Service Notes For This Service



Patience is a virtue. But can too much patience be a vice? If you are too patient, waiting to see if that pain in your stomach goes away with time, you might make a problem worse. If you are too patient with an incompetent employee, you will lose productivity before the inevitable—his firing—occurs anyway. Too much patience would seem not to be a virtue, but reckless behavior.

Yet that is exactly what God demonstrates to a rebellious human race—reckless patience. Through a story Jesus teaches exactly what God's patience means for us.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Pete Plagenz; accompanist Sue Kulhanek; special music by St. Paul's School Grades K-2 and St. Paul's Preschool

Acknowledgements

Setting One from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

The Service: Setting One

Setting One begins on page 154 in the hymnal.

Welcome

8:00 – Anthem by St. Paul’s Preschool Students

Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

10:30 – Hymn

920 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 155

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

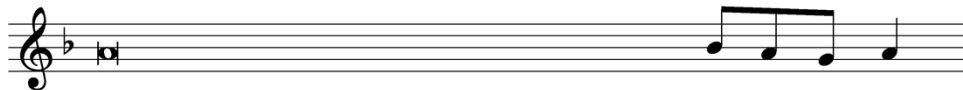
God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



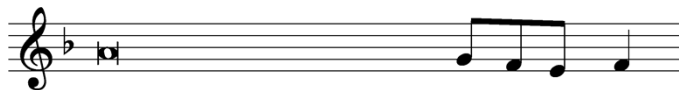
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



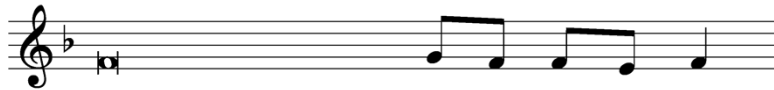
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



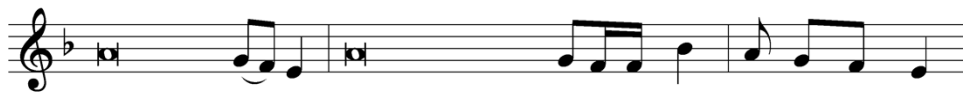
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



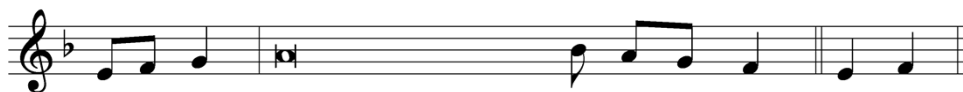
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

The LORD Almighty pictures his love for Israel as an owner of a vineyard patiently waiting for a good crop of fruit.

¹ Let me sing for my loved one a song about my loved one's vineyard. My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile ridge. ² He dug it up and gathered the stones out of it. He planted it with the best vines. He built a tower in the middle of it. He also cut a winepress into it. He expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes, but it produced only sour grapes.

³ So now, you residents of Jerusalem and you men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more could have been done for my vineyard that I have not already done for it? When I expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes, why did it produce sour grapes? ⁵ Now, let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will take away its hedge, and it will become a pasture. I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled down. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland. It will not be pruned or hoed. So briars and thorns will shoot up. I will also command the clouds not to pour rain on it.

⁷ Yes, the vineyard of the LORD of Armies is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the planting that was pleasing to him. He expected justice, but instead there was oppression. He expected righteousness, but there was an outcry. (EHV)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

8:00 – Hymn

920 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

10:30 – Responsive Reading of Psalm 80

O Shepherd of Israel, give ear, you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who are seated above the cherubim, shine forth.

² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might.

Come with salvation for us.

³ **God, restore us, and make your face shine, so we will be saved.**

⁴ LORD God of Armies, how long will your anger smoke against the prayer of your people?

⁵ **You make them eat bread with tears, and you make them drink tears by the quart.**

⁶ You create strife between us and our neighbors, so our enemies join together in mocking us.

⁷ **God of Armies, restore us, and make your face shine, so we will be saved.**

⁸ You brought a vine out from Egypt. You drove out the nations, and you planted it.

⁹ **You cleared a place for it, and it took root and filled the land.**

¹⁰ The mountains were covered by its shade, the cedars of God with its branches.

¹¹ **It sent out its boughs to the Sea, its shoots as far as the River.**

¹² Why have you broken down its walls so that all who pass by pick its fruit?

¹³ **A wild boar from the forest tears it up, and the wild animals feed on it.**

¹⁴ God of Armies, return now! Look down from heaven and see, and take care of this vine,

¹⁵ the shoot that your right hand has planted, the son that you made strong for yourself.

¹⁶ It is burned with fire like garbage. Because of the rebuke from your face they perish.

¹⁷ **Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,**

on the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself.

¹⁸ Then we will not turn away from you. Cause us to live, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹ **LORD God of Armies, restore us, and make your face shine, so we will be saved.**

Second Reading

Philippians 3:12–21

God patiently waits for us to respond to his grace by living drastically different lives than the people of this world.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus also took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it yet, but there is one thing I do: Forgetting the things that are behind and straining toward the things that are ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Therefore, let all of us who are mature continue to think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this to you too. ¹⁶ Only let us think the same thing and walk in line with what we already have attained.

¹⁷ Brothers, join together in imitating me and in paying attention to those who are walking according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸ To be sure, many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. I told you about them often, and now I am saying it while weeping. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite, and their glory is in their shame. They are thinking only about earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. We are eagerly waiting for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ By the power that enables him to subject all things to himself, he will transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body. (EHV)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

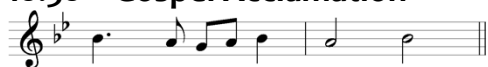
8:00 – Anthem by St. Paul’s K-2 Students

Oh, How I Love Jesus

Stand

10:30 – Gospel Acclamation

Ephesians 2:10



Refrain



For we are God’s / handiwork,
 created in Christ Jesus to / do good works.

Refrain

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Gospel

Matthew 21:33-43

God’s patience lasts much longer than our own; some might even call it reckless.

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. He leased it out to some tenant farmers and went away on a journey. ³⁴ When the time approached to harvest the fruit, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵ The tenant farmers seized his servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Then the landowner sent even more servants than the first time. The tenant farmers treated them the same way.

³⁷ Finally, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. ³⁸ But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and

take his inheritance! 39 They took him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 So when the landowner comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?"

41 They told him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end. Then he will lease out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his fruit when it is due."

42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

43 "That is why I tell you the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruit." (EHV)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

862 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel. Care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Special Prayers This Week

† John Batzer who is recovering from a stroke in a rehabilitation facility in Augusta

† Barb Reitz who is recovering from an infection.

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Connect Card and Offering

Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card. After a few moments, the ushers will come forward to collect the offering. You may place your Connect Card and any offering you brought in the plate as it is passed. Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



WELS Connection

Home Missions – Kronenwetter, WI

Hymn

595 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

Stand

Prayer

Based on Psalm 80

Restore us, O God. We have sinned against you and deserve to be uprooted from our comfortable lives, but you have promised instead to graft us into the vine of your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us nourishment and strength that we may bring forth the fruits of the Spirit and call on your name.

Amen.

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

927 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Take Home Questions

- 1) After hearing Jesus' parable of the Wicked Tenants in Matthew 21, choose three words to describe the character of the vineyard owner?
 - a) In what ways were those characteristics of God on display with the Jewish leaders of Jesus' day?
 - b) In what ways are those characteristics of God on display now with God's people?
- 2) A song about my loved one's vineyard is found in Isaiah 5. Make a list of all the things that the owner of the vineyard did for the vineyard.
 - a) Now, recall the history of the nation of Israel. Make a list of all the things that the LORD did for them, his chosen nation.
 - b) Now, think back on your life, especially your spiritual life. Make a list of all the things that the LORD has done for you, his chosen child.
 - c) In what ways does the tragic ending of this vineyard song shape our attitudes and actions as we live as God's people?
- 3) The theme of bearing good fruit continues in Philippians 3. In what ways do you see Paul encouraging God's people in this?
 - a) Compare and contrast the walk of the two groups of people highlighted in these verses—believers and unbelievers.
 - b) For what reasons is Christ and one's relationship with him a key difference in these two groups of people? In what places do you see that distinction in these verses?

News & Announcements



Sunday's Bible Study

Meeting the Ups & Downs of Life:

When Have Multiple Good Options

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

For the Google Meet link, contact Pastor Proeber.

Voters Meeting Next Sunday

Oct. 15 | 12:30 PM

Our quarterly Voters' meeting will be held next Sunday afternoon at 12:30 pm. Please check your mailslot for a packet of reports. We will be holding a call meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 6:30 pm. At this meeting, we will be calling for a principal only.

Senior Social Meets on Wednesday

Oct. 11 | 2:00 PM

Just a reminder that our monthly Senior Social is this Wednesday at 2:00 pm in the cafeteria. Enjoy games, puzzles, cards or just visiting with friends. Bring your own drinks, a snack to share, a friend, and a favorite game. Remember – no age limit and both men and women encouraged to come and enjoy the afternoon.

Apple Pie Making

Oct. 12 | 1:30 PM

Join us this Thursday, October 12th in the cafeteria to help peel apples and make apple pies for our upcoming bake sale. We begin work at 1:30 pm, but you are welcome any time after that. Bring your own knives, apple peelers, etc. or we have some to use. Stay for freshly baked apple pie and ice cream while we have brief planning meeting at 4:00. Remember, if you plan on purchasing more than three pies, please place your order with the office by Thursday.

Be a Part of the Outreach Team

Oct. 21

Pastor Plagenz will be attending the WELS School of Outreach being held on Oct. 21 in Merrill. There is one fee for the congregation, no matter how many of our members attend. So if you are interested in helping St. Paul's develop an outreach strategy, you are welcome to come along. Please contact Pastor Plagenz to let him know you will attend. Maybe we can all carpool.

Organ Recital by Dr. Brent Nolte

Oct. 22 | 3:00 PM

Dr. Brent Nolte will help us celebrate the renovation of our organ and its 50th anniversary by holding an organ recital here on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 3:00 pm. Dr. Nolte has a Doctor of Musical Arts in Organ Performance and composes music for the organ. Come listen to his unique arrangements and sing some festive hymns.

Senior Convention in Stevens Point

Oct 11-13

The Lutheran Convention for Seniors is being held at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Stevens Point this week. Pastor Proeber will be leading one of the worship services. For more information, see the Ministry Table or visit WELS.net/events and click on Lutheran Convention.

Bob Ross Night for Teens

Oct. 22 | 5:00-8:30 PM

Area WELS teens (grade 8-12) will be painting some “Happy Trees” at the first WELS Youth Night of a school year. There will also be pizza, God’s Word, and Bob-Ross-themed prizes. You are encouraged to invite friends. The event will be held at Northland Lutheran High School. But sign up is at www.mysaintpeter.org/wels-youth-night!

Use Visa Scrip for... almost anything

Did you know that the scrip program carries prepaid Visa cards? We even have \$100 denominations in stock. These cards work at most businesses that do not have their own scrip. Plus if you take the time to register your card at the website listed on the card, you can use it to make online purchases or to pay bills online. Of course, all of your card purchases help families afford Christian Education. Last month, St. Paul’s families earned \$524.52 for tuition plus another \$804.14 went to the Student Assistance Fund.

In-Person & Virtual Life Event on Saturday

Oct 14

You can still register for the Christian Life Resources National Convention on Saturday, Oct. 14, at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School in Jackson, WI. There are option to attend in person or virtually. There will be “TED Talk” like addresses on today’s moral climate, assisted suicide, abortion, and sex trafficking. For more information, visit ChrstianLifeResource.com.

Mission Rally in Medford

Oct. 21 | 9:00 AM

Everyone is invited to the fall mission rally hosted by our local circuit of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society (LWMS) at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Medford. The speaker is Brittney Jahns from New Beginnings, A Home for Mothers. Find out how this ministry is impacted families for eternity. Registration begins at 8:30 am. The rally runs from 9:00 am – noon. If you have a mite box or mission offering for the rally, please turn it into the office by Oct. 15

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 14 Grade School Volleyball Tournament at NLHS
- Oct. 15 Voters’ Meeting
- Oct. 17 Call Meeting
- Oct. 21 LWMS Fall Mission Rally in Medford
- Oct. 22 Organ Recital
- Oct. 22 WELS Youth Night at NLHS

Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for grades 3K-6th
	10:30 AM	Worship
Monday	4:30 PM	Choir Practice in the balcony
	6:30 PM	Small Group A at the home of John & Carole Melso
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	1:30 PM	Small Group B at the chapel of Wisc Rapids Health Service
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
Wednesday	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	2:00 PM	Senior Social in the cafeteria
	5:30 PM	Handbell Practice in the balcony
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Financial Management Task Force
	7:15 PM	Foundations of the Christian Faith
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	1:30 PM	Pie Making Session in the cafeteria
	4:00 PM	Willing Workers in the cafeteria
	6:30 PM	Small Group C at the home of Andy & Julie Reitz
	7:00 PM	Small Group D at the home of Linda Pollnow
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for grades 3K-6th
	10:30 AM	Worship
	12:30 PM	Voters' Meeting

Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 233

Next Sunday

Theme: Story Time: Foolish Rejection

Readings: Isaiah 25:6-9; Romans 1:16-17; Matthew 22:1-14



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