



Be Ready for God's Harvest Day

**The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2020**

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grant Park, IL

Order of Service: Worship Bulletin

Prayer Upon Entering Church: O Lord, through the blood of Christ we now boldly approach your throne in prayer and know that you hear us for Jesus' sake. Lead us to make fervent use of this gift in our daily lives, adoring you for your goodness, confessing our sins to you, thanking you for all of the blessings and making known to you the desires of our hearts. Amen.

Opening Hymn: Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted (CW 127)

1. Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

3. If you think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great,
Here you see its nature rightly.
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed;
See who bears the awful load--
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.

2. Tell me, as you hear him groaning,
Was there ever grief like his?
Friends through fear his cause disowning,
Foes insulting his distress,
Many hands were raised to wound him,
None would intervene to save,
But the deepest stroke that pierced him
Was the stroke that Justice gave.

4. Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the rock of our salvation,
His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt--
None shall ever be confounded
Who on him their hope have built.

Invocation and Confession

Leader: We begin the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen

Leader: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Group: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to

do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.

Leader: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called 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.

Group: Amen.

Prayer of the Day said by group: 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 Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Lesson: Isaiah 5:1-7

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. 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. So now, you residents of Jerusalem and you men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. 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?

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. 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. 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.

Psalm: Psalm 118 read responsively

Refrain: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!

Leader: The Lord is my strength and my song;

Group: he has become my salvation.

Leader: The Lord's right hand is lifted high;

Group: the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!

Leader: I will not die but live,

Group: and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

Refrain: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!

Leader: I will give you thanks, for you answered me;

Group: you have become my salvation.

Leader: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;

Group: the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made;

Group: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Group: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!

Second Lesson: Philippians 3:12-21

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. 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, I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 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. Only let us think the same thing and walk in line with what we already have attained.

Brothers, join together in imitating me and in paying attention to those who are walking according to the pattern we gave you. 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. Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite, and their glory is in their shame. They are thinking only about earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. We are eagerly waiting for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. By the power that enables him to subject all things to himself, he will transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. I will declare your name to my brothers. Within the congregation I will sing your praise. Alleluia. (Hebrews 2:12)

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 21:33-43

“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. When the time approached to harvest the fruit, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. The tenant farmers seized his servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then the landowner sent even more servants than the first time. The tenant farmers treated them the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. 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!’ They took him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. So when the landowner comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?”

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.” 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? “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.

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord.

Group: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (CW 203)

**1. Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would seek to overthrow your Son
And to destroy what he has done.**

**2. Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
For you are Lord of lords alone
Defend your Christendom that we
May sing your praise eternally.**

Sermon: Be Ready for God's Harvest Day (Matthew 21:33-43)

Nicene Creed: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering: We might be separated in our worship, but the Lord still gives us opportunity to gather our gifts for him. If you are uncomfortable placing your offering in the basket in the back of church, please continue to send in your offerings to our PO Box. It is a safe and secure way to continue giving thanks to God in the midst of trial. Our PO Box is: St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 143, Grant Park, IL 60940.

Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Blessing spoken by Leader: 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 give you peace. Amen.

Closing hymn: On My Heart Imprint Your Image (CW 320)

**1. On my heart imprint your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Have no pow'r to hide your face.
This the superscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation.**

Announcements

Welcome in Jesus' name to any and all guests and visitors here with us today. It is a joy to be able to worship with you. Help us to remember your visit by signing our guest book. Ask an usher if you need help finding the book. If you would like more information about our church please speak with pastor after church. If you need a hearing device, please speak to a greeter. Please come again!

Weekly Preview next Sunday we will celebrate Reformation. Our readings will be from Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23, Romans 3:19-28 and Matthew 10:16-23. Our sermon will be based on Matthew 10:16-23 with the theme, "Keep Watch!"

Hospitalized/Homebound members/members to keep in your prayers: Carol Luft, Marcia Graf, Bob Jacobs, Patty Rosenbrock (Heritage Village), Mira Wieggl and Becky Herz.

Poinsettias The price this year is \$8.00 each and again there is a choice of red and/or white. Please contact Doreen Romadka if you wish to order. There will be envelopes available in the narthex in which you can place your payment or mail it to Doreen Romadka. They can be picked up at church on Christmas Day or anytime thereafter.

Voters will be having a meeting on October 25.

Council will have a meeting on Tuesday, October 20 at 7pm.

This week at St. Paul

Today: Worship 9am
Bible Study after worship

Tuesday: Council 7pm

Saturday: Worship 6pm

Sunday: Worship 9am

Voters after church

Organist: Thank you to Doreen Romadka

Last Week's Attendance: Sunday 40

Bible Study 5

St. Paul Evangelical (Gospel Centered) Lutheran Church

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