



Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard [Codex aureus Epternacensis]

RESPONSIBLE LIVING - JOYFUL GIVING

Redefining Stewardship as "Whole Life" Stewardship

Pentecost 18

October 4, 2020

New Life Lutheran Church
Pearland, Texas

10:30AM



*New Life Lutheran Church is a partner congregation of
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

- ROOTED *in the Word*
- REFRESHED *in the Spirit*
- REACHING *into the Neighborhood & the World!*

TODAY @ NEW LIFE:

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.

This is Holy Time

This is Holy time
We're gathered together
To worship you and love one another
And as we pray, and as we sing
And as we dance, and as we dream
Oh Lord, I beg of you
Won't you dance with me
Throughout the heavens
And below the sea
Up on the mountaintops
Roll with the breeze



Lord won't you dance...With me

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
C: **who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. Amen!**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION



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.

WORDS OF ABSOLUTION AND FORGIVENESS

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 † Christ Jesus. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.



GREETING

P: Grace and peace to all of you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; and may the inseparableness of the Holy Spirit be with everyone here!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Beloved God,

C: 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.

Children's Message

Sang Kim

*Each Sunday a special message is shared with all the children ages infants through 6th grade.
All God's children are welcome!*



3 and 4 Year Old Blessing



FAITH 5 - READ



First 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;
he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.
- ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
- ⁴ What 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?
- 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 it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
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 people of Judah are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice, but saw bloodshed;
righteousness, but heard a cry!

Here ends the reading.



Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

(*Bold - verse for FAITH5*)

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.

[Paul writes:]

- 4^b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:
5 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;
6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.
8 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
9 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.
10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,
11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
12 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.
13 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,
14 **I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.**

R: Word of God. Word of Life!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel

R E A D I N G

P: The Good News of Jesus, Son of God according to St. Matthew:

C: Praise to You, Lord Christ!

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³“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. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. 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 get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when 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 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.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

P: Word of God. Word of Life!

C: Thanks be to God.

Heart of Worship

Verse 1:

When the music fades
All is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless your heart



Pre-chorus:

I'll bring you more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what you have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus:

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about you,
It's all about you, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
When it's all about you,
It's all about you, Jesus

Verse 2:

King of endless worth
No one could express
How much you deserve
Though I'm weak and poor
All I have is yours
Every single breath

(Pre-chorus)

(Chorus X2)

Artist Lyrics:
Matt Redman

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

We Believe

FAITH5 - PRAY

P: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

P: Holy God, you call us to work for peace and justice in your vineyard. Refresh the church with your life, that we may bear fruit through work and service. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Thank you for the abundant harvest of the earth. Bless and care for those whose hands bring the fruits of the earth to the tables of all who hunger. May we be inspired by your servants who cared deeply for your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Sustain all who suffer with the promise of new life. Assured of your presence, heal our pain and suffering, and equip us to embrace all bodies aching for wholeness of mind, body, and soul. We call to mind those who are struggling today (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for all managers in our community and for all who seek employment. Give hope and a future to those who lack meaningful work, those who have been marginalized or abused in the workplace, and those who desire new opportunities. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.



P: Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE OFFERING IS GIVEN

Giving is good for the giver; promoting our trust in God and providing blessings to the world.

TEXT GIVING is now available at New Life

You can now tithe via text. Text to **281.864.3278**, add a \$\$ amount to the message box and send. A link will appear for a 1 time set up.

Once it is set up, it takes seconds to give again.

You can also give thru the New Life website NewLifeLutheran.com. There is a give page and donate options on most of the tab's main pages.

Checks can also be dropped off at the Church or mailed in.

On in-person Parking lot Service Sundays, there will be a basket for donations out.

Thank you for supporting New Life's ministry.

THE OFFERTORY

New Life Houseband

Giving Update September giving at New Life: \$20,800.23 of \$28,248 needed for the month. (73.6%)

Needed for year thru Sept: \$267,702
Total Received for the year: \$224,879 for 84.0%

Thank You!

THE OFFERING PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

C: You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere, to give you thanks and praise O Holy Father, our eternal and ever-present God. You sent us your Son, Jesus. In his love Christ has filled us with joy as we remember his birth and celebrate his return.

C: Amen! Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

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." 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."

C: Our Father, who is in heaven. Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come; your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The
LORD'S
Prayer

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Take, eat and drink the bread and the cup to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

C: AMEN!



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks gracious God,

C: that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

FAITH5 - BLESS

P: Now may God, Father, ☩ Son and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C: Amen!

A SENDING SONG

SANCTUARY

Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving,
I'll be a living,
Sanctuary, for you.

Lord teach your children, to stop the fighting,
Start uniting, all as one.
Get together,
Loving forever,
Sanctuary for you.

When he comes in, with shouts of glory,
And our work on, earth is done.
How I long to,
Hear him saying,
Faithful servant, well done.



WE GO TO SERVE THE LORD

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.





All are Welcome

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEARLAND, TEXAS

LIVE STREAMING SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY:

8:00am: Traditional Worship

(Tailgate Worship & Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays)

10:30am: Contemporary Worship

The Language of God's Stewards:

TRUTH **GRATITUDE** **LOVE** **FORGIVENESS**
BLESSING **COMPASSION** **SACRIFICE**
WHOLE-LIFE MINISTRY

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Texas - Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

October 4th – 8:00 a.m. Livestream Tailgate Worship with Communion & 10:30 a.m. – Livestream Worship with Virtual Communion

October 11th – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – In-Person & Livestream Worship
 (Starting on October 11th, we are beginning in-person services. Because of limited capacity, reservations are needed. Please fill out the form that will be emailed on Monday, October 5th if you wish to attend. You can call the office if you have trouble filling out the form.)

October 18th – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – In-Person & Livestream Worship

October 25th – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – In-Person & Livestream Worship

Gospel Bible Study

Sunday Zoom Gospel Study

Join Pastor Bill in an online *Zoom* virtual Adult Christian Education

Bible Study each Sunday at 9:30 am. Each 30-minute session will feature a study and discussion of the Gospel Reading for that day.

If you would like to join the class, please send your **name, phone number** and **email address** to pastor@newlifelutheran.com and Pastor Bill will send you a link to the Zoom meeting and instructions. Come join in the conversation online!



zoom