

# THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 3, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
4101 Washington Street NE  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

## OPENING SONG: “Make Us One”

As we gather together in Your Son, Let us know the joy of being one!  
Let the time we share in this place Be a time of love and friendship in Your grace.  
By Your Spirit help us be One in faith and unity.  
Bless us here as we gather in Your Son.  
Give us joy, grant us peace, make us one! *(Repeat song)*

*(“Make Us One” by Tim Frusti, copyright 1984. Used by permission.)*

## INVOCATION:

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 5:1-7

L: “I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

C: **He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines.**

L: He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well.

C: **Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.**

L: Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes,

C: **Why did it yield only bad?**

L: Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard:

C: **I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed;**

L: I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled.

C: **I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there.**

L: I will command the clouds not to rain on it.”

C: **The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in.**

L: And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;

C: **For righteousness, but heard cries of distress.**

## CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

L: Let’s confess our sins to our God of grace.

**C:** Lord, we know you want us to live fruitful lives. We know you look for fruit from your vineyard. And we know that we have been less than fruitful. Forgive us, Lord. We don't deserve it, but we need it, and we are bold to ask for it because of the perfect life and innocent death of Jesus. Have mercy on us. Forgive us. Refresh us. Renew us that we might be your fruitful people, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

**PSALM OF THE DAY:** Portions of Psalm 80

**L:** Restore us, God Almighty;

**C:** **Make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.**

**L:** You transplanted a vine from Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

**C:** **You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land.**

**L:** Return to us, God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see!

**C:** **Watch over this vine, the root your right hand has planted, the son you have raised up for yourself.**

**L:** Restore us, LORD God Almighty;

**C:** **Make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.**

**FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

**SONG OF PRAISE: "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"**

**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.**

**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.**

**Here, gracious God, do now And evermore draw near;**

**Accept each faithful vow, And ev'ry suppliant hear. In copious show'r**

**On all who pray each holy day your blessing pour.**

**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**L:** Let us pray.

**C:** **God of heaven and earth, you gave us your Spirit to walk with us and draw out the fruits of the Spirit. Empower us to get rid of all that gets in your Spirit's way. Let us be alive with fruitfulness. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

EPISTLE LESSON: Philippians 3:4b-14

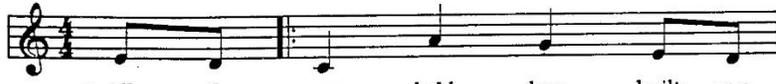
If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, 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 is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE: "Knowing You"

VERSE



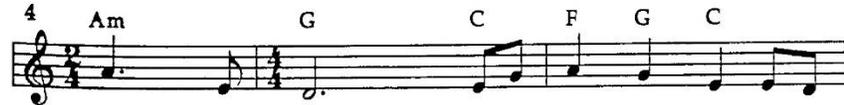
1. All I once held dear, built my  
(2. Now my) heart's de - sire is to  
(3. Oh, to) know the pow'r of Your

2



life up - on, all this world re - veres and  
know You more, to be found in You, and  
ris - en life and to know You in Your

4



wars to own. All I once thought gain I have  
known as Yours. To pos - sess by faith what I  
suf - fer - ings. To be - come like You in Your

7



count - ed loss, spent and worth - less now com -  
could not earn, all sur - pass - ing gift of  
death, my Lord, so with You to live and

9 Am Gsus G

pared to this.  
right - eous - ness. Know - ing  
nev - er die.

**CHORUS**

11 F C F/G G C

You, Je - sus, know - ing You, there

13 Am G F

is no great - er thing. You're my

15 C/E F/A C/G F F

all, You're the best, - You're my joy, my right-eous-ness, and I

17 C<sup>2</sup>/E C/E F<sup>2</sup>/A 1. 2.  
C/G G

love You, Lord. 2. Now my  
3. Oh, to

19 3.  
C/G F/G C

Love You, Lord.

*("Knowing You" by Graham Kendrick, copyright 1994 Make Way Music, CCLI Lic. #921494.)*

**HOLY GOSPEL:**

**L:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 21.

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

"Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone the

builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

**L:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"**  
Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, May we ripen and increase,  
Fruit to life eternal growing, Rich in love and joy and peace.

Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless;  
Here is fruit that grows by sharing: Patience, kindness, gentleness.

Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal,  
Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith and self-control.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, May we grow till harvests cease;  
Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven's love and joy and peace.

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**MESSAGE:** "Where's the Fruit?" – Pastor Bill Hugo

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed**

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

**+ EMPOWER +**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

*(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)*

**P:** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C:** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING SONG: "Savior, Again to Your Dear Name We Raise"**

Savior, again to your dear name we raise  
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
Once more we bless you ere our worship cease,  
Then, lowly bending, wait your word of peace.

Grant us your peace upon our homeward way;  
With you began, with you shall end the day;  
Guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
That in this house have called upon your name.

Grant us your peace, Lord, through the coming night;  
For us transform its darkness into light.  
Keep us from harm and danger till the dawn;  
Your evening presence promise to your own.

Grant us your peace through-out our earthly life,  
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;  
Then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
Call us, O Lord, to your eternal peace.

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**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:**

**Lay Minister:** Jim Geslin

**Altar Guild:** Pat & Duane Rosenberg