

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Introduction to the day

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Beloved God, 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.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

PSALM: Psalm 80:7-15

Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

GOSPEL MESSAGE - One Word: *Jesus*

The tennis team had a word for the season: *rally*. That one word centered everything: "Extend each rally." "Rally when you're down." "Rally back after a rough week." Each practice began with the word "Rally" at the top of the chalkboard above the conditioning drills. The huddle before each meet was broken with the shout "Rally!" And it wasn't just on the team. At night, when the coach's family sat down to dinner, they all shared what they'd done that day to "rally" in their lives. Everything and everyone was centered, gathered around that one word. In our lives of faith, that one word is *Jesus*.

Jesus reminds his hearers that he is the cornerstone of faith: for the Pharisees, for the rest of the crowd gathered at the temple that day, and for us, the church here and now. The grace we find in Jesus' love—the love that goes to the cross, to the empty tomb, and even beyond for us and our salvation—is the bedrock of our faith as we live out the life to which we are called in baptism. *Jesus* is the one word—indeed, Jesus is the Word—that gathers us together, that centers our lives.

United to Jesus, the cornerstone of our lives, in baptism, we are also united with one another. Today's parable certainly showcases what human division can be and do at its worst, but in Jesus, we are not divided. Where division causes hurt and suffering, unity in Jesus brings hope, healing, and restoration. Where hope

seems lost, Jesus rekindles that flame. Centered and united around Jesus' baptismal grace, we are empowered and emboldened to proclaim the good news of Jesus, the cornerstone of our faith.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones especially in Ukraine and the Middle East and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering. We especially pray for Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Claude Jeannotte, Glenda Panke, Joanne Robinson, Bernadette Schueneman, Heather Schruder, Linda Schruder, Harold Warlich, Roy Zadow, those in long term care facilities and senior residences. In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those who need your healing touch. (*pause*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith, especially Sunday School teachers, Bible Study and Confirmation leaders. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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,**

BLESSING (ELW p. 114)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

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Announcements:

Sunday, October 4th – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM - Grace – Holy Communion

Sunday School

Greeters: Grady Hoffman; **Reader:** Michael Johnson

Communion Assistants: Brian and Margaret Weckwerth

Altar Guild: Marlyn Dittburner and Ellen Weigold

Bell Ringer: Morley Hass; **Elevator:** Alfred Rosien;

Head Usher: Morley Hass

2:00 PM – Closing service of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Denbigh. Light lunch at the Denbigh Community Hall.

Monday, October 5th

9: 00 AM to 3:00 PM - Quilting at Grace

5:00 PM – Messy Church Youth Group

Tuesday, October 6th

10:00 AM – Bible Study

1:30 PM – Ladies Aid

Wednesday, October 7th

9:00 to 12 Noon – Tie Quilting

7:00 PM – Community Choir

Thursday, October 8th

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM – Toy Bus

9:30 AM – Ottawa Valley Cluster Meeting, Schwartz

10:00 AM – Grace Choir

Saturday, October 10

1:00 PM – Worship at Fairfields

Sunday, October 11th – Thanksgiving Sunday

10:30 AM - Grace – HC - Sunday School Family Day

Greeter: Marjorie Verch; **Reader:** Rachel Dittburner

Communion Assistants: Carl and Rachel Dittburner

Bell Ringer: Morley Hass

Elevator: Alfred Rosien; **Head Usher:** Morley Hass

Altar Guild: Marlyn Dittburner and Ellen Weigold

The **Sunday School** invites you to help fill our wagons with food for the **Eganville Foodbank**. This will take place in the narthex from September 6 until October 11, Thanksgiving Sunday. Please show your love to your neighbours by filling our wagons to the top!

Reformation Service

Sunday October 18, 2026

Rankin Community Centre 3:00 pm

Rev. Matthew Brown, Parish of the Valley – Anglican Guest Preacher

Dinner 5:00 pm - Dinner Tickets \$35.00

Smoked Pork Loin with all the trimmings.

Available at your church office until October 4, 2026

Come Worship and Connect with your Ottawa Valley Lutheran and Anglican Families. Organized by the Ottawa Valley Ministry Team Eastern Synod of the ELCIC

Camp Lutherlyn Fall Work Day Please join us for our fall work day on Saturday October 17th from 9:00 AM -12:00 Noon. Bring your work gloves, rakes, and shovels, See you then!

140th Anniversary of Grace

Did you know that in **April 2028, Grace Lutheran Church** will be **140yrs** as a congregation? I am looking for your help in the planning for this event in the life of our congregation. If you are interested in helping me plan, please let me know, (Pastor Ralph).