

Peace Lutheran Church
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Pastor Ricky Adams



October 4, 2020
18th Sunday After Pentecost
“Living Stones”

Whoever you are...
Wherever you are in your JOURNEY OF FAITH...
YOU are WELCOME here!

We Gather In The Presence Of God

Theme – “The Vineyard and the Stone” Matthew 21:33-46

The Pharisees were more concerned with the Law than with accepting Jesus as the Son of God. They had failed in their responsibilities to lead the nation of Israel both in their personal lives and public ones. So, Jesus told the Parable of the Tenants to illustrate that both Jews and Gentiles producing good fruit would occupy the Church and experience the unfolding of God's Kingdom through the Cornerstone- Jesus Christ.

Opening Prayer

Pastor We cry to the Lord who hears.

People: Restore us, oh God.

Pastor: Shine Your face on us that we might be saved.

People: We are Your people. We turn our hearts in worship to You, Lord.

Pastor: Jesus, You are the Cornerstone and we believe in You by faith. We do not follow the ways of this world; we follow You. Help us to love You with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Give us the grace to know You, to obey You, and to seek You above all else.

People: We humbly ask this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Song - The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900



We Are Renewed In God's Grace

Time of Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: It's the rules that bind us to the Law. It's Love that frees us from the Law of sin and death.

People **Yet we are bound to the black and the white, the definitive answers, the moral codes. We put boundaries on a boundless God. We put limits on the limitless Creator. We withhold forgiveness of others when our own sins have been cast out as far as the east is from the west. Lord, we confess.**

Pastor: What would it look like to live a life led by Jesus? To follow His pure example and to seek Him for everything? What would it be like to forgive as we've been forgiven, to offer grace in place of judgment, and to speak truth and see the Spirit of God transform lives? What would it look like to follow Jesus wholeheartedly, even when our minds can't make sense of the answers? Lord, we need You to fill us with Your Spirit.

People: **We ask for Your forgiveness, Jesus. You freely gave Your life for us on the cross. Your blood was shed to cover a multitude of trespasses, and Your body was bruised, beaten, and abused on our behalf.**

Pastor: May we learn the lesson of forgiveness and live out a lifestyle of truth and grace, just as Jesus, the Cornerstone, did for us.

People **By Your grace alone, may we live according to Your Word. In Jesus' name we ask these things, Amen.**

God Speaks Through His Word

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 "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

Pastor: ¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He 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. ³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What 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? ⁵And 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. ⁶I 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. ⁷For 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! ... This is God's Word

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading - 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.

Pastor: [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. ... This is the Gospel of our Lord.

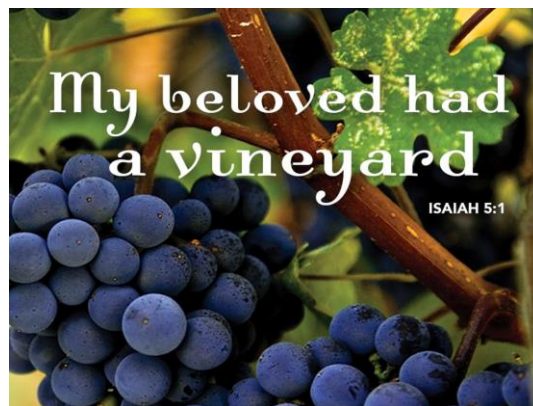
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Message Song – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874



Message

“Living Stones”
Matthew 21:33-46

We Bring Our Praises, Prayers And Gifts

Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: We confess that we are faithful followers of Jesus Christ.
People: **We confess that we believe in the One Father and Holy Ghost.**

Pastor: Rise up, O Church, and declare with boldness that we believe!
People: **Mighty Creator, Holy God, we confess that we believe in You. You are our All in All and Merciful Healer, and in Your presence, we cannot wait to dwell. When sin entered Your beautiful world, Your wrath needed satisfaction. So, through Your Son, You will call us home one day into eternity. ... Christ, You alone are our Cornerstone, an unshaken foundation on which the Church is built. Your gift of love and righteousness was illustrated on the cross where You died for every single sin. Your resurrection crushed the curse of sin, and we are the blood-bought saints of Christ! ... Spirit of God, our Comforter, You dwell within us, Your temples. Teach us to live according to Your holy standard as we steward these bodies and this Christian life. May we shine forth the light of Your holy truth so that the world would only see You. Give us the strength, O Spirit of God, and fill us with Your gifts. ... We believe and confess that we are the faithful followers of Jesus Christ- one with the Father and the Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Prayers

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Jesus Christ and for all people according to their needs. - Silent prayer - For the whole Christian community around the world that, as people united in faith, we are emboldened to witness to the good news that is ours in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all nations of the earth, that there be times of peace; for our own nation that it would seek to bring that which is good and God-pleasing; and for our own communities and neighborhoods, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For faithfulness to carry out our callings with faithfulness, living each day with hope and confidence as we await the time of the great and glorious final harvest, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the needs that are specially known to us at this time, including health and family concerns, situations of disability or bereavement, and the changes that are part of human life. With assurance that our petitions are heard, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Additional Prayers

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: With thanks to You for all those who have completed their earthly journeys in faith and who serve to inspire us in our times, we bless You, abiding Lord. Confident that our prayers and petitions are heard and that all which is best for us is done according to His good and gracious will, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

Pastor: May the Lord restore you and make His face shine upon you.

People: May we be granted favor with the Lord as we build His Church.

Pastor: He was rejected, and so will You be. He was mocked, and so will you be. But Christ was risen to glory, and so will you be on that beautiful day when we meet Him in person. So, rejoice and continue the work which the Lord has called you.

People: Give us strength so we don't grow weary; give us faith to press on. In the mighty name of Jesus- Amen!

Closing Song - Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903

Announcements

Information About Peace Lutheran Church - If you desire to know more about Peace Lutheran Church such as teachings; affiliations, membership or other questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Adams.

Office Phone – (415) 388-2065
Home Phone – (415) 388-7190
Email – pastor@plcmarin.org

Worship Services – There are three ways to worship at Peace Lutheran Church during this time of Covid.

Live Stream - Zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73855305624?pwd=ZlZpQkZNbEx5VmtUYTBKUnlLQjJkZz09>

Meeting ID: 738 5530 5624

Passcode: plcmarin

Facebook users

www.facebook.com/PeaceLutheranMill
(available beginning 10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning)

Non-Facebook Users

www.plcmarin.org

Just go to the front page, scroll to the bottom, and click on the video. It is that easy!

Communion – After worship from 10:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

Carport Fellowship – Sunday, October 25, 10:15 a.m.

Weekly Devotional Helps

September 27 – October 3, 2020

Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Prayer For The Sick

By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray for those who want to be healed. Mend their wounds, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that, though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life in Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings Through The Week**Monday – October 5**

Psalm 23

Deuteronomy 5:1-21

Matthew 8:18-34

Tuesday – October 6

Psalm 23

Deuteronomy 5:22-6:9

Matthew 9:1-17

Wednesday – October 7

Psalm 23
Deuteronomy 5:10-25
Matthew 9:18-38

Thursday – October 8

Psalm 23
Deuteronomy 7:1-19
Matthew 10:1-23

Friday – October 9

Psalm 23
Deuteronomy 8:1-20
Matthew 10:24-42

Saturday – October 10

Psalm 23
Deuteronomy 9:1-22
Matthew 11:1-19

Scripture Readings For Next Sunday**Pentecost 19**

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Commemorations

October 4 - Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226: Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

October 6 - William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536: Tyndale was ordained a priest in England, and wished to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.

October 7 - Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787: Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.

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