

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2020

“St. Philip’s Evangelical Lutheran Church and School”

Pastor: Raymond Kimbrough

Principal: Jason Schapekahm

Welcome, Friend!

You Have Come To The Right Place!

Jesus Loves YOU!

WELCOME

Guests and visitors, we invite you to worship with us again in the future.

**For more information regarding St. Philip’s Lutheran Church,
please contact Pastor Kimbrough at 414-263-1373 or 414-254-6093.**

**For information on our K4 – 8th grade Christian day school please
contact the Principal Schapekahm at 414-263-7614 or 414-659-4688.**

Worship Notes: Per Governor Evers' mask mandate announced July 30,

ALL people age 5 and older MUST wear a face mask to in-person worship.

Since the mandate DOES allow for face coverings to be removed while eating and drinking, we will continue to have communion on our regular schedule. We are monitoring this situation very closely and will keep you updated if anything changes. It currently expires November 21st, although the City of Milwaukee Mask Mandate may last longer. We will be asking people to sit in every other pew. At dismissal please remember to exit the church and visit outside. We pray that the Lord will help all of us to have an uplifting worship experience gathered around His Word.

Worship Theme:

“Our God Patiently Seeks Fruits of Faith”

“Order of Service”

Opening Hymn: Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (CW 203)

**Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word; curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son and bring to naught all he has done.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we may sing your praise triumphantly.**

**O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife, and lead us out of death to life.**

**Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit be with you.**

Congregation: And also with you. (spoken)

Confession of Sins

**Pastor: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve
him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and
punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.**

**Congregation: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In
countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your
child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your
unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**Pastor: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and
innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are
his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.**

Congregation: Amen. (spoken)

Pastor: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Praise Song: (Congregation sings response)

**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in him.
Your Word, O Lord, is eternal;
It stands firm in the heavens.
Your faithfulness continues forever.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

The Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.

Pastor & Congregation: 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. *Sing:* Amen.

First Lesson: Isaiah 5:1-7

¹ I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. ² He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. ³ "Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? ⁵ Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briars and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it." ⁷ The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of his delight. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

Psalm of the Day – Responsive Reading – Psalm 118 (selected verses)

Reader: The Lord is my strength and my song,

Congregation: He has become my salvation.

Reader: The Lord's right hand is lifted high,

Congregation: The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!

Reader: I will not die but live,

Congregation: And will proclaim what the Lord has done.

Reader: I will give you thanks, for you answered me.

Congregation: You have become my salvation.

Reader: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone.

Congregation: The Lord has done this and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Reader: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Reader and Congregation:

**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.**

Congregational Response (*sung*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Please stand for the second lesson.

Second Lesson: Philippians 3:12-21

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers, 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, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained. ¹⁷ Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Congregation: Praise be to you, O Christ! (*sung response*)

Sermon Hymn: I'm But a Stranger Here (CW 417)
(Please rise for the final stanza.)

I'm but a stranger here, Heaven is my home;
Earth is a desert drear; Heaven is my home:
Danger and sorrow stand Round me on every hand;
Heaven is my fatherland, Heaven is my home.

What though the tempest rage, Heaven is my home;
Short is my pilgrimage, Heaven is my home:
And time's wild wintry blast Soon shall be overpast;
I shall reach home at last, Heaven is my home.

There at my Savior's side, Heaven is my home;
I shall be glorified, Heaven is my home.
There are the good and blest, Those I love most and best;
And there I too shall rest, Heaven is my home.

Therefore I murmur not, Heaven is my home;
Whate'er my earthly lot, Heaven is my home:
And I shall surely stand There at my Lord's right hand:
Heaven is my fatherland, Heaven is my home.

Sermon Theme: "Our Landlord Comes In Search Of His Rent"

1. What does our Landlord give us?

- a) He gives us PATIENCE. Verses 34-36
- b) He gives us LOVE. Verses 33, 37

2. What do we often give our Landlord?

- a) The "Grapes of Wrath"? Verses 34-36, 38, 39
Consequence? God's JUSTICE. Verses 40-43

3. What kind of rent does our Landlord want?

- a) The "Fruits of Faith"? Galatians 5:22-26, Colossians 3:12-16

Sermon Text: Matthew 21:33-43

³³ "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 went away on a journey. ³⁴ When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. ³⁵ "The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷ Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. ³⁸ "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.' ³⁹ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰ "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ "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." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" ⁴³ "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."

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Our Offering to the Lord

Please place your offerings in the basket at the back of church.

Online giving is also available from our website or click this link:

<https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing>.

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Congregational Response: A-men, A-men, A-men. (sung)

Closing Hymn: On My Heart Imprint Your Image (CW 319)

On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, King of grace, That life's riches, cares, and pleasures have no power to hide your face. This the superscription be: Jesus, crucified for me, Is my life, my hope's foundation, and my glory and salvation.

**"Our Mission Statement"
(Our Purpose as a Church)**

Our mission here at St. Philip's Lutheran is outlined for us in Matthew 28:19: 'Go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them and baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.' Making disciples includes proclaiming God's Word in its truth and purity, strengthening the faith of those under our care, and reaching out to the people of our community, (including our unchurched friends and relatives). Let us pray for and work together toward this goal.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 18, 2020**

Organist: Mrs. Nicole Cottman. Thank you.

Lay Reader: Mr. Thomas McNeal. Thank you.

Next Week: October 25, 2020

Organist: Ms. Emma Schneck

Lay Reader: Mr. Thomas McNeal



Check us out on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/StPhilipsLutheranSchool/>

St. Philip's Lutheran Church & School website: www.stphilipsmilwaukee.com
School newsletters, church bulletins and numerous other items are available on the website.



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT ST. PHILIP'S

Monday, October 19

Food & Materials Pick-Up 11AM - 4PM

Sunday, October 25

**Bible Class – "The Beatitudes" (Copies in narthex)
Worship with communion 10:30AM**

OFFERING UPDATE

10/5-10/11	Week	October	July to Date
Budget	\$3,653.85	\$ 7,307.70	\$ 54,807.75
Actual	\$2,300.00	\$ 4,966.00	\$ 51,599.10
Over(Under)	(\$1,353.85)	(\$2,341.70)	(\$ 3,208.65)

Financials were boosted by a generous gift of \$7,500.00 from the Siebert Foundation (thank you to Joan Prince for recommending St. Philip's). Without this gift, our offerings would be behind plan by over \$10,000.00. Please continue to support our mission and church through your offerings. Thank you.

Our God Patiently Seeks Fruits of Faith

Twentieth Sunday of Pentecost—A

God's Word for Today

Whose responsibility is it to care for the Lord's vineyard, the Church? Rightly answered, it's all of us who love the Lord and produce abundant fruits of faith in His service. Conversely, there are those who reject their Savior and live for self. In the case of such individuals, invariably the judgment of God is not far behind.

First Lesson (Isaiah 5:1-7)

1. In this song from Isaiah, what do the vineyard, vines, and grapes represent?
2. As the annals of history record, what resulted because the Lord's chosen nation bitterly disappointed him?

Second Lesson (Philippians 3:12-21)

3. Explain the comparison of the Christian life to that of a runner in a race? (v. 3)
4. What are the distinguishing characteristics of those who live as "enemies of the cross?"
5. Upon Christ's return, what will our bodies be like in heaven someday?

Gospel (Matthew 21:33-43)

6. What was the tenants' ultimate display of wickedness? Of which important event in history does this remind you?
7. Verse 41 indicates that the vineyard was rented to "other tenants." Who were they?

Answers:

1. The vineyard represents God's chosen people, the house of Israel—his Church. The vines are the men and women of Judah, dearly loved by God. The grapes are the fruits of faith, in this case, however, the rotten fruit of injustice and unrighteousness.
2. God sent his punishment in full measure upon his chosen people, not only through the Babylonian captivity, but also in the ultimate overthrow of the Jewish nation in the year 70 A.D. Let us take heed, for the Lord likewise searches the hearts of his people today for fruits of righteousness.
3. Near the end of a race a runner forgets what is behind him and leans forward toward the finish line, exerting himself to the utmost, straining every fiber in his body to win the prize. Just so, the Christian forgets all the disappointments and bad experiences of the past and instead valiantly strives on, with eyes fixed firmly on the finish line, the victory circle, the consummation of all his hopes and dreams, the heavenly prize, which goes beyond all human understanding.
4. They deny the power and efficacy of the cross. They live to gratify their human appetites and desires. The things they glory in and are proud of are in reality carnal and shameful. For such people, any show of sanctity is really nothing but hypocrisy.
5. Our lowly, frail, vile physical earthly bodies will be transformed into the likeness of Christ's glorious body—holy, perfect, and beautiful in every way. Our new bodies will forever be incapable of experiencing any more sin, sorrow, stress, or sickness.
6. Not only did the tenants fail to respect the landlord's son, in their devilish hatred, they killed him. This, of course, played itself out on Good Friday when the chief priests and elders, scribes and Pharisees hardened their hearts against Jesus, put him to death and brought damnation down upon their own heads.
7. The vineyard with its fruit, that is, the Kingdom of God with all its riches of mercy and love, was taken from the Jews and given to the Gentiles, who have since enjoyed its blessings and produced abundant fruit.