

## **READINGS FOR October 8, 2017 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*End each reading with: The Word of the Lord or The Word of God, word of life.*

### **First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. <sup>4</sup>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? <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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!

### **Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14**

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

### **Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46**

[Jesus said to the people:] <sup>33</sup>“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. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’” <sup>41</sup>They 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.” <sup>42</sup>Jesus 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’?” <sup>43</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” <sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

## Prayers of Intercession for October 8, 2017

Pastor: Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Leader: Restore what is broken in your church, loving God. We pray especially for Ascension Lutheran Church of Kentwood, the Southern Ohio Synod, and St. Christopher Episcopal Church of Northport. Heal divisions among Christian communities, give courage to leaders facing hardship, and open our ears to the prophets' cries among us. Hear us, O God.

**Congregation: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: We pray for our council, ministry committees, call committee, and all who guide this congregation's ministry. We ask you to prepare a candidate to come to Immanuel as our shepherd and lead us in your work. Hear us, O God.

**Congregation: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Restore what is broken in creation, gracious God. Revive farmlands and vineyards, protect waters needed by all living things, and move us to care for this earthly home. Hear us, O God.

**Congregation: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Restore what is broken in our world, mighty God. Quell the rush to violence between peoples and nations. Break down dividing walls and promote growth for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

**Congregation: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Restore our broken bodies, O God. We pray for those suffering any loss: the grieving, those who have lost homes or property, the imprisoned, those neglected or abandoned, and the sick. We pray especially for Bishop Craig Satterlee, Rev. Fred Overdier, Mike Erdman, Kathy Crouse, Don Boersma, Sandy Altemann, Ken Nash, Julius Nelson, Laura Regas, Mickey Viox (VEE-ox), Lindsay LePow, Sara Collins, Alana Kiple, Dave Regner, Rodney Wailes, Jack Gossett, Jan Sims, Don Kiessel, Nick Popovici (pa-po-vitch), Judy Aebig (A-big), Richard Dale, Steve Stroh, Paul Feickert and our shut-ins, Helen Bahle and Dorothy Stanow. Hear us, O God.

**Congregation: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Restore our faith in you, saving God. We pray for Bible study and small group leaders, Sunday school teachers, musicians, devotion writers, and for all whose work nurtures our faith. Hear us, O God.

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Make us free in your presence to raise to you our individual petitions that we share aloud, or in the silence of our hearts . . . *pause* . . . Hear us, O God.

**Congregation: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: We remember the saints whose devotion proclaimed your saving help. In company with them, root us firmly in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God.

**Congregation: Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen.**