

Joy Lutheran Church

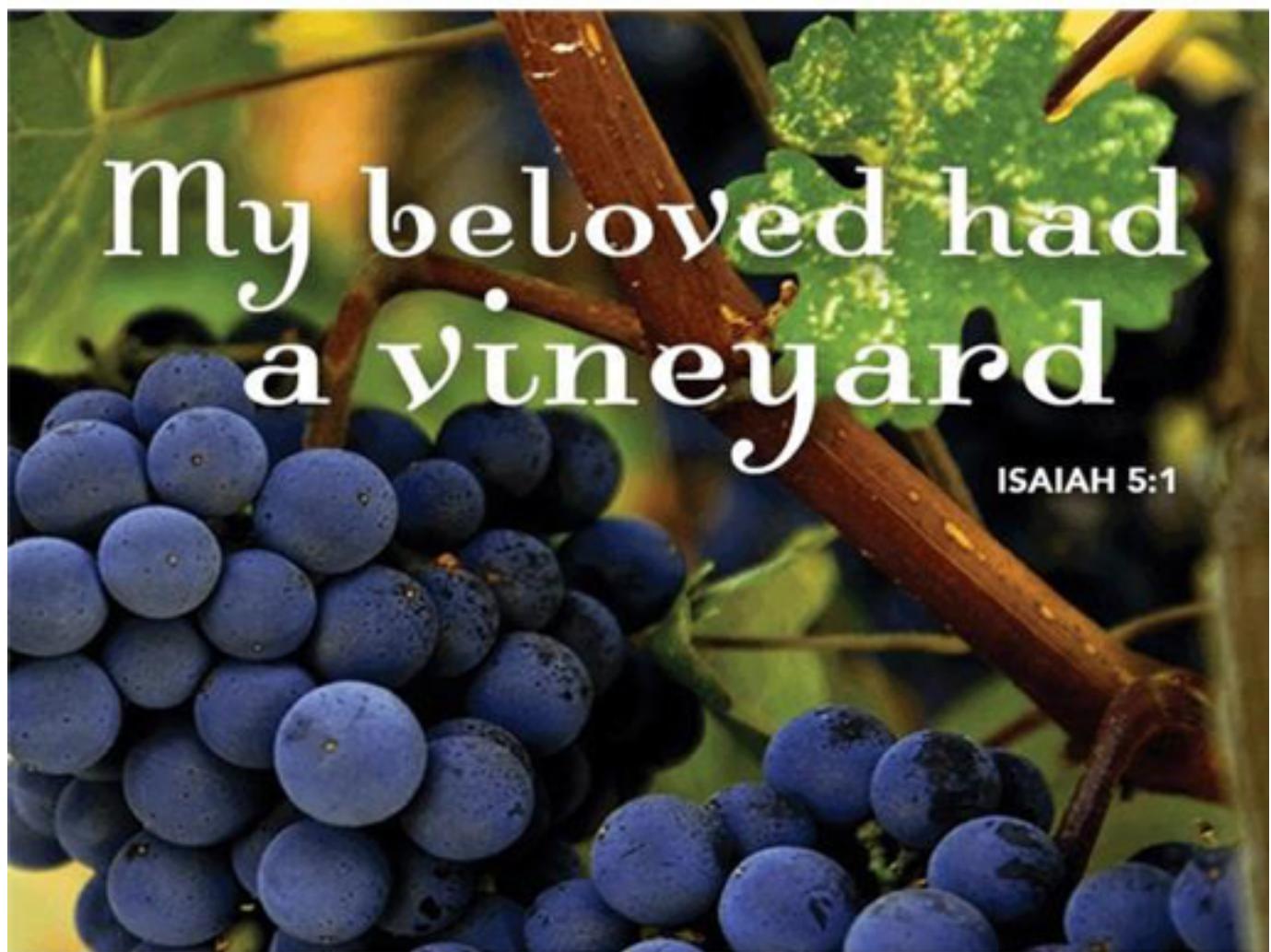
10111 E. Eagle River Loop Road, Eagle River, AK 99577

Office: 907.694.9601

www.joy-lutheran.com

joylutheran@gmail.com

October 4, 2020



18th Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to worship at Joy Lutheran Church

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, divorced, married, widowed, or if your relationship status is “complicated.”

We are glad you are here if you come every Sunday or if this is your first time at our church or any church at all. You’re welcome if you know the Bible backwards and forwards, or have never really read it, if you know Jesus or are just curious to hear what He is all about.

We welcome you if you have doubts about “organized religion” or are a “cradle Christian.” We welcome liberals, conservatives, moderates, and undecided. If you cheer for the right team, or don’t like sports, you are welcome here.

We especially welcome those who could use a prayer right now, or an assurance that God loves them, those who are struggling, and those who are doing okay.

Whoever you are, whatever your past or present – God welcomes you and so do we!

Children are always welcome here. We are used to the joyful sounds of our youngest sisters and brothers. We do have some activity bags near the main entrance, to keep restless hands busy. Due to COVID-19 we discourage use of our Family Room right now.

Introduction

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.

Welcome/Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,
C: **and also with you.**

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \dagger one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: **Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

L: Faithful God,

C: **have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

L: God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of \dagger Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

C: **Amen.**



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

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.

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!

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.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:
⁵circumcised 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; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More 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 ⁹and 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. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not 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. ¹³Beloved, 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, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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.

[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.

Sermon

Pastor Karen Sonray

Hymn

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

ELW 752

(sing two times through)



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.

(please exchange Christ's peace with a smile, nod, wave, or other non-contact sign)

Holy Communion

We celebrate God's grace and acceptance in the Meal of Holy Communion. You are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table. We believe that Jesus is truly present with us at this Meal, and his invitation to hear his promise of forgiveness and love is for everyone.



Communion Protocol

- *All wafers are gluten-free.*
- *There is wine (dark) and juice (light) provided. Wafers and ups are separated to alleviate touching any but the one you choose.*
- *Please come forward in staggered intervals, take your communion, return to seat. We will all partake at the same time after everyone has returned to their seats.*

Communion Hymns

Jesus Loves Me

ELW 595

Musical notation for the first part of the hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' in G major, 2/4 time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

Musical notation for the second part of the hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' in G major, 2/4 time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain

Musical notation for the 'Refrain' of the hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' in G major, 2/4 time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

Musical notation for the final part of the hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' in G major, 2/4 time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Prayer after Communion

L: We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,
the body and blood of Christ.
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

Come All You People

ELW 819

U - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

u - ya - i - mo - se Zvi - - no.
come now and wor - - ship the Lord.
come now and wor - - ship the Lord.
come now and wor - - ship the Lord.

Benediction

L: Go in Peace - Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Thank You!

Thanks to Richard Dana for constructing 2 new mask trees and repairing the original mitten tree that we have been using for masks. They're wonderful and we're going to get so much use out of them all! There will be one mask tree by each of the main entrances, and the mitten tree will be in the upper narthex.



Confirmation Class - Today

Please join us after worship for Confirmation Class. This class is for young people in 7th grade or higher who have not been confirmed. It's not too late!

Sunday School is Cool



Sunday School

We plan to start Sunday, October 11th at 10:15am. Classes will be small in size, short in length and emphasize Bible Story/discussion, prayer, craft and or game. Thank you to Rachel Christman and Debbie Quiroz (youngest ages),

Cynthia Oistad and Nicole Simasko (middle age group), and Kelly Mullin and Pr Karen (older elementary) who have volunteered to teach as rotating partners. Thanks too to Gina Stephenson who will design the Craft plans to supplement each weekly bible story.

River of Life Lutheran Church - Update

We reached out and offered our sister congregation use of our church building for worship and office needs. They feel it's important to remain in the Chugiak area, but thanked us for this kind offer. Please keep them in your prayers.



If you wish to give, send donations to P.O. Box 670470, Chugiak, AK 99567.

LIST OF MITIGATION RULES FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP

1. Wear your face mask. We have extras if you need one. Pastor will be more than 10 ft away and remove her mask while presiding.
2. Keep 3 empty chairs (i.e. 6 ft.) between you and anyone not in your household
3. Capacity limit 50 – 60 (as of September 2020).
4. No use of hymnals.
5. Holy Communion will be offered first Sunday of the month using good protocol.***
6. Keep your mask on during singing and do not sing boisterously. Studies show that singing projects more air than coughing.
7. We will limit the worship service to approximately 35 minutes. The longer people share the same air space the greater the chance of spreading germs.
8. No contact during the passing of the peace. Stay at 6 ft. distances - sharing a peace sign, wave, hand over heart, or clasped hands and bow.
9. Offering plates are in stationary positions near entryways to avoid the passing of the plate. Thank you for your offerings!
10. We ask you to FILL OUT THE SHEET OF PAPER inside your bulletin and place it in the offering plate.
11. As you are dismissed, exit in a staggered rhythm to decrease proximity to one another.
12. If you use a bathroom, please clean all touchable surfaces before and after usage. Spray disinfectant and paper towels are available in each bathroom.
13. If you would like to visit after worship, we ask you maintain 6 ft. distances.
14. All coffee and food is suspended at this time. Exception is we will offer prepackaged food-to-go for Sunday School students.

***COMMUNION PROTOCOL

- Wafers (ALL are gluten-free). Individual wine/juice cups.
- Wafers and Cups separated so you can pick one up without touching any others
- People will come forward in staggered intervals, take their communion, return to seat
- We will all partake at the same time after everyone has returned to their seats.

Back page.
Intentionally left
blank for pre-printed
bulletin cover.