

*For the week of Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 8<sup>th</sup> through October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

### **Notes for the Week — The Stone, Matthew 21:33-46**

Jesus tells the Parable of the of the Wicked Tenants who desired the vineyard for themselves, even though they had no claim upon it. He spoke this parable against the chief priests and Pharisees, and even the people of Israel, but they are words that we should take care to heed as well. That is because at the end of the parable, Jesus appends the words about the stone that the builders rejected. This stone, Jesus says, has become the cornerstone. It is the foundation by which everything is aligned and made straight. This stone is of course Jesus Himself.

What is curious though is the teaching He says following this. He gives two simple images, the latter building off the former. *“Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.”* This is a word of warning to all who belong to the kingdom. God expects those who inherit His kingdom to act in accordance with His kingdom. We should never be so secure in the kingdom so as to presume the Lord’s kindness. Rather, we must understand that we are grafted into the kingdom by pure grace, but we are grafted into the kingdom in order to produce it’s fruit. If we refuse to produce Kingdom fruit then we should expect that we will be removed from the vine to make room for others who will produce the desired fruit.

But what is the fruit that the Master desires? With the next statement Jesus tells us, *“And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”* Neither option sounds fun, but the fruit of the Kingdom is first and foremost repentance. We see God’s Law and it terrifies us. We cannot help but fall upon Jesus, who is the only one who can deliver us from the guilt and burden of the Law. When we fall upon Jesus, however, we are broken to pieces. We are moved to repentance. He shatters us that He may put us back together again as He desires. However, those who refuse to fall upon Jesus and be broken by Him through repentance will instead face His judgement and be crushed by Him.

If we do not repent and do not submit ourselves to Christ, we will be cast out of the vineyard and be put to death along with all who refuse to believe. Because that is what the refusal of repentance is: unbelief. Therefore examine yourselves, and do not be a Christian in name only but also in word and deed. Amen.

### ***The Order of Meditation and Prayer***

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.  
Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

#### **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

#### **VERSE: MATTHEW 21:42B**

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?

**PSALM 80:7-19 and/or the appointed daily psalms.**

**Prayer on the Psalm**

*Blessed by Your Holy name, O Lord God of heaven, because You have planted in our land that noble vine, the Christian Church. Cause it to grow and to spread forth its branches, that it may overshadow the land and bring forth prolific fruit for the good of our nation, and the salvation of many, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	62, 63	66	68	71	73	75, 76	78	80
Evening	64, 65	67, 70	69	72	74	77	79	81

**BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

	Bible Narrative for the Week	Second Reading
Sunday	Matt. 21:33–46	
Monday	Rahab the Harlot Hides the Spies—Joshua 2:1–24	
Tuesday	Israel Crosses over the Jordan—Joshua 3:1–17	
Wednesday	Israel Celebrates the Passover in the Promised Land—Joshua 5:10–15	
Thursday	The Destruction of Jericho—Joshua 6:1–27	
Friday	The Sin of Achan—Joshua 7:1–26	
Saturday	Isaiah 25:6–9	Phil. 4:4–13

**The Catechism: The Creed— The Second Article**

<i>And [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 sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.</i>	Pre +
<i>What does this mean?</i> 1. I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, 2. Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,	First Grade+
1. That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.	Second Grade+

**DEVOTION OR MEDITATION**

**DAILY PRAYER**

Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:

**Collect of the Week**

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Daily Themes for Prayer**

- Sunday: For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday: For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday: For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday: For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

### **In Our Prayers this Week**

**Our Congregation:** Keith King; Yvonne Knight; Barbara Kohlmeyer; Megan & Blake Kutzke, Grover, Sawyer; Doug & Nancy Lasseter

**Baptismal Birthdays:** Connie Breidenbach; Megan Davis; Hunter Dewey

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Rick & Linda Meier; Brian & Erica Livingston

**Members of the Congregation:**

**Friends of our Congregation:** Ramona Hildebrandt

**Other:**

**Our Circuit:**

*Faith Lutheran Church, Emporia; Rev. Adam Reichart*

*Messiah Lutheran Church, Emporia; Rev. Eddie Hosch*

**Our District Staff and President,** Rev. Justin Panzer.

*Shannon Fender, Administrative Assistant;*

*Tami Lierz, Administrative Assistant*

**Our Synod and President,** Rev. Matthew Harrison

**Our Community:** City of Wellsville; USD 289

**Our State and Governor,** Laura Kelly

**Our Nation and President,** Joseph Biden

## LORD'S PRAYER

### MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM

*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.*

—or—

*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.*

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

### “O Love, How Deep”

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| 1 | O love, how deep, how broad, how high,<br>Beyond all thought and fantasy,<br>That God, the Son of God, should take<br>Our mortal form for mortals' sake! | 4 | For us He prayed; for us He taught;<br>For us His daily works He wrought,<br>By words and signs and actions thus<br>Still seeking not Himself but us. |
| 2 | He sent no angel to our race,<br>Of higher or of lower place,<br>But wore the robe of human frame,<br>And to this world Himself He came.                 | 5 | For us by wickedness betrayed,<br>For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,<br>He bore the shameful cross and death;<br>For us He gave His dying breath.    |
| 3 | For us baptized, for us He bore<br>His holy fast and hungered sore;<br>For us temptation sharp He knew;<br>For us the tempter overthrew.                 | 6 | For us He rose from death again;<br>For us He went on high to reign;<br>For us He sent His Spirit here<br>To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.      |

△ 7 All glory to our Lord and God  
For love so deep, so high, so broad;  
The Trinity whom we adore  
Forever and forevermore.

Text: attr. Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–85, alt.  
Text: Public domain

### Looking Forward to “The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost”

October 15, 2023

Readings: *Isaiah 25:6-9 | Philippians 4:4-13 | Matthew 22:1-14*

By His cross and resurrection, the Lord has swallowed up death forever, and by His Gospel He “will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth” (Is. 25:8). Therefore, “let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation” (Is. 25:9). On the mountain of the Lord of hosts — in His Church on earth, as in the kingdom of heaven — He has made “for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine” (Is. 25:6). It is the royal “wedding feast” of the Son of God, “and everything is ready” (Matt. 22:1, 4). Thus, His servants are sent into the highways and byways to invite and gather as many as they find, “both good and bad,” to fill the wedding hall with guests (Matt. 22:8–10). In Holy Baptism, He clothes them all in the “wedding garment” of His own perfect righteousness (Matt. 22:11). Therefore, “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God,” and “rejoice in the Lord always” (Phil. 4:4–6).

