



THE POWER OF PARABLES



PARABLE OF THE TENANTS

MATTHEW 21:33-43

SUPERNATURAL PATIENCE

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost: October 8, 2023



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Word for this week

Patience is a virtue. But can too much patience actually be a vice? If you are too patient, waiting to see if that pain in your stomach goes away with time, you might make a problem worse. If you are too patient with an incompetent employee, you will lose productivity before the inevitable—his firing—occurs anyway. Too much patience would seem *not* to be a virtue, or perhaps even reckless behavior. Yet that is exactly what God demonstrates to a rebellious human race—supernatural patience. Through a parable Jesus teaches exactly what God's patience means for us.

Before Worship

Take time for prayer and to review the lessons and the service notes. For personal preparation for Communion, see Red Hymnal: p.156.

General Information

The restrooms are located in the fellowship hall. Visitors – welcome, and please take a moment and sign the guestbook in the fellowship hall. If you need special assistance for communion, please notify an usher and/or the pastor.

Serving in Worship

Music: Rachel Halldorson
Ushers: Mike Jensen, Kurt Knurr
Pastor: Wayne Halldorson
Pastor's Cell: 903-717-1922
Pastor's Email: grace.tx.pastor@gmail.com

Church Information

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Facebook: facebook.com/gracenearthelake1
Prayer Requests: prayers.grace.wels@gmail.com / text to 520-236-9673

T-Loop Hearing Assistance

If you have a hearing aid with a T-coil, you can connect it to the T-Loop device installed throughout the church building. Headsets are available for anyone needing hearing assistance. Personal ear-buds can also be used with a head set. See Kris Martinson if you need assistance.



WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

981 In This Place Your Word Is Planted

CW 981



1 In this place your Word is plant - ed; on our
2 Let your plant - ing not be wast - ed, wilt - ed
3 Help us trea - sure ho - ly wis - dom, sa - vor
4 Blest are they who, truth re - ceiv - ing, know its



path the seed is sown. To the Church your
soon in ston - y field. Let our world - ly
ev - 'ry word you give. Help us cher - ish
val - ue more than gold. Blest are they who,



Word is spo - ken; in our hearts a light has shone.
cares not choke it, rob - bing you of right - ful yield.
Je - sus' gos - pel, bread by which your peo - ple live.
per - se - ver - ing, bear good fruit a hun - dred - fold.

Text: Delores Dufner, b. 1939

Tune: Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716

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Tune: Public domain

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession & Absolution

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord:

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

I beg you not to kick me out of your vineyard,

**because I know that Jesus, my Savior, paid for all my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.**

Trusting in him, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

1015 Gloria (Brit) - AURELIA

CW 1015

Tune: AURELIA



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Grant us the privilege of working in your vineyard.

Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1–7

¹I will sing for the one I love
a song about his vineyard:

My loved one had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.

²He 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.

³Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What 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?

⁵Now 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.

⁶I 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.”

⁷The vineyard of the LORD Almighty
is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are the vines he delighted in.

And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

80C Restore Us

Psalm 80C

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,

awaken your might; come and save us.

How long, LORD God Almighty,

will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?

You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors,

and our enemies mock us.

You transplanted a vine from Egypt;

you drove out the nations and planted it.

You cleared the ground for it,

and it took root and filled the land.

Why have you broken down its walls

so that all who pass by pick its grapes?

Return to us, God Almighty!

Look down from heaven and see!

Second Reading

Philippians 3:12–21

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, 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, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵All of us, then, 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. ¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, 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.

Alleluia. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Reading

³³Listen 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 moved to another place. ³⁴When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

³⁵The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰Therefore, 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."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

'The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes'?

⁴³Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit."

862 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

CW 862



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would seek to o - ver - throw your
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your Chris - ten - dom that
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son and to de - stroy what he has done.
we may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife and lead us out of death to life.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Tune: Geistliche Lieder zu Wittemberg, Wittenberg, 1543, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Matthew 21:33-43 *“Notice of EVICTION”*

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and Sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death, or death of a loved one, draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence, for those who need your help:

Silent prayer

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Offering

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

1026 Sanctus (Brit) - EWING

CW 1026

Tune: EWING



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Alexander C. Ewing

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Tune: Public domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together in unity as a flock of believers to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

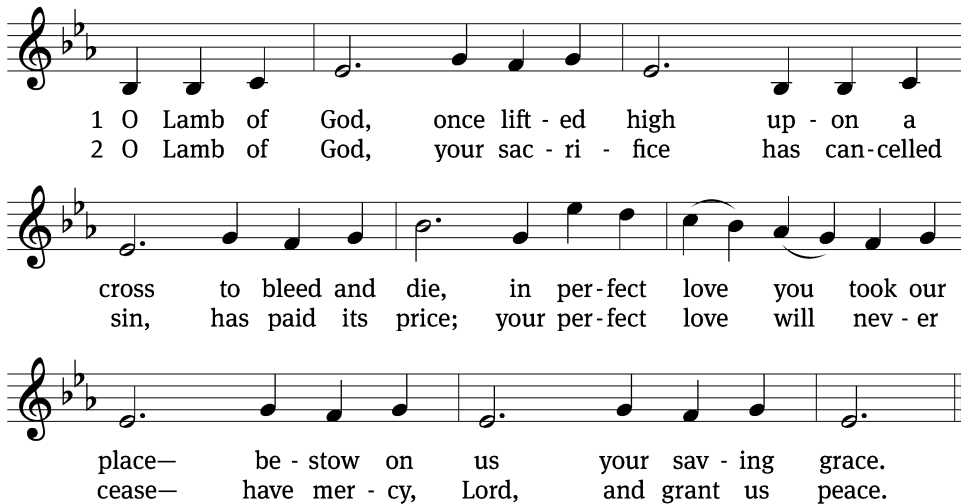
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

1032 Agnus (Brit) - SUANTRAI

CW 1032

Tune: SUANTRAI



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled

cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you took our
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will nev - er

place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Distribution

Our Practice of Close Communion

In line with Scripture, Grace Lutheran Church follows the practice of close communion. In 1 Corinthians 1:10 we are told, “I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.” That unity takes work to establish (courses are available), and 1 Corinthians 10:17 highlights the powerful unity we express by communing together: “Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.” Therefore (just as the early church did) we

invite forward only those who are in full agreement with the teachings of our church. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, but rather it is a call for all visitors to examine and judge the teachings of our church body in light of God's Word. We therefore welcome confirmed members of our synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and members of our sister synod (ELS) to partake of the Lord's Supper with us today. We humbly, respectfully, and lovingly ask that visitors speak with our pastor after the service if there are any questions about our doctrine or practices.

Thanksgiving / Song of Simeon

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

Closing Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

Acknowledgments

Setting Seven (British) from Christian Worship

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1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, with milk and hon - ey blest—
 2 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, the home of God's e - lect!
 3 The Christ is ev - er with them, the day-light is se - rene;



the sight of it re - fresh - es the wea - ry and op - pressed.
 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try that ea - ger hearts ex - pect,
 the pas - tures of the bless - ed are ev - er rich and green.



I know not, oh, I know not what joys a - wait us there,
 where they who with their lead - er have con - quered in the fight
 There is the throne of Da - vid, and there, from care re - leased,



what ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, what bliss be - yond com - pare:
 for - ev - er and for - ev - er are clad in robes of white:
 the shout of them that tri - umph, the song of them that feast.



to sing the hymn un - end - ing with all the mar - tyr throng,
 in mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us to that dear land of rest
 To God en - throned in glo - ry the Church's voic - es blend,



a - midst the halls of Zi - on re - sound - ing full with song.
 where sings the host of heav - en your glo - rious name to bless.
 the Lamb for - ev - er bless - ed, the Light that knows no end.

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent., abr.

Tune: Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Text and tune: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evangelism Meeting

Everyone interested in evangelism (and that means all of us) are invited to meet in the fellowship hall after worship to make outreach plans for the rest of 2023.

Bible Classes

Please take advantage of the Bible Classes now offered at Grace: Sunday morning 9 am / Wednesday afternoon 3 pm / the last Friday of the month at 10:30 am. Talk to pastor if you'd like to join in one of the current BIC courses as well.

Oktoberfest

You are all invited to an Oktoberfest fellowship event at the Kroll home on Saturday, Oct. 14 starting at 4 PM. Beer and brats will be provided. Please bring a side, beverage, or dessert to share. Please RSVP to Becca by Oct. 13th.

Pastor's Schedule

Due to Pastor's travelling this month communion will be held on the 2nd and 5th Sundays. It's also offered after every service on Sunday. Also please note that the Wednesday Genesis Bible Class will have to be on hold the next 3 weeks (for the remainder of October). We'll resume again in November.

Upcoming Schedule

Today	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + Communion
Oct. 8-11	all day	Pastor in Milwaukee for meetings
Oct. 14	4:00 pm	Oktoberfest at Camp Shiloh
Oct. 15	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship
Oct. 18-26	all week	Pastor in Calgary AB
Oct. 22	10:00 am	Lay Led Worship (no communion)
Oct. 29	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + Communion

A Look at our Church Library

Have you ever checked out a book from our church library? Grace offers books to take home and read available to members and friends of Grace. You are invited to pick one out for yourself! Maybe you're looking for a devotional book or perhaps you're interested in a certain subject on a deeper level. You might enjoy something to supplement what you're already doing at home. You can even find information on other religions highlighting what others believe and how that compares to what Scripture says. All the books available in the Grace library are carefully vetted and written by trusted authors and pastors that mirror what we teach here at Grace. New books continue to be added to assist you in your personal spiritual growth. Check one out today!

Fall Recommendation: *People's Bible*

When you're at home reading the Bible, do you ever wish you had the pastor right there to explain something to you? You could have him on speed dial, but you more likely soon forget what you were wondering about and never get the explanation you were hoping for. Help is here! The library at Grace now has the complete People's Bible series for you to check out and take home. For instance, if you are reading through the book of Acts, you can check out the Acts People's Bible to read along with it! The People's Bible is a Bible commentary for everyone. Written by experienced pastors and professors who begin with the original Hebrew or Greek text, each easy-to-read volume helps Christians enrich their study of the Bible and points them to its central focus, Jesus Christ. (NPH) It's almost as good as having a pastor with you as you're reading! You can always bring your questions to Pastor Halldorson but for those times when he's not readily available, check out what the People's Bible has to say. It's a great way to grow in your understanding of Scripture at home!

Your church secretary, Rachel Halldorson