

The 19th Sunday after Pentecost Isaiah 5:1-7 (ESV)

5 Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² 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; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³ And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵ 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. ⁶ I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

Philippians 3:4b-14 (ESV)

⁴ If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have

already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

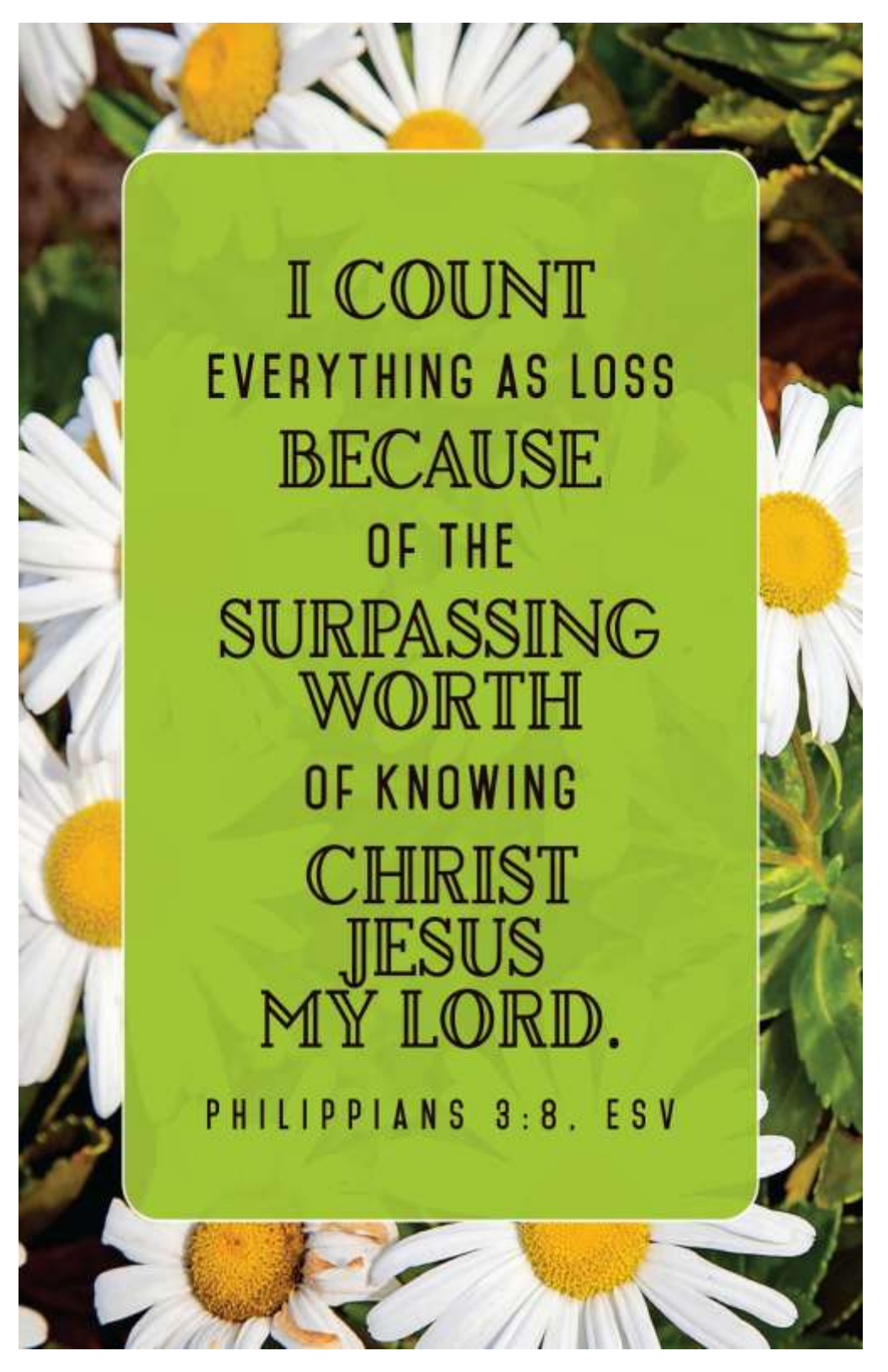
Matthew 21:33-46 (ESV)

³³ "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴ When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵ And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰ When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

⁴² 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 marvelous in our eyes'? ⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴ And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him." ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.



I COUNT
EVERYTHING AS LOSS
BECAUSE
OF THE
SURPASSING
WORTH
OF KNOWING
CHRIST
JESUS
MY LORD.

PHILIPPIANS 3:8. ESV

October 4, 2026
19th Sunday After Pentecost

Zion Lutheran Church, 17927 Dice Road, Hemlock, MI 48626
www.zionhemlock.org ~ Church Office 642-5909 Vicar Ron 989-385-7569

As We Gather ~ *The True Vine Redeems the Vineyard of the Lord of Hosts* ~ *"The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel"* (Is. 5:7), which He planted *"on a very fertile hill"* (Is. 5:1). He did everything for His vineyard, not only clearing it of stones and planting it with *"choice vines,"* but also building the *"watchtower"* of His prophets and hewing out the *"wine vat"* of His priesthood in its midst (Is.5:2). But when *"he looked for it to yield grapes,"* there were only *"wild grapes"* of bloodshed and unrighteousness (Is. 5:2, 7). The Lord Jesus likewise described the unfaithfulness of those who were called to care for His vineyard (Matt. 21:33-35). But in this He also describes His cross and Passion (Matt. 21:38-39), by which He has redeemed the vineyard for Himself. He is the true Vine, planted by death into the ground, and in His resurrection He brings forth *"the fruits in their seasons"* (Matt. 21:41). Among those good grapes of the true Vine is the apostle Paul. Once a zealous persecutor of the Church, he *"suffered the loss of all things"* in order to *"gain Christ and be found in him,"* to *"know him and the power of his resurrection"* (Phil. 3:8-10).

ORDER OF SERVICE Divine Service Setting Three	184
OPENING HYMN <i>"Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now"</i>	903
SERMON HYMN <i>"O Love, How Deep"</i>	544
SERMON <i>"Count All Things as Loss for the Sake of Christ"</i>	Phil.3:4b-14
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS	
<i>"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"</i>	637
<i>"The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord"</i>	634
CLOSING HYMN <i>"All for Christ, I have Forsaken"</i>	753

Pastor	Charles Buckhahn	Vicar	Ron Zuccaro
Organist	Carolyn Laurenz	A/V	Pam Gilbert
Elders	Dick Bluemer and Paul Bohn		
Ushers	Jerry Neuenfeldt and Mike Hingston		
Altar Guild	Irene Kruth		

We ask that you please remember to fill out the fellowship pads and pass them on. Please list your name and any recent changes in address, phone, or email. As the pad is returned we would ask for that person to tear off the used sheet/sheets and put it on top of the pad.

Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week – 98 *Needed for The Lord's Work at Zion* \$4,729 ~ *Received for the Lord's Work* \$5,157; Capital Projects \$70; God's Helping Hands \$120.

Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday – October 4- Alan Reno; October 5- Nicholas Coulter; October 6- Kathy Clapp; October 7-Aubree Hildebrant; October 9- Suzanne Carroll.



October is Church Worker Appreciation month. We greatly appreciate Pastor Buckhahn and Vicar Ron as they serve us throughout the week leading us in worship and shepherding our congregation. You are greatly appreciated.

Bible Study ~ Vicar Ron will continue Bible Study this morning after church at 10:45am in the fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend.

Prayer Requests ~ Feel free to contact Vicar Ron at 989-385-7569 if you have a scheduled hospital visit and would like him to visit and pray with you or if you would like to have someone put on the Sunday prayers. This week please include Chet Hodges and Bernie Hutfilz recovering from surgery in your prayers.

October Voters' Meeting will be held following the service on Sunday, October 18. All confirmed members age 18 and over are encouraged to attend.

The Valley Lutheran Booster Club Fruit Sale kicks off on October 2! The following fruit is available: Florida Indian River Naval Oranges, Florida Pink Grapefruit, Mixed Navel Oranges/Pink Grapefruit, Florida Mandarin Oranges, Citrus Delight (all 3). The sale continues until November 6. Fruit can be ordered from Valley students or online at www.vlhs.com/fruitsale (online ordering begins Oct. 2). Orders should be picked up at VLHS on Saturday, December 5.

Lunch, Silent Auction, and Euchre Tourney Fundraiser Oct. 11 ~ Grace Lutheran Church (303 Ruth St, Auburn) will be sending a group of volunteers to Puerto Rico to assist the LCMS Missionaries there with planting Lutheran churches in January of 2027. On Sunday, October 11 at 11:30 a.m. Grace will host a Mission Fundraiser consisting of lunch, euchre tournament, and silent auction. All are welcome to join us in Auburn on October 11 to eat some Coney dogs and/or sloppy joes, bid on silent auction items, and/or play some euchre! \$5 registration fee to play, 25¢ penalty pot if euchred. We hope that you'll join us in supporting this good cause. See you there!