



**Macedonia Lutheran Church
49 Macedonia Church Road
Prosperity, SC 29127**

Established 1847, 173rd Year of Ministry

**YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY ARE OF
UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO US! WE MUST REMAIN IN
COMPLIANCE WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES;
THEREFORE, WE KINDLY REMIND YOU THAT
IT IS IMPERATIVE TO REMAIN IN YOUR VEHICLE FOR
THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE.
UPON CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICE, PLEASE FOLLOW
THE DIRECTIONS OF OUR PARKING LOT ATTENDANTS
FOR A SAFE AND TIMELY EXIT SO THAT WE MAY ALL DO
OUR PARTS TO FLATTEN THE CURVE!
GOD BLESS!**

October 4, 2020 - 9:30 am
18th Sunday after Pentecost

Quiet Gathering, Silent Prayer and Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

HYMN "The Church's One Foundation"

- 1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
- 4 Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Faithful God, **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.**

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 † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: : Psalm 80:7-15
(Sing in Unison)

Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)

⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

⁸You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and | planted it.

⁹You cleared the | ground for it;
it took root and | filled the land.

¹⁰The mountains were covered | by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs. R

¹¹You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
and its branches | to the river.
¹²Why have you broken | down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?
¹³The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.
¹⁴Turn now, O | God of hosts,
look | down from heaven;
¹⁵behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted. R

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 21:33-46

Glory to You, O Lord

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

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.**

Blessing

Gracious God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

HYMN "How Firm a Foundation"

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."
- 3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."

- 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Thank you for your presence and participation in this worship service!
Love offerings are gratefully accepted in the bucket at the exit gates.

Today's Helpers

Ushers & Greeters: Josh Bowers, Kenny Fulmer, Leon Jr. and Lee Fulmer

Receiving Treasurer: Jennifer Ayers

Lay Reader: Dorothy Longshore

Organist: Pam Carroll 803-944-2758 pscarroll131@gmail.com

Music Director: Julie Livingston 803-295-1791
juliewillingham5@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Jeannie Cox 803-364-3786
macedonialutheranchurch@gmail.com

Interim Pastor: The Reverend Marion Clark

Special welcome to this Lakeshore Service! You are invited to dress casually and appropriately for outdoor worship. If you would like to become a member, be baptized or receive Holy Communion, please contact any Church Council member or the Pastor. Please ask an usher if you need assistance, and thanks so much for being with us today! Come again soon!

Attendance last week	
9:30 Drive-in Service	183
Offering	\$4,468



- **HEAR YE, HEAR YE! EXCITING BROADCAST INFORMATION:**
While present at our drive-in service, you can now tune in to 87.7 FM on your car or boat radio for a more up-close and personal audio experience!
- **DON'T STOP NOW!!! LAKESHORE SERVICES** will continue until further notice, so please continue to join us for worship by car or boat! As changes arise, we will announce them here at the service, on our Facebook page "Macedonia Lutheran Church – ELCA" and on our website macedonialutheran.net. We are truly blessed to be able to come together for drive-in worship, and we sincerely appreciate the love and support of our members and this wonderful community!
- **Please complete council ballots** and return them to a ballot box at the gate as you exit. You may also return your completed ballot by mail to the address on the front of this bulletin. If you choose to return your ballot by mail, please feel free to omit any identifying information such as your name and/or address and place the church's address on the return address portion of the envelope as well.
- **A copy of our weekly bulletin** is now available online for those who are watching on Facebook or in a boat. Just visit our website at macedonialutheran.net, click on the bulletins tab and select the bulletin to view it.
- **Generations of Chapin** currently has a variety of rooms available at their assisted living facility. If you or someone you know has any questions about assisted living and the services they provide, please contact them at 803-345-1911.
- **Attention 2020 Golden Agers:** We ask that you please stay after the Homecoming Service on October 11th so that we can take your picture. Due to the continued need for social distancing, and in the best interest of everyone's health and safety, we will be taking individual pictures this year in the lakeshore chapel, weather permitting. In the event of unfavorable weather, pictures will be taken in the church and you will be directed on when and where to enter and exit.

- **Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes** will be available in the hallway outside the church office beginning this Sunday. Brochures will be included in each box. Please return filled boxes by Sunday, November 15th. Thank you in advance for your support of this wonderful ministry to provide a little joy in the lives of children around the world.

Prayer Requests - Members

Dovie Adams	Juanita Fulmer	Karen Ruff
Jeannette Ayers	Ola Mae Fulmer	Joe Sabbagha
Dorothy Berenbrok	Craig & *Tina Hipp	Shelby Seibert
Mickey & Angela Bowers	Joye Irons	Jimmy Shealy
Tommy & Janet Brown	Richard & Freida Koon	Katie Mae Slice
Christy Bundrick	Frank Lyerly	Larry Tolbert
Wayne Dowd	Dale McCain	Mickey Yarbrough
JoAnn Fulmer	Carrie Pritchard	

Prayer Requests - Friends

Jeannie Cox	Johnny Nobles
Marie Fulmer	Nadine Pierce
Jesse Key	Terry Shaver
Lynnette Lever	Onie Wilder
Geraldine Morris	Michael Wise

Nursing Home & Hospital Prayer Requests

White Oak Manor, 2555 Kinard St., Newberry, SC 29108

- Seber Ray Amick, in hospice care

Saluda Nursing & Rehab Center, 581 Newberry Hwy., Saluda, SC 29138

- Judy Kesler, Room 224
- Wayne Fulmer, Room 214

The Heritage at Lowman, PO Box 444, White Rock, SC 29177

- *Janette Cain, Room 319, Cana Hall

Call to Confession

Throughout his ministry in Matthew's gospel, Jesus draws in people at the margins of society. As the leader of a reform movement, Jesus spoke as a Jew to fellow Jews. When we read these stories centuries later, we must remember that his intent was to condemn exclusion and abuses of power—not to reject Judaism. His critiques still ring true for the power structures of the religious institutions of our time.

Jesus' parables stirred people up, provoking questions, doubts, even hostility. When his listeners recognized themselves in the parables, it was rarely comforting or affirming. Do we have the honesty and vulnerability to see ourselves critically in the stories as the chief priests and Pharisees did?

There aren't any clear heroes in this story, as in any story of class warfare. Perhaps the tenants turned to violence out of frustration with the economic injustice of their situation. The Pharisees were quick to side with the powerful landowner, asserting his right to kill the tenants and crush their revolt, yet Jesus does not affirm this escalation either.

We begin worship with a prayer of confession, recalling the image of God's goodness in each of us and yet honestly admitting our shame and guilt. Today's parable also issues a call to confession, alluding to the vineyard of Isaiah 5, which yielded wild grapes instead of sweet. God has created a world that can provide abundant life for all. What are the fruits of our congregations? God's heart longs for justice for all people. How might we unintentionally and unknowingly cultivate the sour wine of exclusion, discrimination, and injustice?

In the prayer of the day, we ask: "Beloved God, . . . lead us . . . to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them." Empowered by God's grace and forgiveness, we set to work removing the blinders that keep us from recognizing ourselves in parables' antagonists and repenting of the injustices that we perpetuate.

From sundaysandseasons.com.
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