

Sunday Worship - March 5, 2023



The Red Vineyard by Vincent Van Gogh, 1888

The Second Sunday of Lent - Narrative Lectionary Week 24
Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa

*“Striving to live as Jesus lived –
confronting injustice with love, compassion, service.”*

Welcome to Worship

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Here we are Lord, your church, uncertain, on an ever changing journey.

People: Show us your path.

Leader: Here we are, longing to know your way.

People: Guide us to follow you.

Leader: Here we are, desiring only your comfort.

People: Help us to hear your voice.

ALL: Here we are, God; lead us according to your will.

~Diane Zaerr Brenneman, *Words for Worship 2*, #19

*HYMN #649 Amazing Grace (verses 1-4)

*1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!*

*I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind but now I see.*

*2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.*

*How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!*

*3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.*

*'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

*4. The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.*

*He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Knowing how hard it is to be honest about those parts of our lives that cause us the greatest pain, the greatest heartache, and the greatest shame, we trust that God welcomes us with open arms, unconditionally, and seeks to mend our hearts.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray:

Gracious God, if we came to your house,
we would find the door open,
because there are no closing hours for the hospitality of heaven.

**All: If we came to your house,
we would hear many accents, ours just one among them,
for there is no favored nation in the commonwealth of heaven.**

Leader: If we came to your house,
we would see people who never thought they would be allowed in,
had entrance been by merit rather than by your gracious invitation.

So, as we gather in Jesus' name,
let the characteristics you cherish
become evident in all we do and share together.

**All: Reveal within this community what we must do,
what we must hear, and who we must welcome
if we are to know Jesus among us.**

Leader: God, give us the grace
to surrender our presumptions as to what we should be or do;
and then amend our lives until we become the people you intended.

~ Wild Goose Resource Group, *A Wee Worship Book, Fifth Incarnation*. pp. 39-40

Time of silent prayer

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Amen.

O loving Christ, scatter the sin from our souls as the mist from the hills;
begin what we do, inform what we say, redeem who we are.

P: In you we place our hope, our great hope, our living hope, this day and evermore. Amen.

~Wild Goose Worship Group

*RESPONSE #596 You Are Holy

*You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more
than we ever understand. You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.
You are holy, you are wholeness; you are present.
Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Sing hosanna in the highest!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: In Christ, we are a new creation.

The old is passed away, and we live as signs of reconciliation and love.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

DISCOVERY TIME

SCRIPTURE READING

L: In the beginning was the Word.

P: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

L: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSV) - The Workers in the Vineyard

Reader 1: “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.

Reader 2: When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’

Reader 1: When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’

Reader 2: But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

L: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,
P: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Rev. Lori Wunder

HYMN #36 For the Fruit of All Creation

*1. For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth’s safekeeping, thanks be to God.*

*2. In the just reward of labor, God’s will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God’s will be done.*

*3. For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: There are many ways to offer ourselves, our resources, our lives to God and the way of God.
We do so in response to God's abundant love and provision.

Let us pray together:

**All: Happy are we, blessed are we, that know God's presence in our lives,
and who welcome him to give purpose to all we do,
so that we do it not just for ourselves, not just for family and friends,
but rather for all people in God's commonwealth of creation.
Use us this day and every day as the ones that bring blessing to others,
through all we give and offer. Amen.**

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

~ you may place your offering in basket located at the back of church

~ you may also give online at www.firstpresmv.com

OFFERTORY

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

~ from *The Book of Common Worship*

INVITATION

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from north and south, and from east and west
to sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke,
when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,
he took bread, blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's Table.
Our Savior invites those who trust him
to share the feast that he has prepared.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Praise to you, O God, for all your good works.

You created the world and called it good
and made us in your image to live together in love.

You made a covenant with us,
and even when we turned from you,
you remained ever faithful.

Thank you, O God, for sending us your Son.
He lived among us and told your story.
He healed the sick and welcomed sinners.
He shared our pain and died our death,
then rose to new life that we might live,
and all creation be restored.

Remembering your boundless love revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
we break bread and share the cup,
giving ourselves to you to live for him in joy and praise.

**Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine
that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ
and that we may be his body for the world.

By your Spirit unite us with Christ and one another
until we feast with him and with all your saints
in your eternal realm of justice and peace.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: God of Abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.

**P: Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life
of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN #203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

REFRAIN

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.*

*1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.*

REFRAIN

*2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race;
neighbors are near us and far away.*

REFRAIN

*3. These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.*

REFRAIN

*4. Loving puts us on our knees, willing to wash others' feet;
this is the way we should live like you.*

REFRAIN

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Thanks to Caitlin Brannaman for playing for us this morning while Director of Music Julia Andrews enjoys a Sunday off!

Thanks also to Emily Fitzpatrick for being our liturgist today.