

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 4, 2026

HELLERTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

A Year of Generosity
~ The Reverend Philip C. Spohn ~

10:00am

As you enter the worship space, feel free to go to the altar and light a candle representing your life and the light you are to the world. May you shine brightly throughout the week.

Order of Worship

Communion Sunday

Prelude:

All Belong Here

Hannah and Lenora Rand

Steve Wysocki

No matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey, **you are welcome here!**

Welcome & Announcements

Passing of the Peace

We are gathered and ready and aware of God's presence.

Chime~

Silence~

Prayer~

Opening Song:

Great Is the Lord

Time for All Ages

Bible Sunday

Josh Gulotta

1st Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Peggy Marshall

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.

¹ I will 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;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people 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 expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten 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 wasteland;
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.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

Gospel Acclamation: *Go!*

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-46

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then 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 get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when 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 lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

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 amazing in our eyes’?”

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Help us God, as we seek to interpret what this means for our lives.

Message

@ChristLutheranChurchHelltown

Reception of Tithes & Offerings



venmo

Offertory: *Inscription of Hope* Z. Randall Stroope
Carolyn Raudenbush, soprano
Amy Kares, flute

Offertory Response: *Take My Life That I May Be* TOMA MI VOLUNTAD

Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Prayers of the Church

Kevin Gough

After each petition: Lord, let my heart be good soil, **open to the seed of your word.**

Dianne Borovies, David Heintzelman, Russell Jenkins, Joe Meier, Dennis Koehler, Ashley Viegas, Stacy, Michael Lentz, Nic, Shannon, Jenny Canning, Kathryn Achey, Sheila, Beth Hinchliffe, Wendy Ernst, Mel Jones, Elaine Rogers, Tiffany Weddle, Leona, Richard, George Suarez, Kyle

Condolences to the Family & Friends of Gail Varady and to those of Dorothy Barnes

When a name is placed on the Prayer List, it will remain there for one month unless you notify us.

If you would like a call, a visit, or communion from Pastor Phil, please call the church office.

Finally, and together: **Trusting in your boundless grace, O God,
we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts;
in the name of Jesus whom we love and follow. Amen.**

Words of Institution

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for all."

We gather at this table and remember how on the night when Jesus was handed over, he gathered with his disciples in the upper room and together they shared in an ordinary meal that had extraordinary implications.

For at this table,

Jesus broke bread and shared wine with one who betrayed him.

At this table,

Jesus broke bread and shared wine with one who denied him.

At this table,

Jesus broke bread and shared wine with those who fled in his time of need.

At this table,

Jesus broke bread and shared wine with people from all walks of life.

And so whenever we gather at this table to share the bread and the cup in this community of faith, we proclaim Jesus' life, which affirms there is a place at the table for all people, for the love of God transcends every power that tries to contain it.

The 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.**

Preparation Hymn: *One Bread, One Body*

Come to the banquet where no one is turned away, and there is always enough for everyone.

Distribution Music: *All Belong Here*

ALL JOIN REFRAIN: Come and remember who you are here. Do this to remember who I am.
Come and remember you belong here. All belong here.

Jesus Loves Me

ELW #595

Communion Prayer

**Gracious God, as we received this bread and wine,
we receive the presence and life of Christ within us
so that the spirit of Christ might work through us. Amen.**

Closing Song: *Build Your Kingdom Here*

Benediction

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude