

Oct 4 2020 Worship at Home

Good morning – welcome to worship

I hope you are able to gather everyone in your household together this morning. If you are not alone - assign parts of this beforehand. If you don't have a Bible you can google the scripture readings and print them out too. Perhaps print out copies of this for everyone present. This Liturgy is from the LBW book. Prayers are from Sundays & Seasons.

Shut off all the distractions in your home. Sit in the quiet for a bit – take some deep breaths. Light your candle.

The Gathering

Call to Worship

Trust in the Lord at all times.

Pour out your hearts before God.

God is our refuge and strength, and very present help in times of trouble.

Let us worship.

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

Hymn: ELW 654 or LBW 369 - The Church's One Foundation

Prayer of the Day

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

The WORD

Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:7-15 Philippians 3:4-14

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Sermon Rev. Norine Gullons

You have just heard the gospel story of the familiar imagery of the vineyard and the unfaithful manager of the vineyard. Many are involved in the story - the landowner himself, the tenants, and the servants. Even when the owner sends in his son to collect what is due they kill him also. They are hoping that if there is no heir, and since they were already working there - that they will inherit the vineyard for ever.

Well, not so fast guys! What a hairbrained scheme! These tenants are sort of like the guys who run Ponzi schemes – don't they realize that eventually it will all unravel? Jesus seems to think so.

The landowner seems a little off balance too! Where does the bright idea come from to send in his son, his only heir, alone to deal with these blood thirsty hooligans? Who would do such a thing. Perhaps you might send in lawyers or the O.P.P. first, or the military. . .

When we do a double take - Perhaps this landlord is so desperate to be in a good relationship with these tenants that he will do anything - risk anything to reach out to them. He acts more like a desperate parent, willing to do or say or try anything to reach out to a beloved but wayward child. He is not acting like a thinking business man. It's crazy thinking but it comes from a place of love.

What did the ultimate landowner – GOD do? He sent His Son Jesus to deal with all of us who have had crazy ideas in our lives also.

Now I know those of you who are listening or watching are generous people. Not only do you give God what God is due, you all support all kinds of worthy causes to assist those who are marginalized; those in your own families and communities; within Canada and through Canadian Lutheran World Relief - the world.

Which reminds me of a story:

St. Clements Episcopal Church – Anglican – in New York City runs a store called Outcasts located near Times Square. This is three blocks from where they drop the glittery crystal ball on New Year's Eve. For the most part Outcasts is just like any other thrift store. It is filled with knickknacks and used clothing. This particular church thrift store caters to many homeless people. There is usually a small group of homeless people in the store at any one time.

Now what is important to know is that this store provides the church with money to run a food pantry, which feeds nearly 200 people every week. What is really important is the great ministry that happens every Sat. Every Saturday the homeless people distribute bags and bags of food purchased from the funds raised at Outcast to hungry New York families. Awesome!

We all need God's care and we are all different, and come from different socio-economic places. That little Outcast Thrift Store is the cornerstone of that Anglican Church. Even though those who work at it are the rejected ones of society. They are the rejected stones that really make up the corner stone of that faith community. They comprise the center of a ministry so vitally important to the people who live near Times Square! It is an amazing story.

Jesus tells his story about the vineyard to give us – his listeners another chance. His message about God's unconditional love does not fit into the world's structure or accountability. Jesus himself was the rejected stone. He was executed like a criminal. He is part of God's new plan for building a different reality in the world. He is a great architect. He is able to take the misfit,

crumbling structures of your lives and turn that into something which will amaze you! You only have to allow Him in to be the master builder in your life. Amen.

Hymn: ELW 769 & LBW 453 - If You But Trust in God to Guide You

Prayers of the people

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you call us to work for peace and justice in your vineyard. Refresh the church with your life, that we may bear fruit through work and service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the abundant harvest of the earth. Bless and care for those whose hands bring the fruits of the earth to the tables of all who hunger. May we be inspired by your servants who cared deeply for your creation Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Curb the impulses of greed and pride that lead us to take advantage of others. Grant that world leaders seek the fruits of the kingdom for the good and welfare of all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain all who suffer with the promise of new life. Assured of your presence, heal our pain and suffering, and equip us to embrace all bodies aching for wholeness of mind, body, and soul. We call to mind those who are struggling today (, especially the family of Leonard Boese, and Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all managers in our community and for all who seek employment. Give hope and a future to those who lack meaningful work, those who have been marginalized or abused in the workplace, and those who desire new opportunities. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard (May our chorus join theirs until our labor is complete. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

Hymn: ELW 547 - Sent forth by God's blessing

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,

The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,

The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

Dismissal Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.