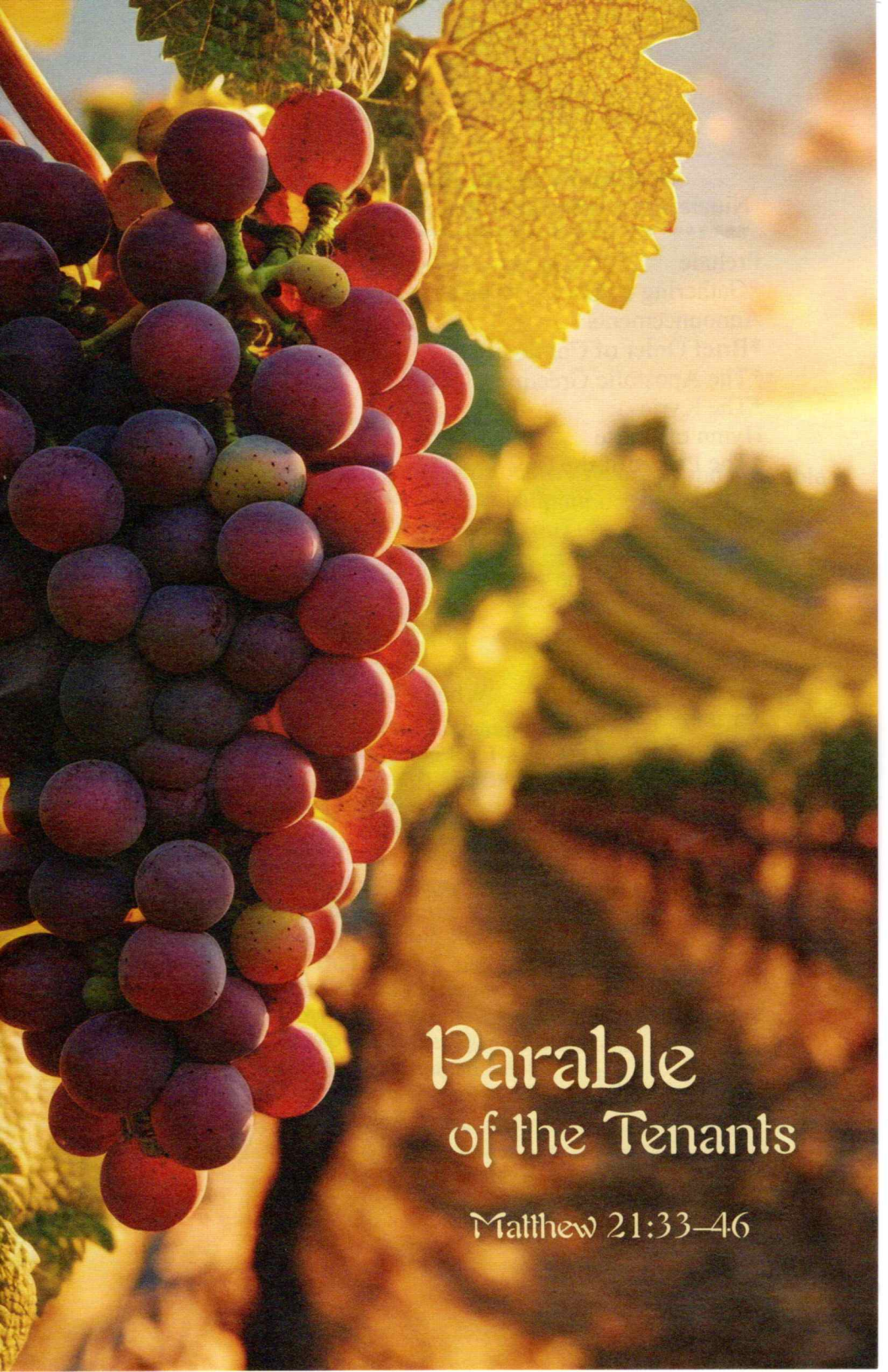

Parable
of the Tenants
Matthew 21:33–46

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (NALC)

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 4, 2026

********** **********

Prelude		
*Gathering Hymn	"The Church of Christ…"	**G Hymn #433**
Announcements		
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*The Apostolic Greeting		Page 57
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The Psalm		Psalm 80:7-18
The Second Lesson		Philippians 3:4-1-14
*The Verse	"Alleluia"	Page 62
*The Gospel Lesson		Matthew 21:33-46
Children's Sermon		
*Sermon Hymn	"When I Survey…"	**G Hymn #482**
Sermon		Charlie Britt
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Offering		
Offertory Psalm		Page 75
Prayer/Lord's Prayer		Page 76
*Benediction		
*Closing Hymn	"God of Grace"	**G Hymn #415**
*Stand as you are able		

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad to have you worship with us today.

Our prayers include those in nursing homes and home bound: Mary Ann McCallister, Helen Lyons, Susie Leonhardt, Edna Armstrong, Servicemen: Andrew Gendron

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God are given in memory of Wayne Webber by his family.

Funds collected for current budget year to date: $134,532.10
Budget estimate for year to date: $142,095.00

Parents' Fellowship and Dinner will be held Sunday, October 11 from 4-6 PM at the Parsonage. Parents of young children are invited to join us for an evening of good food, fellowship, and conversation at the parsonage! Bring a side dish to share. Enjoy some time to relax and connect with other parents. This gathering is for parents only---a chance to enjoy a little grown-up fellowship and a meal together. We hope you join us.

Thank you for all the cards, flowers, visits, and especially your prayers while I was in the hospital and since my return home. A special thank you to Pastor Andea for all her visits and prayers and for coming out early the morning of my surgery to pray with us. Also thank you to God Squad for the gift card.

Richard Schanzenbach

Church Directory News—Monday, October 12, is the last day to Submit a picture for the Church Directory! Please email it to dmfeichtner@gmail.com or the church at stpaullutheran@embarqmail.com and give your $15 to Deb, Jen or Joyce, by October 12th. Each family photographed will receive a free 8x10 photo that will be mailed to you.

Giving for The Lord's Ministry
September 27, 2026

Bell Choir	20.00
Benevolence	150.00
Current	2,911.00
Feed Crawford County	40.00
Filling Home	5.00
God Squad	10.00
Luther Home of Mercy	5.00
Missionary	10.00
NALC Seminary	135.00
NALC Disaster Relief	100.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	5.00
Special Projects	55.00
Women of the Church	10.00
Total	$3,456.00
Attendance 92	

Anyone wanting to donate to the NALC Disaster Response may mark your envelopes accordingly. Donations aid tornadoes and other natural disaster victims.

Looking to connect with Pastor Andea? You're always welcome to stop by during office hours: **Tuesday & Wednesdays 9:00 AM-Noon.** If another time works better for you, feel to call the church office or reach out directly to Pastor Andrea (614) 256-4318 to set up an appointment. She'd love to hear from you!

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday Sunday School 9 AM
Choir practice 8:30 AM
Catechism 9 AM
Worship 10 AM
Wednesday Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM
Sunday Sunday School 9 AM
Worship 10 AM

The St. Paul worship services and sermons are recorded and available to watch on the web page at www.stpaulsulphur.com or on St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur Springs, Ohio YouTube. A live feed of the worship service is available downstairs in the high school room.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4707 Ridgeton Rd. Bucyrus, Ohio
419-562-5858
Pastor Andrea Taphorn
Pastor Brodie Taphorn
Charlie Britt, David Halsey, Jeff Karl Lay Assistants
Organist Kathy Sheets, Assistant Karen Schimpf
Secretary, Joyce Schanzenbach
Choir Director, Roxanne Shipman
Bell Choir, Cindy Hopkins
Church Council President, John Britton
Sunday School Superintendent, Jill Rittenour
Email: stpaullutheran@embarqmail.com
Web Page: www.stpaulsulphur.com
Webmaster, Sam Hopkins
samhopkins@columbus.rr.com
Pastor Andrea's number 614-256-4318
Pastor Brodie's number 614-204-3064

The Stone the Builders Rejected

When it comes to eternal life, there are no easy paths. That's how it is with Jesus. He is a rock of stumbling and a stone of offense (Isaiah 8:14). The Gospel of a bloody Savior with its message that our merits contribute nothing to our salvation offends our fallen flesh and causes us to stumble in our pride.

Like the tenants of the vineyard in the parable, we want to run the show and keep at least some of the glory for ourselves. And so our old Adam must die, lest we be crushed and destroyed like the vineyard tenants. We must be broken so that the Lord might re-create us and raise us up to a new life in Christ.

"The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18). Those broken in repentance are restored and built up again in Jesus. For the stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone of the house of God—a firm foundation for us. "Whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame" (Romans 9:33).

Lord Jesus, grant me a penitent heart and a faith that is built solely on You. Amen.

PORTALS of PRAYER

Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
cph.org/magazines



About the Cover: The wicked tenants thought that by killing the heir, they would gain the vineyard and its fruit. Christ's parable was about how He, the only Son of God, would be rejected by both His own and the world. Yet the irony is that Christ's crucifixion at the hands of sinners was actually God's work and the means to offer freely the fruits of His death and resurrection. By faith, we receive a wonderful gift from God—the inheritance of eternal life through the forgiveness of sins—even though we do not deserve it.

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(Proper 22) October 4, 2026
26101

The Word of God



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost *October 4, 2026*

Prayer of the Day

Generously pardon and give peace to your faithful people, O Lord, that being cleansed from every sin, we may be free and glad to serve; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

[1]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 briers 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!

Psalm 80:7-18*

7Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.
8You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;*
you cast out the nations and | planted it.
9You prepared 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.
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;
behold and | tend this vine;*
preserve what your right | hand has planted.
15They burn it with | fire like rubbish;*
at the rebuke of your countenance | let them perish.
16Let your hand be upon the man of | your right hand,*
the son of man you have made so strong | for yourself.
17And so will we never turn a- | way from you;*
give us life, that we may call up- | on your Name.
18Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

4bIf anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8Indeed, 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.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

[33]{Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people,} "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.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost **October 4, 2026**

For Congregations
Almighty God, strengthen and sustain all congregations who gather around your Word and Sacrament and venture forth to bring the Good News of your redemption to all. May we be humble in our serving, counting all as a loss which we do for ourselves and all as a gain that Christ does in our lives. Lord in your mercy…
C. Hear our prayer.

For Fruitful Harvest
Lord of all creation, may the fields yield a fruitful harvest and bring forth an abundance so that all may find sustenance from the bounty of the earth. Feed those around the world that have little or nothing to eat; provide assistance to teach people to grow food and feed their children., Lord in your mercy…
C. Hear our prayer.

For Strong Marriages
Heavenly Father, we love because you first loved us. Grant strength to all married couples that their lives would be a blessing to those around them and that they would model your love for your people, as they live with you in the center of their lives. Lord in your mercy…
C. Hear our prayer.

For Restoration of Health
We pray for all who suffer with illness or pain. Restore them to health and wholeness and surround them with compassionate caregivers who remind them of your love for them and your never-failing presence. Lord in your mercy…
C. Hear our prayer.

Lessons for Next Week: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:4-13; Matthew 22:1-14

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