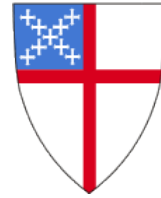


**Lessons for October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



**First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7**

**Hear the Word of God as it is written in Isaiah chapter 5 verses 1 to 7.**

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. 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 wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. 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 wild grapes? 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. I 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. For 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!

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**Psalm 80:7-14**

**Let us all stand and read Psalm 80 verses 7 to 14, responsively by verse.**

7

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

8

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

9

You prepared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

10

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

11

You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea and its branches to the River.

12

Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

13

The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,  
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

14

Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold and tend this vine;  
preserve what your right hand has planted.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.**

**Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14**

**Hear the Word of God as it is written in Philippians chapter 3 verses 4b to 14.**

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised 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; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More 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 and 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. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not 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. Beloved, 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, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**