



“I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. . . . . The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of his delight. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.” (Isaiah 5:1-2; 7 - NIV)

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, in Your bountiful mercy and grace, keep me safe from every evil of body and soul. Give me strength to cheerfully do whatever pleases You all the days of my life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN.



**Order of Worship – The Common Service Without L.S. – pg. 15**

- Greetings by the Pastor

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

Opening Hymn **C.W. 229** / TLH 12

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

**First Lesson** – Isaiah 5:1-7 – The Lord’s Vineyard

**PSALM OF THE DAY** Psalm 118 (Lit. pg. 108 – Sung by The Congregation)

**Second Lesson**–Philippians 3:12-21–Move Forward in Christ

**Gospel Lesson** – Matthew 21:33-46 – Parable of the Tenants

The Apostle’s Creed – (Pg. 19)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 203** / TLH 261

**Sermon Text:** Isaiah 5:1-2; 7

Sermon Theme: The Vineyard Of The Lord Almighty.

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)

Offering Prayer

Prayer of The Church

Lord’s Prayer (Traditional Version)

Hymn **C.W. 379** / TLH 374

Collect / Prayer (pg. 25)

Benediction

Hymn **C.W. 339** / TLH 244

SERMON TEXT: Isaiah 5:1-2; 7 (NIV)

Vs. 1 – **I will sing for the one I love** a song about His vineyard: **My loved one had a vineyard** on a fertile hillside.

Vs. 2 – He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then He looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.

Vs. 7 - The **vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the house of Israel**, and the men of Judah are the garden of His delight. And He looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

GREETING: Jesus says: heaven & earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away. (Matt. 24:35)

Paying the bills takes work.

Keeping the house clean – takes work.

Making a meal – takes work.

Having a garden – takes work.

Maintaining the car and the lawn mower and vacuum cleaner takes work, or at least some money which you worked for so that those pieces of equipment can be replaced.

Maintaining friendships – takes time and effort and desire.

How many people like to work? (Ask for a show of hands)

My father had a saying: “Arbeit Macht das Leben süß” (Did I spell the German correctly?) “Work makes life sweet.”

Remaining faithful to the Lord God and His Word - takes work.

In this chapter of Isaiah, we are told that the Lord God Almighty had a Vineyard.

God through the Prophet Isaiah tells us that The Vineyard that is being spoken of:

**Vs. 7 - is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of His delight.**

God’s Vineyard is God’s Holy people whom God cared for.

God put in the work:

**Vs. 2 – He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well.**

God then looked for a crop of grapes, but what did He find?

**Vs. 2 b - Then He looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.**

Imagine planting your garden, putting a fence around it, tilling it, watering it and it becomes infected with some type of disease and all the plants die or when you are just about to harvest the crops, you go down to the garden in the morning, only to find that the deer and raccoons have eaten and destroyed all the available produce.

The Lord God Almighty looked at His chosen people, which He had chosen from the line of Abraham – Isaac and Jacob, the chosen people whom He had delivered from slavery in Egypt, the people whom He had given special care by giving them the Civil – Ceremonial and Moral law at Mount Sinai – The people whom He had provided for in the wilderness with FREE food of Manna & Quail, and yet they rebelled against the Lord God, and rejected His Love.

And since God’s chosen people had rejected His love, what was God going to do? (Isa. 5:5-6)

**Vs. 5 - Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled.**

**Vs. 6 - I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there.**

**I will command the clouds not to rain on it.”**

The Lord God Almighty has great patience, yet we are told in Scripture:

**“I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.”** (Exodus 20:5-6 NIV)

God’s Love far out stretches God’s punishment, “Showing Love to a thousand generations.”

Yet, when God according to His just judgment decides it is time for His Judgment, then the time has come.

In the days of Noah - **“God said to Noah, I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.”** (Genesis 6:13 NIV)

Noah built the Ark as directed by the Lord God, and then while all the earth was covered with water, the Lord spared Noah and his family in the Ark.

As New Testament believers, God has given us His Holy, Inspired, Inerrant, Perfect Word in the Holy Bible. God has given us Baptism in which God creates faith in our heart regardless of age whether it be as an infant, or as an aged adult. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-39; Acts 22:16; II Timothy 3:15)

God has given us Bible Instruction courses (Catechism), God willing we had / have parents who taught us the Word of God, Pastors & Teachers, a Church body that has a Pastor and Teacher training school, and a nation that allows us to freely study and proclaim the Word of God.

God has placed us on a fertile hillside, He has dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted in us His Holy Spirit. God has given us those who watch out for false teaching, and one day He will come again to harvest us to our Heavenly home.

Despite the rebellious attitude of the people of Israel at the time of Isaiah, the Lord God preserved the tribe of Judah. This was extremely important because God had promised to send a Savior from the seed of a woman, and our Savior from sin, death and the devil would come from the family line of Judah.

And God has provided us with a Savior, born of the Virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit.

That Savior is of course Jesus Christ Who told the Parable in today's Gospel lesson from Matthew 21:33-46 - *The Parable of the Wicked Tenants and the Landowner who planted a vineyard.*

Jesus Who is the Son of the Landowner in the Parable.

Jesus Who went to the Cross of Calvary, and rose again on the third day.

Jesus Who is coming again on the Last Day to take you, and I and all believers to our heavenly home.

Until we live with God forever in heaven, God has given us His Church on earth where believers have an opportunity to join together and encourage one another in the One True, Holy Christian and Apostolic faith.

God has graciously given us the Body and Blood of His Son Jesus Christ, which is Really Present, In / With/ and Under the Bread and the wine for the forgiveness of sins, in the Lord's Supper / Holy Communion.

May we never take those Blessings of our Lord for granted, but take advantage of God's Blessing of Joint Public Worship and the Lord's Supper at every opportunity possible.

Christ Jesus is Risen Indeed. heaven is our Home because of Him. AMEN.

**THEME: The vineyard of the LORD Almighty.**