

Isaiah 5:1-7 (ESV)

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 briars 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!

Philippians 3:4b-14 (ESV)

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

Matthew 21:33-46 (ESV)

³³ [Jesus said:] “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.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 22 (October 2—October 8)

Isaiah 5:1–7

Philippians 3:4b–14

Matthew 21:33–46

The True Vine Redeems the Vineyard of the Lord of Hosts

“The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel” (Is. 5:7), which He planted *“on a very fertile hill”* (Is. 5:1). He did everything for His vineyard, not only clearing it of stones and planting it with *“choice vines,”* but also building the *“watchtower”* of His prophets and hewing out the *“wine vat”* of His priesthood in its midst (Is. 5:2). But when *“He looked for it to yield grapes,”* there were only *“wild grapes”* of bloodshed and unrighteousness (Is. 5:2, 7). The Lord Jesus likewise described the unfaithfulness of those who were called to care for His vineyard (Matt. 21:33–35). But in this He also describes His Cross and Passion (Matt. 21:38–39), by which He has redeemed the vineyard for Himself. He is the true Vine, planted by death into the ground, and in His Resurrection He brings forth *“the fruits in their seasons”* (Matt. 21:41). Among those good grapes of the true Vine is the Apostle Paul. Once a zealous persecutor of the Church, he *“suffered the loss of all things,”* in order to *“gain Christ and be found in Him,”* to *“know Him and the power of His resurrection”* (Phil. 3:8–10).

Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:

October 11 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 23 (v.5a); Philippians 4:4-13; Matthew 22:1-14

INTROIT

Psalm 118:22-24; Antiphon: Psalm 118:1

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!*

*The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.*

*This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.*

*This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *Gracious God,
You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him.
Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love,
and grant us the fullness of Your salvation;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.*

C *♪[Amen]♪*

GRADUAL

Psalm 91:11, Psalm 103:1

*For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.*

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!*

RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition:

P *Lord, in Your mercy,*
C **hear our prayer.**