# My beloved had a vineyard

ISAIAH 5:1

#### Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

#### **Entering and Leaving the Church:**

Face masks are required both inside and outside.

Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact.

*Please take your service bulletin with you or dispose of it properly. Please don't place it back into a basket.* 

## **Offerings:**

Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave or at the usher stations outdoors prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

## While in the Nave or on the lawn:

You may sit together as a family. Outside worshippers should place their lawn chairs using social distancing. Inside worshippers should sit in designated pews only. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.

#### **Communion Procedure:**

*For the outside service:* Communion positions are designated with a chalk cross marked on the sidewalks on Springettsbury Ave. and surrounding the lawn. Wearing your face mask, proceed to the closest sidewalk and take your place at a Communion position.

*For inside services: Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).* 

Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.

Your entire household may gather at a position marked by the green cross.

## For all to receive the sacrament:

- Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.
- Please do not reach out to take the Host from the minister.
- Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew/seat by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.
- We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).

STAFF		
Pastor	<b>Reverend Stanley Reep</b>	prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
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# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155 Email: st.paulsvork@comcast.net

www.stpaulsvork.org www.stpaulspreschoolvork.com

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 184 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

Thank you for your faithfulness in sending your offering through the mail or by using online options from your financial institution or through the "Donate" now from the church website stpaulsvork.org. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul's and our ministry partners.

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul's. Please thank Deacon Ellen Doughty, Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Tim Yakim for their dedication and service.

Thank you to Victor Fields for the use of his sound system for the outdoor service.

#### Food Pantry—October

Items needed: Canned beans, canned vegetables, canned meats, apple sauce, mashed potato mix, rice, pasta side dishes and peanut jelly. Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".



Flowers This Week

This week's flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory of Josephine M. Cushner, John J. Cushner, M.D. & Mary R. Maxwell, by JoAnne Cushner Debes and Family; and in joy and thankfulness for all of God's Blessings - from a grateful servant.

Open sponsor dates: 10/11, 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20 Please sign up in the Springettsbury Hallway and complete a Flower Sentiment form or contact the church office.

In our prayers we remember...

Mike Johnston, Marianne Moran, Rick Hock, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, Dana Sodor, David List, Sandy Shellenberger, Brian McKenna, Abbie Gayle Guyton, Amanda, Jim Young, Penny Bailey, Eddie Turner, Sr., Jessica Ericson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacev.

# **Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost**

October 4, 2020 8:00 & 10:30 AM

During the time of COVID -19

## **PRELUDE** Organ Concerto in G Minor 1. Larghetto e staccato G. F. Handel

#### **Stand**

# **BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father and of the Son 🕂 and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

# **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

## HYMN OF PRAISE Sung by the Cantor

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. . . .Lord God, you call us to work in your vineyard and leave no one standing idle. Set us to our tasks in the work of your kingdom, and help us to order our lives by your wisdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** 

Sit

## **READING** Isaiah 5: 1-7

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. <sup>4</sup>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? <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. <sup>7</sup>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! At the conclusion of the reading The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God PSALM **Psalm 80:7-15** spoken responsively by half verse <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O | God of hosts;\* show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved. <sup>8</sup> You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;\* you cast out the nations and | planted it. <sup>9</sup> You prepared the | ground for it;\* it took root and | filled the land. <sup>10</sup> The mountains were covered | by its shadow\* and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs. <sup>11</sup> You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea\* and its branches | to the river. <sup>12</sup> Why have you broken | down its wall,\* so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes? <sup>13</sup> The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,\* and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it. <sup>14</sup> Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold and | tend this vine;\* preserve what your right | hand has planted.

<sup>15</sup> They burn it with | fire like rubbish;\*
at the rebuke of your countenance | let them perish.

# Stand

#### VERSE

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 21:33-46 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. At the conclusion of the Gospel. The Gospel of the Lord.

(back cover) Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

# Sit

## **SERMON**

# **Pastor Reep**

## Stand

**APOSTLE'S CREED** 

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.\*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you call us to work for peace and justice in your vineyard. Refresh us through your Son so that we 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 our tables. Make us care 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. Help 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. Assure us of your presence. Heal our pain and suffering. We call to mind those who are struggling today (especially). Lord, in vour 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.

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

# Sit

# **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

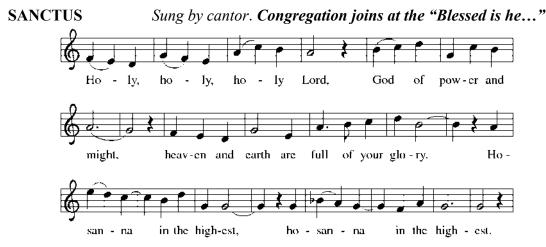
Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

# DIALOGUE

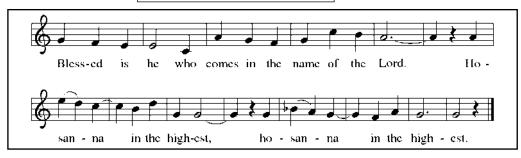
The Lord be with you.And also with you.Lift up your hearts.We lift them to the Lord.Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**PREFACE** The preface appropriate to the day is said.



Continued on next page...

Congregation joins in singing



# THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,

that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** 

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,

gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

# 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.

FRACTION a brief silence is kept

AGNUS DEI sung by the Cantor

Sit The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.

# **COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL**

Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

Communion duet 10:30am

*He That Keepeth Thee* Daniel Gawthrop Carolyn Kapoun, soprano, David Rambo, baritone

#### Stand

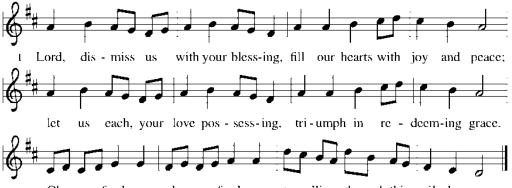
# **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

HYMN Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (LBW 259) Stanza 1



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav-'ling through this wil-der-ness. Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt. Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

# BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, 🕂 Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

# DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the LordThanks be to God.POSTLUDESorti BreveGerald Bales

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Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave. Feel free to gather outside for conversation.

Please take your service bulletin with you or dispose of it properly. Please don't place it back in the basket or leave it in the pew.

**Mission in Africa needs our support.** Please make a contribution to the "Mpuguso Appeal". While large gifts are always welcome, we are seeking small gifts of \$10-20 to support our sister congregation as they share the good news of God's love in Christ Jesus. Gifts will be given to support their building project. You may donate through the website at stpaulsyork.org. Click on "Mpuguso Congregation". Please know that through our regular budget we are supporting education for 2 Evangelists and for scholarships for children of pastors and church workers in the Konde Diocese of the Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Thank you for your support.

# **Helpers needed:**

- **Ushers** are still needed during the Sunday Services.
- **Pantry helpers** are needed for Tuesday Food Pantry. Simply notify Larry or Janet Moore.
- **Tower Bell Ringers** are needed 15 minutes prior to the appointed service to Ring the Tower Bell.
- Cantors are needed for 8 and 10:30 AM liturgies.

**Parents**—Watch for your next issue of *Spark Family Magazine* which you should be receiving in late September. St. Paul's Church provides for this subscription to be sent to your home four times a year to help in your faith journey with your children. Please enjoy this time learning together. Watch for further ideas in the October newsletter.

**Personal and Family Devotional ideas during these challenging times**. Did you know that our Lutheran Book of Worship has more than hymns inside? Some of the other resources include, Psalms, prayers for many occasions and, special prayer services. Spark Story Bibles (used in Sunday School by our children) are also available. Stop by the Good Shepherd Room to borrow a worship book and or a Children's Bible that you can use at home.

## Discussions on the Letters to the Philipians Four Monday evenings at 7:00 PM via ZOOM, September 28 October 5, 12.

Join Pastor Tom McKee in conversations on Paul's letters to the church in Philippi! St. Paul wrote letters to the Christians in Philippi to encourage them to keep the faith during difficult times. Pastor McKee will give some historical background. Participants will be invited to share what stands out to them and then reflect on what this means for their lives.

This Week at St. Paul's								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat		
4 Pentecost 18	5	6	7	8	9	10		
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist -	9:00 AM Pre-	9:00 AM Preschool	8:00 AM - 12:00	9:00 AM Pre-				
Outdoor	school	9:45 AM Pantry	PM No Parking on	school				
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist	7:00 PM ZOOM	6:00 PM Confirmation Class	Springettsbury	6:30 PM Music				
- Indoor	Bible Study with	- Christ Hall	9:00 AM Pre-	Ensembles				
2:00 PM Council Retreat	Pastor McKee		school					
			10:30 AM Bible					
			Study - Christ Hall					

# Tuesday Evening Ministry—All Ages!

Because of Covid-19 and the uncertainty of coming inside the church building, Create, the Tuesday evening youth and family ministry night will now be held as video sessions.

Ms. Kelly will make 3 videos with craft and art projects based on 3 themes for fall, leaves to place on a tree for the healing of the nations, self-portraits for All Saints Sunday and crowns for Christ the King Sunday.

Victor will create 3 videos using household and kitchen items as percussion instruments to create rhythms with texts and words from scriptures and psalms.

Each of our videos will be sent out on Tuesdays as emails to our families and they will also be made available to view on our church website.

Finally, we will create a Gingerbread Nativity video with Christmas music. Gingerbread kits will be available for families to take home on Sundays, November 15, 22 & 29. Please call or email Ms. Kelly by November 1 as to how many kits you need for your household

Pastor Reep, Ms. Kelly and Victor feel this is the safest way currently to reach as many children and to have them stay involved from the safety of their own homes.

# October 6 & 13

**For the Healing of the Nations – All ages** Miss Kelly will guide you in creating leaves to be placed on our tree "for the healing of the nations" based on the Revelation 22 text. The tree with the leaves that you make will be featured on Sunday October 18 in conjunction with the St. Luke Healing service.

**Keep the Beat – All ages** With a bucket, pot or pan and a wooden spoon from your kitchen, Victor will lead you in making music.

# October 20 & 27

All Saints & Sinners – All ages Victor will teach the children a percussive piece with their pots and pans.

All Saints & Sinners - All ages Miss Kelly will teach you how to create a blind contour self-portrait, this will provide a creative release as you discover new things about how you appear.

# November 10 & 17,

**Crowns for the King – All ages** Follow along with Miss Kelly in Making glorious crowns that you can wear or place around the cross for Christ the King Sunday, November 15

A Royal Beat – All ages Join Victor in making music that is fit for King Jesus! December 1

**Family Gingerbread Nativity** – Everything needed to construct a gingerbread nativity scene will be provided. All you have to do is preregister and pick up your supplies at church on November 15, 22, or 29. You will get an email from Victor and Kelly that you can follow to have an enjoyable time with your family making a sweet delicious scene based on God's sweet love for us.

Proper 22 A, 2020 Pastor's Sermon Isaiah 5:1-7 Matthew 21:33-46

There was an arbor. Vines grew thick and lush. A canopy of dark green foliage and plump juicy grapes hung overhead. The arbor was lovingly built and carefully planned. It was positioned over a well. A pitcher pump rested on an old wooden platform. The handle of the pump squeaked as it was raised and lowered coughing and choking as it took its prime, water flowed over the spout, cascading into the wooden bucket. It was a place of delight, producing **shade** from the scorching summer sun, **protection** from the autumn rain, **nourishment** from the grapes and water to **quench** thirst. Foolishly I thought that the arbor would be forever; providing shade from the summer sun, protection from the autumn rain, nourishment from the grapes and water to quench thirst. It was my grandfather's arbor.

When his property was sold the new owner needed the plot of ground for other purposes. The arbor came down and the vines uprooted. The well capped off and cemented over. It all occurred before the young man who purchased the acreage or his children experienced the arbor with its shade, protection, nourishment, and hours of fun pumping the squeaky handle and slurping handfuls of cold plentiful water. In a matter of an afternoon, what had been lovingly planned, built, pruned, cared for and enjoyed for over 50 years, was no more.

The readings this morning reference vineyards. They are about the: faithful and unfaithful, repentant and unrepentant, generous and greedy.

The prophet Isaiah sings a love song with a lyric that proclaims God's generous planting, building, pruning, and care. The vineyard as the song sings on yielded "wild sour grapes," grapes that would set your teeth on edge. Isaiah sings of how people forgot God's ways and God's lavish generosity; shade, protection, nourishment, plenty.

Jesus tells a story of God's persistent desire for the workers to produce fruit and willingly give the portion that is due to the landowner. Greed drives the tenants to make horrific choices. At harvest, the time for the master to collect his share of the produce, the tenants beat, kill and stone the master's servants and ultimately their greed justifies them killing the master's son. Delusional as they are with their greed infested ideas, they believe that they will collect the son's inheritance.

The persistent love of God, the persistent desire for good fruit, the persistent willingness of God to try over and over again to change patterns and bring wholeness is greeted with selfish misdirected understandings of who is ultimately in charge. We tend to think that it all is ours. That things will be the way we like them to be. Our greed and selfish ways keep us from the life that God desires for us. We tend to think that shade, protection, nourishment, plenty are all ours. And that they will remain forever.

It would be nice to think that we are in no way connected God's people who have lost their way or to those wicked tenants. I personally would like to distance myself from all of them. But I am not sure I honestly can do that. I am part of a generation who thinks that all of the resources entrusted to us for a time are ours for eternity. My North American up-bringing reinforces such belief. But Isaiah's vineyard song and Jesus' parable they sing out and tell of another way. Grace is a gift, given to us by our loving Savior. Christ Jesus shades us from the scorching reality of our sinful lives, protecting us from the severity of sin and death, nourishing us for our life's journey with a sacred meal, quenching the thirst of our evil desires with Baptism's water and Word, and assuring us that with repentance comes forgiveness. We live life in God's kingdom under the protection of his gracious arbor of love. Isaiah sang of that love, Jesus is the story of that love.

God has for whatever reason chosen us to be part of the kingdom. God welcomes us into the kingdom through the Word and Water of Holy Baptism. With such election as God's people come privileges and responsibilities. We are to let our light shine. We are to be light to the nations; we are to be illuminating things in such a way that God's divine love and purpose is made known. We are to be bearing fruit worthy of the kingdom. This may seem to be a mighty tall order, but it is what the church is called to be about in response to Baptism's promise. Remember the Lord God comes seeking fruit. Not wild sour set your teeth on edge fruit, but fruit that is reflective of the vineyard's time, energy, labor, beauty and plentiful abundance.

Under the arbor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church many things occur: Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmation, rehearsals with bells and voices and instruments, worship, prayer, weddings, community meetings, book clubs, scripture study, a food pantry, funerals, preschool. Over the years this has been a place for people of all ages and all walks of life seeking: shade from what is scorching them, protection from what is drenching them, nourishment for what is plaguing them, and thirst from what is parched and dry in their lives.

We count ourselves among the elect, the chosen, the forgiven, the reconciled; we have been given great privilege and great responsibility. We take much for granted. And leave much unspoken. But through the out poured love of God in Christ Jesus, we are given the kingdom, a vineyard of sorts, in which to tend and bear fruit. We are given the opportunity to let the light of Christ shine to illuminate the way for others to see a way forward, a way out of dark places of hopelessness. That is why though our time and ability and financial generosity St. Paul's is:

operating a weekly food pantry, supporting the work of Lutheran World Relief: packing personal care kits and school kits, sending aid where natural disasters strike, supporting early childhood education with a top notch preschool, concerning itself with theological education so that the church has leaders who can intelligibly articulate the faith, celebrating the sacraments making known God's forgiveness and grace, retooling our building for 21<sup>st</sup> century life, education classes, youth activities, confirmation, music making, AA Fellowship groups, and perpetual Benevolence requests supporting people locally, nationally and globally. Bear fruit worthy of the gospel.

My grandfather's arbor; seeing it torn down in an afternoon or watching it fall in do to neglect over time, I can't tell you which I would prefer. What little I know about vineyards I learned from my grandfather's grape arbor; working at it, tending it, pruning it, periodically applying a fresh coat of paint, and replacing sagging supports. It wasn't full time work, but it was on-going. It was part of life, like the kingdom life Isaiah sings about and Jesus brings about through his suffering, death and resurrection. God is seeking good fruit from us. Grandpa always had grapes and grandma's jelly to share around the table or to generously give away. Amen.

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7 [not printed]

#### Psalm 80:7-15

#### SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5circumcised 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; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>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 9 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. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

#### GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

[Jesus said to the people:] "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Now when 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 lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

<sup>42</sup>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 amazing in our eyes'?

<sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. 44The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14.

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