

of last week and this. The tenants are the Hebrew people. The owner is God. The servants are the prophets. The Son is Jesus. The leaders of the people recognized that Jesus was using the words of Isaiah against them. Jesus proclaimed, in this parable, the end of the Jewish religion and the rise of Christianity. We have not earned this, as Paul suggested, if anyone could earn it he would have been the first in line. We have been given the vineyard, we have been given the kingdom of God (here and eternally) through the work and the person of Jesus. We have obtained this glory through the mercy and pity of God, granted to us in His grace. "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good."

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑤ O Lord God, heavenly Father, You are always among us, and You would never leave or forsake us. We praise and glorify You for the infinite mercy which You made known in the unsurpassed gift of Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. He came to put away our sins by the sacrifice of His flesh on the cross, that who ever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. We thank You, O Father, for this committing of Your Love to us, all together, delivering us from the power of sin and death, making us one with Jesus, and opening to us the very gates of Heaven.

Grant that, by Your truth, our minds may be renewed in righteousness and true holiness, that our consciences are established to acknowledge and choose the good, and that every thought, word, and deed we attempt will be made captive to the obedience of Christ. Give us the will and the power to walk in Your Way and live in harmony with Your Word and with each other. Pour Your grace on us that it would transform us into faithful, patient, people of prayer.

Fill Your Church with Your Spirit so that we will have a power, a knowledge and a wisdom that are above all mere human ingenuity and intellect. Give us great moral conviction, a quickened conscience, and an unshakable sympathy with all that is pure, all that is Holy, all that is true and good. Raise up for us, willing workers, ready to go to the ends of the Earth to bring the message of Salvation to all people.

For all who are in any sickness, pain, anguish, or suffering, for all who are in any danger from within or without, we pray. Teach them to turn to You and wait for Your Mercy. Grant them the blessed expectation of a joyous deliverance out of all their trials, and let them walk in Your light all their days.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

Give us a sense of the Reformation work to reclaim Your Word as central for our faith and life. All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our refuge, our unity, the One Who will fulfill our hearts desire.

© Amen.

PROPER TWENTY-TWO

Chant Tone



Introit

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for | He is
good;*
for His steadfast love endures
for — ever!

The stone that the builders re — jected*
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 be — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for | He is
good;*

for His steadfast love endures
for — ever!

(Antiphon, Psalm 118:1;
Psalm 118:22-24)

Collect of the Day

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.

Gradual

For He will command His angels con | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.
Bless the Lord, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless His | holy name!

(Psalm 91:11, 103:1)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Lord of the universe, You are the creator of Heaven and Earth, Redeemer of mankind, and source of all power. We, Your humble servants, come before You in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior. Accept our praise and adoration for our creation, redemption, and sanctification. You have transplanted us from the wilderness of this world into the vineyard of Your heavenly kingdom. As branches of the Great Vine, Jesus Christ, we ask for Your Holy Spirit that we may have the power to accomplish Your purposes. Make us fruitful branches in Your vineyard, and help us produce fruit with joy, giving to You what we owe. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

AFTER THE HARVEST COMES THE HARVEST FESTIVAL. In many communities in this vast country of ours, people are getting prepared for winter. The farming communities are bringing in the harvest, anticipating the time when nothing grows. We approach the end of our church year, and are reminded that the end of all time is drawing near. There is a harvest of souls who need the message of the Gospel. The workers in the harvest, need your support and encouragement as they serve God. Through the use of our time, talent and treasure, (especially through prayer) we make our sacrifice for the work of the Lord.

THEME OF THE DAY:

The Vineyard

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 118:1;) Psalm 118:22-24

After all the troubles David finally took the office of king and began his ministration. This Psalm acknowledges that as great as that day might have been, the greater day is celebrated because Jesus overcame the tomb and gave us the blessed assurance of eternal life.

COLLECT

We admit that our sin participated in the murder of Jesus. We ask to be forgiven and kept in the wonder of salvation in Jesus Christ.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 5:1-7

"My loved one had a vineyard." In Genesis we are given the explanation of the entrance of sin into the perfect world. Isaiah sets the same information into poetry. From what I can understand of the commentators, the first line in Hebrew says something like, "I am compelled in my will to sing..." God used Isaiah to prepare the "chosen" people for the entrance of Jesus. Jesus speaks the Word of Isaiah occasionally giving credit and more often taking credit for the Words as His own. The leaders of the people would clearly have recognized the Gospel Lessons parable as being a recitation of Isaiah. They simply wouldn't have ever recognized Isaiah as applying to themselves.

GRADUAL—Psalm 91:11, Psalm 103:1

Psalm 91 and 103 were written by David. 91:11 was used by Satan to suggest that Jesus should test the will of God. David intended that we would know (as from our Collect,) the mercy and pity of God. The world hates us and will attempt to harm us, but the love of God is shown in the fact that the angels were created to serve the believers. For that reason we bless the Lord with all our soul.

EPISTLE LESSON—Philippians 3:4b-14

(One of the more interesting things that happened in our adoption of the 1992 Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) is that we added this Epistle Lesson which was added to Lent 5, "C" in the previous iteration of the RCL.) Paul was dealing with a gigantic problem in Philippi. "Judazers," told them that Paul failed to teach them the whole law. This section is a powerful testimony on the source of salvation. Paul was able to proclaim his personal credentials as the best, most holy law following member of the "chosen people," but all is lost without his gift of faith in Jesus.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 21:33-43

After turning out the money changes and others who had been making the House of God into a department store, Jesus launched into the parables