

To comprehend the parables it is necessary for the Holy Spirit to give us the understanding. Apparently, God wanted the enemies of Jesus to know exactly what He was saying. The vineyard is Israel, the tenants are Israel's rulers and leaders, the owner of the vineyard is God, the messengers are the prophets, the Son is Christ, the punishment of the tenants symbolize the ruin of Israel, the nation is the Gentile Church. Then we need to consider the rock that crushes them. Jesus is the head of the church. He is the only path, He is the only Way that leads to salvation. The leaders of the people stumbled over Jesus. They refused to accept Him as the Messiah. They were the point of the parable. They fulfilled the rejection prophecies of the Old Testament.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ O Lord God, Almighty and Ever-living king of all creation. You are the God of the living, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. All the hosts in Heaven praise and glorify Your name. We ask You to hear our prayer.

O God, we praise You for the wondrous Love, the beauty of the Holiness, and the infinite power of Christ our Savior. We thank You that You have spoken through Him the Words of Life. We ask You to help us at all times to remain faithful to His Word, and to be obedient to His commands, that we may never taste the bitterness of death. Help us faithfully honor Him by faith and life, by word and deed.

Out of Your infinite goodness lift up Your church, that we may be saved from all weakness and failure and empowered for Holy service. Govern the nations of the Earth, that people everywhere may live without fear of their neighbors. Give Your grace to our homes and schools, that youth may be trained for usefulness in this life and for entrance into the life hereafter. Bless all who labor with mind or hand in providing the necessities by which we must live. Give them the understanding that in all human toil we are accountable to You. Help us all, O Lord, to be better stewards of Your gifts.

We ask that You would be all that we need for safety and life. Be the comfort of the suffering and afflicted, the sun of the aged, the supply of the needy, the protector of the homeless, and the Savior of all mankind.

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

We bless You; for the revelation of Your matchless Love in the gift of Your Son; for the unsearchable wisdom which ordained His being lifted up on the cross; and for His High Priestly sacrifice of His body on the cross; we give thanks, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior.

© Amen.

LENT FIVE

Chant Tone



Introit

Salvation belongs | to the Lord,*
Your blessing be on Your — people!

You, O Lord, are a shield — about me,*
my glory, and the lifter | of my head.
I cried aloud | to the Lord,*
and He answered me from His
| holy hill.

I lay | down and slept;*
I woke again, for the Lord
sus — tained me.

I will not be afraid of many thousands
of — people*
who have set themselves against me
| all around.

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.

Salvation belongs | to the Lord;*
your blessing be on Your — people!

(Antiphon, Psalm 3:8;
Psalm 3:3-6)

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] — Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despis | ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

(Hebrews 12:2)

Verse

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

(Luke 20:17b)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Open our lips, O Lord, and our mouths shall show forth Your praise. Restore unto us the joy of salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. Put Your Law within our hearts, and help us to be Your people. Then we will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You. We acknowledge, O Lord, that we are undeserving of Your grace and mercy. We pray that You would send us Your Holy Spirit that we may properly glorify You and worship Your Son in purity and truth. Give us the zeal that will help us show others a vision of Your glory. Grant that we would all come to an awareness of the work of Your Son our Savior. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE KING JAMES BIBLE CALLS THIS PARABLE, "THE WICKED HUSBANDMEN" which is probably why all the other translations use vineyard keeper or vine dresser in their titles. Jesus was directly speaking against the leaders of the people, the religious leaders who were rejecting Him. The "man" is God, the "farmers" are the people of the world and especially the chosen people. What we owe is worship. The "servants" (those who were sent to collect,) are the prophets. The "son" is Jesus, and the "others," that's us. We are the "others" to whom the wonder of the world, the kingdom of God on Earth has been given. We thank all the "others" who have been called by God to join together in worship this morning. We are blessed through the readings, the worship, and the wonder of forgiveness offered and given through our Lord Jesus Christ.

THEME OF THE DAY:
Others of the Kingdom

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 3:8;) Psalm 3:3-6

We added the very first time we have used Psalm 3 in worship during the 2006 revision of the Propers. David was running from his son, who was trying to take over the kingdom. Verse 8 is the final statement for all our troubles, "Salvation belongs to the Lord."

COLLECT

We asked to be preserved in body and soul, that we may be able to be always faithful to Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 43:16-21

God was making plans to restore the chosen people. Following a period of captivity, they would be returned. God recounted His former deliverance of His people as they passed through the Red Sea. He instructed the people to forget the past, because He is doing a new thing. He doesn't want them to forget the past to disregard it, but with a view to the future. The past included a rejection of God. As Jesus pointed out in our Gospel Lesson, the people ignored the prophets and even beat a few. The something new is that God is going to forgive their sin through His Son Jesus. We were formed in the past, under the law. We are made new in the work and the person of Jesus.

GRADUAL—Hebrews 12:2

We see the wonder of Heaven compared to our hopelessness here on Earth. Jesus willingly endured the plan to give His life on the cross to make us over into people who fit into the plan of Heaven.

EPISTLE LESSON—Philippians 3:4b-14

We skip Lent and go to Easter with this Lesson. The Holy Spirit gives believers the gift of eternal life along with the gift of faith. Paul rejoiced in the relationship that he had with Jesus through faith. He treasured the blessings of the Resurrection that God granted him through faith in Christ. Paul realized that God had work for him to do while he waited for God's heavenward call. To him the acquiring of the power of the Resurrection meant more than everything else. He compared all other things to rubbish. The proclamation of the Gospel is stronger than human strength.

VERSE—Luke 20:17b

This is from the Gospel Lesson.

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 20:9-19

The parable of the Wicked Tenants, is unusual in that even the enemies of Jesus were able to comprehend that their unbelief was the subject.