***Introit (Psalm 118)***

P: Thank the Lord, because He is good!

**C: His love continues forever!**

P: The builders rejected a stone,

C: But that stone now becomes the most important stone.

P: The Lord did this

**C: That is wonderful to see.**

P: The Lord made today!

C: Let us rejoice and be happy today.

**All: Glory give to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, the same as it was in the beginning, is now, and will continue forever. Amen.**

***Prayer for God’s Word***

P: God full of grace, You gave Your Son to sinful men, and they killed Him. When we reject Your perfect love, please forgive us. Give us Your complete salvation. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Jesus lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (copy) Amen.

The Old Testament lesson is from Isaiah chapter 5.

For the One I love, let me sing a love song about His VINEYARD. My loved One had a VINEYARD on a hill with good soil. He dug and threw-out the stones. He planted the best grape VINES. He built a tower in the middle, and he made a place to crush grapes and make wine. He waited for good grapes, but He only got sour grapes.

God says, “You people living in JERUSALEM and JUDAH, judge between My VINEYARD and Me. Should I do more for My VINEYARD? I did everything! I want My VINEYARD to grow good grapes. Why did it grow sour grapes?

Now I will tell you My plans. I will tear-down the fence and let animals eat the sour grapes. I will tear-down the wall and animals will destroy the plants. I will destroy the VINEYARD. I will not prune the grape VINES. I will not cut-down WEEDS. The WEEDS will grow all-over. I will command the clouds, don’t rain there.”

The Lord’s VINEYARD is who? The people of ISRAEL. The people of JUDAH are His good plants. God wanted His people to do good, but instead His people killed. God wanted His people to do correct, but instead He saw His people do evil.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Philippians chapter 3.

If anyone thinks they can boast, I have more reasons to boast. I got circumcised on the 8th day. I am an ISRAELITE, from the family named BENJAMIN, a very good Hebrew. I was a PHARISEE, very carefully obeying the law. I was eager for the Jewish religion, because I persecuted the church. I was righteous. No one could accuse me of doing wrong.

But all those things I can boast about, now I think they are worthless, because now I have Christ. More than that, I think of everything as worthless, because knowing Christ Jesus my Lord is much better. Because of Jesus, I lost all things, and I think of them all as garbage. Then I can have Christ and belong to Him.

I don’t obey the law and get my own righteousness. I have righteousness through faith in Christ. God gives that righteousness through faith. Then I can know Jesus, and the power of His resurrection, and experience His suffering, and become the same-as Jesus crucified. Then I can also experience the resurrection from the dead.

I don’t mean that I succeeded to live a perfect life. I not-yet have perfect life. But I eagerly live following Christ, because I belong-to Christ. Christian friends, I know I have not-yet succeeded to that goal, but I forget the past things and work toward the future things. And I continue watching and working toward that heavenly gift, because God calls me to that through Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 21.

C: (copy) Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus told them to listen to another story: A man had a farm and planted grapes. He built a fence around it, made a place to crush grapes and make wine, and built a tower. Then some farmers rented that place and they agreed to pay part of the grapes for rent. Then the man went and lived in a far country.

When the grapes were ready for harvest, the man sent servants to get his payment. But the farmers beat one servant, killed the second servant, and stoned the third servant. Then the man sent more servants to get his grapes. The farmers beat, killed and stoned them the same.

Finally the man sent his son. He thought the farmers will respect his son. When the farmers saw the son, they said to one-another, “This is the son. Come, let’s kill him. Then we will own the land.” Then the farmers grabbed the son, threw him out of the land and killed him.

Jesus asked the Jewish leaders, “What do you think the man will do against those farmers?”

They answered, “He will kill them and give the farm to other farmers. They will give him his correct payment.”

Jesus said, “You never read the Bible? The holy writings say, ‘The builders rejected a stone, but now that stone becomes the most important stone. The Lord did this and that is wonderful to see.’”

“That is why I tell you, God will take-away His kingdom from you and give it to people who will work same-as God wants. When a person falls on this stone, he will break to pieces. But if the stone falls on a person, the stone will crush him.”

The chief priests and PHARISEES heard Jesus’ stories. They knew He talked about them. They wanted to arrest Jesus, but they were afraid of the large crowds of people. The people believed Jesus was a prophet.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (copy) Praise to You, O Christ.