

Watchword (Romans 5:8)

"But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us."

Epistle (Romans 5:1-5)

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Gospel (Mark 12:1-12):

»*The Parable of the Wicked Tenants*«

Then he began to speak to them in parables. 'A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watch-tower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But those tenants said to one another, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours." So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this scripture: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"?'

When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, *but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.*

Sermon Text (Isaiah 5:1-7):

»*The Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard*«

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

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?

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.

I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown
with briars and thorns;

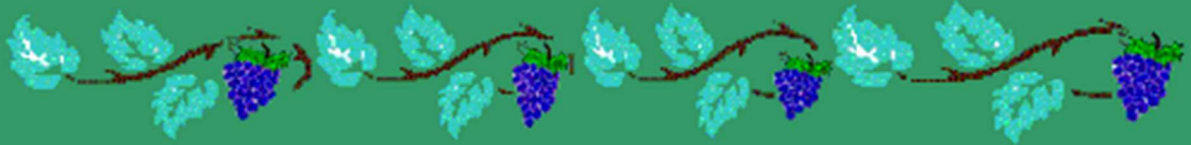
I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

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!



I Will Sing a Song about My Friend's Vineyard

Isaiah 5:1-7



Life out of Forgiveness

„You just never learn! “ Sometimes all talk, warnings, sermons and explanations prove futile, even living by example does not help. Every effort seems to be for nothing.

Children often have their own head and want to do things their own way. We want to shake them, but then they only become more stubborn. It's difficult then not to lose patience. This is how God experiences His relationship with His children. The readings from this second Sunday in Lent, called Reminiscere show this. God's children are like the nurtured and well-cared for vineyard that only produces sour grapes; and like the tenants that in the absence of their good landlord take possession of the vineyard and kill the messengers. They often discard the will of God, act heartless and cold. Should God not lose patience with them? And yet, it is precisely to the sinners that Jesus Christ came, to save them and bring hope for the whole world.

Leben aus der Vergebung heraus.

"Du lernst einfach nie." Manchmal erweist sich alles Reden, alle Warnungen, Predigten und Erklärungen als sinnlos, auch wenn man mit gutem Beispiel vorangehen will. Jede Bemühung scheint vergeblich zu sein.

Kinder haben oft ihren eigenen Kopf und wollen Dinge auf ihre eigene Art tun. Wir mögen sie schütteln wollen, aber dann werden sie nur noch sturer. Es ist schwierig, dabei nicht die Geduld zu verlieren. So erlebt Gott seine Beziehung zu seinen Kindern. Die Lesungen an diesem zweiten Sonntag in der Fastenzeit, genannt Reminiscere, veranschaulichen dies. Gottes Kinder sind wie der gepflegte und umsorgte Weinberg, der nur ungenießbare Trauben hervorbringt; oder wie der Pächter, der - in Abwesenheit des liebevollen Grundbesitzers - den Weinberg an sich reißt und die Boten töten. Er missachtet oft Gottes Willen, handelt herzlos und kalt. Sollte Gott nicht die Geduld mit ihm verlieren? Und doch kam Jesus Christus gerade zu den Sündern, um sie zu retten und Hoffnung für die ganze Welt zu bringen.