



### Grain

1 Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. 7 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. Isaiah 5:1 & 7

### Field

33 "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. 34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. 35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. 37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." 39 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." 42 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"? 43 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... Mt. 21:33-43

### Thoughts

Do the Palestinians or Jewish people own the land they each call home? I once heard someone respond by saying that's like two fleas on a dog arguing over who owns the dog. Which ethnic group or class owns the United States? To whom does the church belong? What if we had the attitude that it is all God's vineyard? Would Breonna Taylor and Jacob Blake still be alive? Would we need to cry out that black lives matter and are sacred? Would we still be allowing people to die in detention centers?

Whatever our ethnicity or skin color, remembering where we both exude and lack privilege, and recalling our family histories can help us be alert to our neighbor. In a blog, Deacon David Rask Behling remembered his family history when reflecting upon certain attitudes he has observed: *Some of those early founders of Lutheranism in America were refugees, fleeing persecution, battlefields, and devastated cities in Europe. But many others were economic migrants, like my three German grandparents, hoping to build better lives for themselves and their families.*

*For the past few years, as I've been listening to what many Lutherans in this synod and other places say about migrants and refugees, it's clear that this dual history has either been forgotten or intentionally buried...*

*Technically, they (many migrants and refugees in the U.S.) are still citizens of countries many have not seen for years, or have no memory of, places where many would only be able to speak their 'native' language as foreigners. It's a technicality, a matter of paperwork, not identity. But in the eyes of many of us, the only thing that apparently matters is that paperwork... Deacon David's [full blog here](#).*

Within broken institutions are broken hearts of real people and of God. Let us be guided by grace and by remembering who owns the vineyard. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy