

Readings from Matthew chapter 21—December 19th -25th, 2021

³³ “Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. ³⁴ Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. ³⁵ And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. ³⁷ Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰ “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?” ⁴¹ They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’? ⁴³ “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. ⁴⁴ And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.” ⁴⁵ Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. ⁴⁶ But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.

Sunday: Read Isaiah 5:1-7 and compare it to this passage. Pray for Kevin Dennis of Living Way (Bryan, Tex.) RPC as he has begun his coursework at the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary (RPTS). **Pray** for unity in the RPC of Australia.

Monday: What is being portrayed by the landowner’s actions in v. 33? Give thanks with First (Cambridge, Mass.) RPC for progress on their handicap-accessible ramp; **pray** for it to be completed and inspected soon. **Pray** for Frankston (Australia) RPC.

Tuesday: What is being portrayed by the mistreatment and murder of the servants? **Pray** for the Midwest Presbytery’s Covenanter Youth (CY) Retreat at Topeka, Kan., RPC; **pray** for wisdom for the leaders, safety for the CY members, and fruitful discussion. **Pray** for Higashisuma RPC (Kobe, Japan) as it seeks new elders and deacons.

Wednesday: Who is the son in this parable? Pray with Rose Point (New Castle, Pa.) RPC for safety for those who are traveling during the holiday season. **Pray** for Shaftesbury Square (Belfast, Northern Ireland) RPC, especially its student ministry.

Thursday: Read Psalm 118:22-29. How does Jesus fulfill that text? Join in praising God with Hope Community (Beaver Falls, Pa.) RPC as they rejoice in a new elder, Adrian Wright; **pray** for him, his wife Cassandra, and their four children. **Pray** for the combined youth group at Bailiesmills, Dromara, Dromore and Lisburn (Northern Ireland) RPCs.

Friday: What happens to those who reject the Lord Jesus? Give thanks to God for the blessing He is bestowing upon Ottawa, Ont., RPC through Lord’s Day morning and evening services, and fellowship groups. **Pray** for Limavady (Northern Ireland) RPC.

Saturday: Read and reflect on Psalm 80. Pray for the deacons at Sycamore (Kokomo, Ind.) RPC as they work to maintain an aging building and seek to minister to the needy, both in the congregation and in the surrounding neighborhood. **Pray** for Christ Church RP (Indianapolis, Ind.), as it pursues unity. **Pray** for ARPC’s service tomorrow.

Atlanta

Reformed

Presbyterian

Church

***The Lord’s Day
December 19, 2021***

**Meeting every week at
574 Western Avenue
(corner of Western and Walnut Street)**

Atlanta, Georgia

Worship at 3:30 PM

Pastor Frank J. Smith, Ph.D., D.D.

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Proclaiming the Kingship of Jesus Christ

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions

The Call to Worship

Hosea 11:1

*The Invocation

*Psalm 19A “The Spacious Heav’ns Declare the Glory of Our God”

Scripture Reading

Numbers 21:21-35

*Psalm 135B

“Hallelujah! Praise the Lord’s Name!”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 83A

“Rest Not, O God, Nor Silent Be”

Scripture Text

Psalm 136:10-22

The Sermon

“Twenty-Six Reasons for Thanksgiving” (Part 4)

*Prayer

*Psalm 136A [stanzas 7-13]

“Who By His Wind the Red Sea Clave”

*Benediction

*Psalm 134B

“Bless the Lord, All Servants of the Lord”

** Congregation will please stand.*

We are so glad that you could join us today! Please be sure to return next week and bring a friend.

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions & Answers

“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”—John 10:11.

“Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.”—Psalm 51:13.

Q. 52. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment? A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God's sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he hath to his own worship.

Q. 94. What is baptism? A. Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, doth signify and seal our ingrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.

Q. 95. To whom is baptism to be administered? A. Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him; but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized.

For your convenience, a tithe box is located at the back.

Psalm 136:16-22 “Twenty-Six Reasons for Thanksgiving” (Part 4)

Theme: The psalmist gives us abundant reason for thanksgiving.

I. Three-fold Summons to Give Thanks (vv. 1-3)

II. God’s Work as Creator (vv. 4-9)

III. Deliverance from Egypt (vv. 10-15)

IV. Wilderness and Canaan (vv. 16-22)

A. To Him who led His people through the wilderness

B. To Him who smote great kings

C. And slew famous kings

D. Sihon king of the Amorites

E. And Og the king of Bashan

F. And gave their land for a heritage

G. An heritage unto Israel His servant

Observations

A. Thanksgiving includes giving thanks for God's judgments

B. What we see here is a trio—creation, redemption, providence

C. We are to identify with God's people throughout history

D. More than simply what is seen and what's in the physical realm

Application

A. Give thanks for God's providential care of you

B. Give thanks for God giving you the grace to overcome all obstacles in your spiritual life