

Sermon Handout

World Communion Sunday

Isaiah 5:1–7; Psalm 80:7–15

“God’s Vineyard, Our Calling”

Sermon Summary

Isaiah sings a vineyard song that begins in beauty but ends in sorrow. God prepared the vineyard with care—clearing the soil, planting choice vines, building a watchtower. Yet when harvest came, there were only sour grapes. The vineyard is God’s people, who were called to live with justice, mercy, and righteousness, but instead produced bloodshed and distress.

Psalm 80 continues the vineyard image: God transplanted a vine from Egypt and it flourished—until the walls were broken and enemies trampled it. The psalmist pleads: *“Return to us, God Almighty! Watch over this vine.”*

This vineyard imagery presses the question: **What kind of fruit are we bearing?**

The Vineyard Then and Now

- Israel’s mission was to show the nations what life under God looked like.
- Their justice was to protect the vulnerable. Their worship was to center on God alone. Their community was to taste sweet—but it soured.
- That story is also ours. Jesus said: *“I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in me, you will bear much fruit”* (John 15).
- God has entrusted us with His mission. The fruit He seeks is Spirit-shaped: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

The Global Vineyard

- Today, believers across the world gather at Christ’s table.
- From Mississippi to Mexico, Nigeria to Norway, the branches of Christ’s vine stretch across the globe.
- Communion reminds us: God’s vineyard is vast, and His mission belongs to the whole body of Christ.

The Cost of Trust

- Isaiah’s vineyard failed. Jesus told a parable of tenants who killed even the owner’s son.
- That points to the cross. God’s mission entrusted to us cost Jesus everything.
- Communion reminds us: this mission is not casual. It was purchased with His body and blood.

Are We Bearing Fruit?

- Not just fruit of activity, but fruit that looks like Jesus:
 - Forgiveness instead of grudges.
 - Generosity instead of self-preservation.
 - Justice instead of silence.
 - Mercy instead of judgment.
- We cannot bear fruit alone. Branches must remain in the vine. Communion reconnects us to the Source—Christ Himself.

Communion as Restoration

- At the table, we stretch out empty hands and receive Christ's life.
- This is more than personal renewal—it is global restoration.
- Across nations and languages, the church lifts the same bread and cup with the same prayer: *"Restore us, Lord. Make us fruitful again."*

Call to Action

As you come to the table today:

- Bring your barrenness.
- Lay down your wild fruit.
- Receive the Gardener's grace.

And as you rise:

- Go back into the vineyard of the world.
- Bear fruit worthy of the One who gave His life for you.
- Remember: God has entrusted you with His mission and empowered you by His Spirit to bear fruit that will last.

Reflection Questions

1. Where in my life do I see fruit that looks like Jesus?
2. Where might I be producing "wild fruit" that needs pruning?
3. How does sharing communion with the global church deepen my sense of mission?
4. What fruit do I want to ask God to grow in me this week?

Closing Prayer

Lord of the vineyard,
 thank You for entrusting us with Your mission.
 Forgive us where our fruit has been bitter.
 Restore us by Your Spirit,
 so that we may bear fruit that blesses the world.
 Make us one with Christ,
 one with each other,
 and one in ministry to all the world.
 Amen.

