

This Week's Sermon: Who is in Charge?  
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## Scripture readings during worship

### [Isaiah 14:24-27](#)

**24** The Lord Almighty has sworn,

“Surely, as I have planned, so it will be,  
and as I have purposed, so it will happen.

**25**

I will crush the Assyrian in my land;  
on my mountains I will trample him down.  
His yoke will be taken from my people,  
and his burden removed from their shoulders.”

**26**

This is the plan determined for the whole world;  
this is the hand stretched out over all nations.

**27**

For the Lord Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him?  
His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?

## Sermon Scripture

### [Mark 11:27-12:12](#)

#### **The Authority of Jesus Questioned**

**27** They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him. **28** “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you authority to do this?”

**29** Jesus replied, “I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. **30** John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!”

**31** They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ **32** But if we say, ‘Of human origin’ ...” (They feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.)

**33** So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Jesus said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

### **The Parable of the Tenants**

**12** Jesus then began to speak to them in parables: "A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. **2** At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. **3** But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. **4** Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. **5** He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed. **6** "He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

**7** "But the tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' **8** So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. **9** "What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. **10** Haven't you read this passage of Scripture: "The stone the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

**11** the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

**12** Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.