

## TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY

# ORDINARY Season of the Year A

*First Reading † Isaiah 5:1-7*

*The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.*

### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Let me sing for my beloved  
his song for his vineyard.  
My beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.  
He dug it over, cleared it of stones  
and planted it with choice grapes.

In the middle he built a watchtower,  
he hewed a press there too.  
He waited for it to yield fine grapes:  
but rotting grapes was all it yielded.

And now, citizens of Jerusalem and people of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.  
What more could be done for my vineyard  
that I have not done?  
Why should I wait for it to yield fine grapes,  
when it yielded rotting ones?

So now let me tell you what I shall do to my vineyard:  
I shall take away its hedge, for it to be grazed on,  
knock down its wall, for it to be trampled down.  
I shall turn it into wasteland, unpruned, undug  
and on it, briars and thorns.

I shall command the clouds to rain no rain on it.  
Now the vineyard of the Lord Sabaoth is the House of Israel,  
and the people of Judah the plant he cherished.  
He awaited fair judgement but found injustice,  
awaited righteousness but found cries of distress.

The word of the Lord.

*Responsorial † Psalm 79:9.12-16.19-20*

### ***The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.***

You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.  
It stretched out its branches to the sea;  
to the river it stretched out its shoots.

### ***The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.***

Then why have you broken down its walls?  
It is plucked by all who pass by the way.  
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,  
devoured by the beasts of the field.

***The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.***

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted,  
*the son of man you have made strong for yourself.*

***The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.***

And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name.  
O Lord, God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine out, and we shall be saved.

***The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.***

***Second Reading † Philippians 4:6-9***

*Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.*

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians**

Do not worry about anything; but in every prayer and petition make your requests known to God with thanksgiving, and the peace of God which is beyond all understanding will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

For the rest, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is righteous, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is laudable, if there is any virtue, any praise, let these be your thoughts. What you learnt and received and heard and saw in me, that you should do, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

***Gospel Acclamation † cf John 15:15***

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***Gospel † Matthew 21:33-43***

*He leased his vineyard to other farmers.*

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:

‘Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce.

But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third.

Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, thinking,

“They will respect my son.”

But when the tenants saw the son, they said among themselves,

“This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and get his inheritance.”

So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’

They answered, ‘He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him at the proper time.’

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this is the Lord’s doing  
and it is amazing in our eyes?

‘I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you  
and given to a people who will produce its fruit.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

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