

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

I will sing a song about the vineyard of my dear friend.
It was on the side of a fertile hill.
My friend dug the ground, removed the stones,
and planted the best vines.
He built a watchtower and dug a place to press the grapes.
He hoped they would be good,
but bitter grapes were all that grew.

Now listen, people of Jerusalem and of Judah!
You be the judge of me and my vineyard.
What more could I have done for my vineyard?
I hoped for good grapes,
but bitter grapes were all that grew.

Now I will tell you what I am going to do.
I will cut down the hedge and tear down the wall.
My vineyard will be trampled and left in ruins.
It will turn into a desert, neither tended nor hoed,
and it will be covered with thorns and briars.
I will command the clouds not to send it rain.

Israel is the vineyard of the LORD All-Powerful.
Judah is the garden that makes him rejoice.
He had hoped for honesty and for justice,
but dishonesty and crying were all he found.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 80:8 & 11,
14de-15ab & 19*

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

*We were like a grapevine
you brought out of Egypt.
You chased other nations away
and planted us here.
Its branches stretched to the sea;
its new growth reached
to the river.*

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

*See what's happening
to this vine.
With your own hands
you planted its roots.
LORD God All-Powerful,
make us strong again!
Smile on us and save us.*

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

SECOND READING
Philippians 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:
Don't worry about anything,
but pray about everything.

With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God.
Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus,
God will bless you with peace
that no one can completely understand.
And this peace will control the way you think and feel.

Finally, my friends,
keep your minds on whatever is true, pure, right,
holy, friendly, and proper.
Don't ever stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile
and worthy of praise.
You know the teachings I gave you,
and you know what you heard me say and saw me do.

So follow my example.
And God, who gives peace, will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL
Matthew 21:33-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told the chief priests and leaders to listen to this story:

"A land owner once planted a vineyard.
He built a wall around it and dug a pit to crush the grapes in.
He also built a lookout tower.

"Then he rented out his vineyard and left the country.

"When it was harvest time,
the owner sent some servants to get his share of the grapes.
But the renters grabbed those servants.
They beat up one, killed one,
and stoned one of them to death.
He then sent more servants than he did the first time.
But the renters treated them in the same way.

"Finally, the owner sent his own son to the renters,
because he thought they would respect him.
But when they saw the man's son, they said,
'Someday he will own the vineyard.
Let's kill him!
Then we can have it all for ourselves.'
So they grabbed him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him."

Jesus asked, "When the owner of that vineyard comes,
what do you suppose he will do to those renters?"

The chief priests and leaders answered,
"He will kill them in some horrible way.
Then he will rent out his vineyard to people
who will give him his share of grapes at harvest time."

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GOSPEL
Matthew 21:33-43

(continued)

Jesus replied, "Surely you know that the Scriptures say,

'The stone that the builders tossed aside
is now the most important stone of all.
This is something the Lord has done,
and it is amazing to us.'

"I tell you that God's kingdom will be taken from you
and given to people who will do what he demands."

The Gospel of the Lord.