

Readings + 19th Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 27 A + Oct. 8, 2023

Prayer of the Day

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

First Reading Isaiah 5:1-7

I will sing for my beloved
a lovesong concerning my beloved's vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
² My beloved dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.
³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?
⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are God's cherished garden;
the LORD expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Psalmody Psalm 80:7-15

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.

You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;

behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

Second Reading Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul writes: ¹ If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to

lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it; but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Holy Gospel Matthew 21:33-46

Matthew, Mark, and Luke have this parable, with only slight differences. One large difference is verse 41: in Mark and Luke Jesus answers his own question; in Matthew, the leaders give the answer. Also, only Matthew has verse 43, about the kingdom being taken away from unfruitful people and given to those who produce fruit.

[Jesus said to the chief priests and Pharisees],
³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and the tenants treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally the landowner sent his son to them,

saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’” ⁴¹ They said to Jesus, “The owner will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘

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

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the dominion of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that Jesus was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.