

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

¹Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.
³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
⁴What 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?
⁵And 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.
⁶I will make it a waste;
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.
⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Psalms 80:7-15**SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14**

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be
confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised
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; ⁶as to zeal, a
persecutor of the church; as to righteousness
under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come
to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More 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 ⁹and 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. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of
his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings
by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I
may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have
already reached the goal; but I press on to make
it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me
his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have
made it my own; but this one thing I do:
forgetting what lies behind and straining forward
to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal
for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ
Jesus.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

[Jesus said to the people:] 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 to another country. ³⁴When the
harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the
tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants
seized his slaves and beat one, killed another,
and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other
slaves, more than the first; and they treated
them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son
to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But
when the tenants saw the son, they said to
themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill
him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized
him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed
him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard
comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They
said to him, “He 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.”

⁴²Jesus 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?’

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

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