

[134] **TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** **A**

FIRST READING

The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the house of Israel.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 5:1-7

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

80:8 and 11, 14de-15ab and 19

R. (Isaiah 5:7a) 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.

R. 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.

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

SECOND READING

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

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians 4:6-9

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.

ALLELUIA

See John 15:16

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord,
to go and bear fruit that will last.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

A landowner leased his vineyard to other farmers.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 21:33-43

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.”

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.



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7
Responsorial: Psalm 80:8 and 11, 14de-15ab and 19
Second reading: Paul to the Philippians 4:6-9

OPENING PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for the chance to come together with friends to praise you. You have planted us on this earth to praise and love you. May we like grapes on a vine in your vineyard grow and ripen in your love. May we stay close to you and be nourished by your word and Eucharist. Amen

REFLECTION

I have just read to you two stories about vineyards. Who of you are familiar with vineyard or have even seen one? They were very common in the time of Jesus. We have vineyards in parts of this country too. Grapes are grown on vines in vineyards. Grapes are good and nourishing to eat. Wine and jelly are made from grapes as well as pies and salads.

The prophet Isaiah told us about grapes that grew bitter and sour. Isaiah was comparing this vineyard to the people that God had created and chosen to be special to him. He was hoping for People who would love him and be honest and just with one another. Isaiah kept telling these people to love God and care for each other. But that did not happen. So God chose others as his chosen people.

The story that Jesus told was about a land owner who planted a vineyard and then rented out the vineyard to other people to care for it. But when it was time to share the ripen grapes with the owner the renter refused and beat up one servant and killed another whom the landowner had sent to collect his share. Finally, the owner sent his own son, thinking that they would be kind to him, but they killed him too. Why did they do that? I think the renter wanted the grapes for himself. He was jealous of the owner.

That was a terrible way to treat others. Jesus is comparing our world to a vineyard. The world we live in is God's vineyard. We were planted here to care for the earth and love one another. But some people in Jesus' time were not doing that. Some Powerful Leaders were not listening to his word and making all kinds of hard rules for people to follow. So God sent his Son Jesus to help and teach the people about God who is all loving and caring. But while Jesus was going about teaching everyone who would listen how to treat one another and care for the world, these power leaders were who were afraid of what Jesus was telling the people got angry. They were afraid that their power and leadership was going to be taken away from them and that they would not have followers. They were also very jealous of Jesus because the people were listening to him and not to them. So just like in the first story the renters killed the owner's son, so these Leaders killed Jesus and hung him on a cross. This makes us sad doesn't it? But sometimes we act as these terrible leaders and hurt others we don't like. We are either jealous of them or don't like their color or they are

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different from us. So what do we do? Some boys and girls are mean and bully these kids and don't include them in games or parties. When we do that we are not growing into ripe and delicious grapes in God's vineyard. We are not taking care of the vineyard that God planted for us to live in.

Discussion questions:

1. Describe a bunch of grapes for me. How do they look and taste?
2. In a family or school we are like a bunch of grapes. Are we all the same size and color? Tell about Children in your classroom who are different. What can each of us do to help those children who are different, to fit in and feel a part of the bunch of grapes?
3. What do we do when we hear or see another classmate fighting and saying mean words to another?
4. Discuss how each child can take care of the world we live in.

ACTIVITY:

Materials: blue construction paper, markers, glue, scissors and a sheet of poster board

Have a big poster board with a vine drawn on it. Then give each child a piece of blue construction paper and have them cut out a circle. Have them write their names on it and glue it on the vine in several bunches if the group is large. If time permits, discuss the shape and size of the circle. Notice that not all are the same size, etc.