

**First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7**

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

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Let me now sing of my friend.  
It is a love song about a vineyard.  
My friend had a vineyard  
on a fertile hillside.  
My friend dug the soil, cleared the stones,  
and planted the choicest vines,  
And within it built a watchtower  
and constructed a wine press.  
My friend anticipated the crop of grapes,  
but what it yielded was rotten grapes.  
Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard:  
What more could I have done for my vineyard  
that I have not done?  
Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes,  
did it bring forth bad fruit?  
Now, I will let you know  
what I mean to do to my vineyard:  
take away its hedge, give it over to grazing,  
break through its wall, let it be trampled!  
I will let it go to wilderness;  
it will not be pruned or hoed,  
but overgrown with thorns and briars.  
I will command the clouds  
not to send rain upon it.  
The vineyard of YHWH Omnipotent is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah are YHWH's cherished vine.  
YHWH looked for justice, but found bloodshed,  
for righteousness, but found only a cry of suffering.

*The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.*

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

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

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Dismiss all anxiety from your minds; instead, present your needs to God through prayer and petition, giving thanks for all circumstances. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, my sisters and brothers, your thoughts should be

wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous or worthy of praise. Live according to what you have learned and accepted; what you have heard me say and seen me do. Then will the God of peace be with you.

*The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.*

**ALLELUIA!**

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**Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-43**

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

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Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people "Listen to another parable. There was a property owner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, installed a winepress and erected a tower. Then the owner leased it out to tenant farmers and went on a journey.

"When vintage time arrived, the owner sent aides to the tenants to divide the shares of the grapes. The tenants responded by seizing the aides. They beat one, killed another and stoned a third. A second time the owner sent even more aides than before, but they treated them the same way. Finally the owner sent the family heir to them, thinking, 'They will respect my heir.'

"When the vine-growers saw the heir, they said to one another, 'Here's the one who stands in the way of our having everything.

With a single act of murder, we would seize the inheritance.' With that, they grabbed and killed the heir outside the vineyard. What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do to those tenants?"

They replied, "The owner will bring that wicked crowd to a horrible death and lease the vineyard out to others, who will see to it that there are grapes for the proprietor at vintage time."

Jesus said to them, "Did you ever read in the scriptures, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone; it was our God's doing and we find it marvelous to behold'?

"That is why I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to people who will bear its fruit."

*The Good News of Salvation!*

*R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*