

Cycle A – Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – Oct. 4, 2026

“...yield a rich harvest ...”

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 80)

Leader: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

All: You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

Leader: It sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River.

All: Turn again, O God of hosts;
look down from heaven and see;
have regard for this vine,
the stock that your right planted.

Leader: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

All: Amen.



First Reading – Isaiah 5:1-7

All the elements in this “song” are drawn from life, an essential element to all parables. Everything was in readiness for the harvest, except that the yield was disappointing. All the work was for naught. The fruit that God expected, the good works that God demanded have not been evident. The “choice” property had not “cherished” the Owner, the Lord God, whose “vineyard” was Israel itself.

1. What does this parable tell us about how God views his relationship with us?
2. How does this reading challenge us today?
3. What is involved in producing good fruit in our lives?

Second Reading – Philippians 4:6-9

After a repeated command to rejoice, unusual given the fact that he is imprisoned, Paul takes up two topics: prayerful advice and practical advice. Prayer must take place without anxiety. Christ urges us not to worry about anything. Such peace must precede prayer and such prayer brings peace. With boldness, Paul provides a practical example of the way Christians can live in a way worthy of the gospel. It is God’s grace that accomplishes all this in Paul, and will bring it about in the Christian community as well.

1. What verse struck us the most, and why?
2. What disturbs us most and causes us to worry? How do we deal with tensions and anxieties?
3. What challenge and comfort do you find in these verses?

Gospel Reading – Matthew 21: 33-43

The allegory is in place. God is the owner of the vineyard. Israel, as the bearer of God's revelation, is the vineyard. The tenants are the religious leaders. The owner is on a journey, and everything is set for productivity. What could go wrong? What goes wrong are the tenants. They refuse to produce wine in accord with the original planting. Finally we discover what their motives are. They want the vineyard for themselves. They want the inheritance.

1. We do not own the vineyard; we work in it. When we want it all we receive no inheritance. How are we doing as workers in God's vineyard?
2. What produce does God want to collect from us?
3. Who for you is someone who produces the fruits of the kingdom? How does this person inspire you?

LIVING THE WORD

What is God's challenge for us today?

PRAYING THE WORD

Intercession: For those who are in leadership positions in the church and society, that they always bear in mind that they do not own the vineyard and that they help us to do our part in serving the Owner we pray to the Lord.

For what else should we pray?

Conclude with "Our Father..."

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice!

All: Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

Leader: The Lord is near. Never worry about anything, but tell God all your desires of every kind in prayer and petition and with thanksgiving.

All: May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding

Leader: Guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us offer one another a sign of mercy and peace.