

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.



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.