

Sunday 4 October 2026

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

First Reading - *Isaiah 5.1-7*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.
Let me sing a love-song
 for my vineyard.
On a fertile hill, I dug the ground, cleared the stones,
 and planted the choicest vines.
I dug a wine-press, and built a tower,
 and I expected the finest grapes.
But when the fruit came, it was bitter.
So now, people of Judah and Jerusalem,
 judge between me and my vineyard.
What more could I have done for my vineyard?
 And yet it yielded only bitterness.
So now, I will tell you
 what I will do
 to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
 and break down its wall,
and it will be destroyed,
 and trampled down.
I will make it a waste-land.
 No longer will it be pruned
 or tended.
It will be overgrown with brambles and thorns.
 I will order the clouds
 to give it no rain.
And my vineyard
 is the people
 I had called to myself, says the Lord.
And they are the vines
 that I planted and cherished.
But when I looked for justice,
 I saw bloodshed.
When I looked for righteousness,
 I heard cries of distress.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - *Philippians 3.4-12*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.
If anyone
 had reason
 to be confident,
 I had more.
I was a descendant of Jacob,
 in the tribe of Benjamin,
 a Hebrew, born of Hebrews.
In the observation of the law, I was a Pharisee.
In zeal, I was a persecutor of the church.
In righteousness according to the law,
 I was blameless.
And yet I regard
 all these things
 as worthless now,
for nothing
 has any value at all
 compared to knowing
 Christ Jesus as my Lord.
For the sake of Christ,
 I have lost everything.

But I count this loss as nothing,
 for what I have gained
 is Christ.

United with Christ, I depend
 no more
 on a righteousness of my own,
 derived from the law,
for I have instead
 a righteousness
 that comes from God,
 through faith in Christ.
And so, leaving behind
 all that has gone before,
I now press on towards the goal
 of knowing Christ more fully,
 and the power of his resurrection;
sharing in his sufferings, and even
 becoming like him in his death,
 if somehow then
 I may share
 in his resurrection from the dead.
All this I choose, just as Christ
 has chosen me.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *Matthew 21.33-41,43*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to Matthew.
Jesus said,
‘There was a landowner who planted a vineyard,
 and put a fence around it.
Within the fence,
 he dug a wine-press,
 and built a tower.
Then he leased the vineyard to tenants,
 and went away to another country.
When the harvest-time came,
 he sent his servants
 to collect his produce.
But the tenants seized them,
 beat them, and killed them.
So the landowner sent more servants, and then more,
 but the tenants treated them all in the same way.
Finally the landowner sent his son to them,
 for the tenants would surely respect his son.
But when the tenants saw the son, they said,
 “This is the one who will inherit the vineyard;
 let us kill him, and take the vineyard for ourselves.”
So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard,
 and killed him.
Now when the owner of the vineyard returns,
 what will he do to those tenants?’
The chief priests and the elders said, ‘He will dismiss
 those wicked tenants, and let the vineyard
 to others, who will give him the fruit
 at harvest-time.’
Jesus said, ‘And in the same way,
 the kingdom of God
 will be taken away from you,
 and given to those who produce
 the fruits of the kingdom.’
This is the Gospel of the Lord.