

**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.