

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4th October 2020

THE COLLECT

O Lord, we beseech you: give your people grace to turn away from evil; and to follow you, the only God, in pureness of heart and mind; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end

Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5.1-7

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it,

and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard

that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,

and it shall be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts

is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah

are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed;

righteousness, but heard a cry!

At the end the reader may say

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

All Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 80.9-17

Refrain: Cherish, O Lord, this vine which you have nurtured

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

10 You made room around it, and when it had taken root, it filled the land.

Refrain: Cherish, O Lord, this vine which you have nurtured

11 The hills were covered with its shadow and the cedars of God by its boughs.

12 It stretched out its branches to the Sea and its tendrils to the River.

Refrain: Cherish, O Lord, this vine which you have nurtured

13 Why then have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

14 The wild boar out of the wood tears it off, and all the insects of the field devour it.

Refrain: Cherish, O Lord, this vine which you have nurtured

15 Turn again, O God of hosts, look down from heaven and behold;

16 Cherish this vine which your right hand has planted, and the branch that you made so strong for yourself.

17 Let those who burnt it with fire, who cut it down, perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

Refrain: Cherish, O Lord, this vine which you have nurtured

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21.33-46

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: ³³Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves,

more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

⁴²Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.