

The 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 8, 2017

First Reading - Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me now sing of my friend,
my friend's song concerning his vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside;
he spaded it, cleared it of stones,
and planted the choicest vines;
within it he built a watchtower,
and hewed out a wine press.
Then he looked for the crop of grapes,
but what it yielded was wild grapes.

Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard:
What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I had not done?
Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes,
did it bring forth wild grapes?
Now, I will let you know
what I mean to do with my vineyard:
take away its hedge, give it to grazing,
break through its wall, let it be trampled!
Yes, I will make it a ruin:
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
but overgrown with thorns and briars;
I will command the clouds
not to send rain upon it.
The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah are his cherished plant;
he looked for judgment, but see, bloodshed!
for justice, but hark, the outcry!

Psalm 80

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

A vine from Egypt you transplanted;
you drove away the nations and planted it.
It put forth its foliage to the Sea,
its shoots as far as the River.

Why have you broken down its walls,
so that every passer-by plucks its fruit,
The boar from the forest lays it waste,
and the beasts of the field feed upon it?

Once again, O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name.
O LORD, God of hosts, restore us;
if your face shine upon us, then we shall be saved.

Second Reading - Philippians 4:6-9

Brothers and sisters:
Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.
Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.
Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me.
Then the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel - Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:
"Hear another parable.
There was a landowner who planted a vineyard,
put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it,
and built a tower.
Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey.
When vintage time drew near,
he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce.
But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat,
another they killed, and a third they stoned.
Again he sent other servants,
more numerous than the first ones,
but they treated them in the same way.
Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking,
'They will respect my son.'
But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another,
'This is the heir.
Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.'
They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard,
and killed him.
What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants
when he comes?"
They answered him,
"He will put those wretched men to a wretched death
and lease his vineyard to other tenants
who will give him the produce at the proper times."
Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures:
*The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
by the Lord has this been done,
and it is wonderful in our eyes?*
Therefore, I say to you,
the kingdom of God will be taken away from you
and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

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Make Me A Channel

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek,
so much to be consoled as to console.
To be understood, as to understand.
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Text: Prayer of St Francis; adapt. By Sebastian Temple, ©1993, GIA Publications, Inc.

We Are Called

Come, Live in the light
Shine with joy and the love of the Lord
We are called
to be light for the kingdom
to live in the freedom
of the city of God

We are called, to act with justice
We are called, to love tenderly
We are called, to serve one another
to walk humbly with God

Sing, Sing a new song
Sing of that great day when all will be one
God will reign
and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers
united in love

Text: Based on Micah 6:8. Text and music David Haas ©1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

“Ground Rules” for Small Group Faith Sharing

- Maintain confidentiality – “Whatever happens in small group stays in small group.”
- Judgment-free zone – You don't have to agree with everyone, but you have to have respect for everyone.
- No “shut downs” or “put downs” – See Christ in one another, BE Christ to one another.
- Don't be a “discussion hog” – Be sure that everyone that wants to gets a chance to share.
- Leave room for the Spirit – Silence is OK! Not everyone has to share.
- Practice active listening – Avoid interrupting, fidgeting, criticizing, lecturing, or thinking of what you're going to say while another person is speaking.
- Questions are a guide - You do not have to answer all of them or go in order.
- Be open – God is doing amazing things!

Petitions

Our response: God of peace, be with us.



Closing Prayer

God, master of the vineyard, you send us as workers to your fields. Make us cornerstones, not loose weights, not moved by rejection, suspicion, contempt, or even death. Send us, in your care, and guard us as we nurture your choicest wine. Let your love grow up among us and let our work bear choice fruit. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord. Amen

Questions for Reflection on the Gospel

1. What does the Gospel parable tell us about God and his Justice? About Jesus? How are we to live in light of this?
2. Who are God's messengers right now? What changes in society do they advocate? How can you somehow be God's envoy in your community, work, Church or the world?
3. The tenants were unwilling to listen. Do you listen when God speaks to you? Do you listen to his messengers? How can you make yourself more open to his message?
4. In his morning meditation on the Wicked Tenants, the Pope suggested that we think about “what we can do so as not to kill the Word of God, ... to not lock up the Holy Spirit.” Read his words below from the end of the meditation. How can these words help you?
5. In the first reading, Isaiah sings about his friend's vineyard: “Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?” What kind of “grapes” will God find in your vineyard?
6. What are some things you could do if you discovered that all the “grapes” in your spiritual garden were turning out small or sickly?
7. In the second reading, Paul tells us to have no anxiety. How do we achieve this in today's world? What does it look like when God's peace is with you?
8. What are all people of good will reaching for when they embrace all that Paul speaks of in the second reading? What can you embrace if you are tied up with anxieties?

Words from our Holy Father

[May] the Lord grant us the grace of humility to look upon Jesus as the Savior who speaks to us: he speaks to me! Each one of us ought to say: he speaks to me! When we read the Gospels: he is speaking to me!
-Pope Francis, The Imprisoned Word, March 21, 2014