

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your
commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either **Isaiah 5:1-7**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song
concerning his vineyard: My beloved had
a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He 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. And
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 have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes, why
did it yield wild grapes? And 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. I 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. For 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!

Or **Exodus 20:1-4. 7-9. 12-20**

PSALM Psalm 80:8-16

R Turn us again, O God;
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
You made room around it,
and when it had taken root, it filled the
land. **R**

The hills were covered with its shadow
and the cedars of God by its boughs.
It stretched out its branches to the Sea
and its tendrils to the River. **R**

Why then have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its
grapes?
The wild boar out of the wood tears it off,
and all the insects of the field devour it. **R**

Turn again, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven and behold;
Cherish this vine which your right hand has
planted,
and the branch that you made so strong
for yourself.
Let those who burnt it with fire, who cut it
down,
perish at the rebuke of your countenance. **R**

SECOND READING Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If anyone else has reason to be confident
in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on
the eighth day, a member of the people
of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a
Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law,
a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of
the church; as to righteousness under
the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains
I had, these I have come to regard as
loss because of Christ. More than that, I
regard everything as loss because of the
surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus
my Lord. For his sake I have suffered
the loss of all things, and I regard them
as rubbish, in order that I may gain
Christ and be found in him, not having
a righteousness of my own that comes
from the law, but one that comes through
faith in Christ, the righteousness from
God based on faith. I want to know Christ
and the power of his resurrection and the
sharing of his sufferings by becoming like
him in his death, if somehow I may attain
the resurrection from the dead. Not that I
have already obtained this or have already
reached the goal; but I press on to make
it my own, because Christ Jesus has made
me his own. Beloved, I do not consider
that I have made it my own; but this one
thing I do: forgetting what lies behind
and straining forward to what lies ahead, I
press on towards the goal for the prize of
the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL Matthew 21:33-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the
elders of the people: "Listen 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. When the harvest
time had come, he sent his slaves to the
tenants to collect his produce. But the
tenants seized his slaves and beat one,
killed another, and stoned another. Again
he sent other slaves, more than the first;
and they treated them in the same way.
Finally he sent his son to them, saying,
'They will respect my son.' But when
the tenants saw the son, they said to
themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us
kill him and get his inheritance.' So they
seized him, threw him out of the vineyard,
and killed him. Now when the owner of
the vineyard comes, what will he do to
those tenants?" They 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." Jesus 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'? Therefore 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. The one who falls on this
stone will be broken to pieces; and it will
crush anyone on whom it falls." When
the chief priests and the Pharisees heard
his parables, they realised that he was
speaking about them. They wanted to
arrest him, but they feared the crowds,
because they regarded him as a prophet.

POST COMMUNION

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for
this sacred feast:
for here we receive you,
here the memory of your passion is
renewed,
here our minds are filled with grace,
and here a pledge of future glory is given,
when we shall feast at that table where
you reign
with all your saints for ever.

