

# EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Year A  
RCL

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## A READING FROM ISAIAH 5:1-7

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 watchtower 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!

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**THE PSALM APPOINTED FOR TODAY IS PSALM 80:7-14 FOUND ON PAGE 703 IN THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER**

Qui regis Israel

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; \*

you cast out the nations and planted it.

9 You prepared the ground for it; \*

it took root and filled the land.

10 The mountains were covered by its shadow \*

and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea \*

and its branches to the River.

12 Why have you broken down its wall, \*

so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, \*

and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

14 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;

behold and tend this vine; \*

preserve what your right hand has planted.

## The Epistle

### A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS 3:4b-14

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 toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

## The Gospel

### MATTHEW 21:33-46

Jesus said, “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 watchtower. 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 realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**