

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 *For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel.*

Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance
and we shall be saved.
You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.
You prepared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land. **R**

The mountains were covered by its
shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its
boughs.

You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea
and its branches to the River. **R**

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

The wild boar of the forest has ravaged
it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed
upon it.

Turn now, O God of hosts, look down
from heaven;
behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has
planted. **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.