

## GOSPEL

Mt 21:33-43

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*He leased his vineyard to other farmers.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and 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 answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## HOMILY

### PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

**I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that

**R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Accept, O Lord, we pray, the sacrifices instituted by your commands and, through the sacred mysteries, which we celebrate with dutiful service, graciously complete the sanctifying work by which you are pleased to redeem us. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.**

## PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,**

**and profess your Resurrection**

**until you come again.**

## COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

**R. Amen**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace*

## LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,**

**but only say the word**

**and my soul shall be healed.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Lam 3:25

**The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Grant us, almighty God,

so as to be transformed into what we consume.

Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Go in peace.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

### THE SONG SUNG OVER THE CHURCH

Jesus probably told the parable of the Tenants against the religious leaders in Jerusalem in his day. Having resisted the prophets sent by God, they are now resisting the last of them, namely, himself. As such they have shown themselves to be usurpers, retaining for themselves the 'vineyard' (Israel) and its 'produce' (the life of the people). For them, the arrival of the Kingdom (of God) will mean dispossession and retribution.

The early Church retold the parable in the light of Jesus' death and resurrection, and a belief in his status as God's Son. Also present is a bitter awareness of the *No* given to the Gospel by the bulk of Israel and a sense of the Church itself, made up of Jews and non-Jews, as the community of the Kingdom. Through the continuing presence of the risen Lord (Matthew 28:20), the community can and ought to produce the 'fruits' that God desires.

The long and tragic history of Christian intolerance and persecution of Jews calls for sensitivity in handling texts like this that reflect the early Church's disappointment with Israel. Today we should move on from Christian triumphalism at Jewish expense to concentrate upon the 'fruits' that God looks for from us. God has made the 'rejected stone'—the crucified and risen Lord—the 'cornerstone' of the Church. The question for us is whether the 'song' sung by God over this new vineyard (cf. the First Reading) is one of delight or disappointment. Inevitably, perhaps, a bit of both. In either case it will be a song of love.

BRENDAN BYRNE, SJ

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# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

04 OCTOBER 2020

THE FRUITS OF THE KINGDOM. The tenants in today's Gospel had received much from the landowner who had established the vineyard. It was only fair that he should receive a share of the fruits of the crop. Likewise, we have received much from Christ whose grace produces in us the fruits of truth, goodness, purity, love, honour and virtue. We pay our dues to Christ when we share these fruits with others.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

cf. Esth 4:17

**Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.**

## GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**R. And with your spirit.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

## GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord of God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the**



RESP PSALM Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20. R. Isa 5:7

**R. The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.**

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt; / to plant it you drove out the nations. / It stretched out its branches to the sea, / to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **R.**

2. Then why have you broken down its walls? / It is plucked by all who pass by. / It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, / devoured by the beasts of the field. **R.**

3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine and protect it, / the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

4. And we shall never forsake you again: / give us life that we may call upon your name. / God of hosts, bring us back; / let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **R.**

SECOND READING Phil 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.*

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION cf. Jn 15:15

**Alleluia, alleluia! / I call you friends, says the Lord, / because I have made known**