

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.