**Readings for Sunday 17th August 2025**

**Isaiah 5:1-7 - NRSVA**

**The Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard**

**5**Let me sing for my beloved

    my love-song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
    on a very fertile hill.  
**2**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.

**3**And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
    and people of Judah,  
judge between me  
    and my vineyard.  
**4**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?

**5**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.  
**6**I will make it a waste;  
    it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
    and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;  
I will also command the clouds  
    that they rain no rain upon it.

**7**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!

**Hebrews 11:29-12:2 - NRSVA**

**The Faith of Other Israelite Heroes**

**29**By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. **30**By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. **31**By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2011%3A29%20-%2012%3A2&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-30187a)] because she had received the spies in peace.

**32**And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— **33**who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, **34**quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. **35**Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. **36**Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. **37**They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2011%3A29%20-%2012%3A2&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-30193b)] they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— **38**of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

**39**Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, **40**since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

**The Example of Jesus**

**12**Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2011%3A29%20-%2012%3A2&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-30197c)] and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, **2**looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2011%3A29%20-%2012%3A2&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-30198d)] the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Luke 12:49-56 - NRSVA**

**Jesus the Cause of Division**

**49**‘I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! **50**I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! **51**Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! **52**From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; **53**they will be divided:

father against son  
    and son against father,  
mother against daughter  
    and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
    and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’

**Interpreting the Time**

**54**He also said to the crowds, ‘When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, “It is going to rain”; and so it happens. **55**And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, “There will be scorching heat”; and it happens. **56**You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?