

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

For we have sinned against you.

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

And grant us your salvation.

May almighty God have mercy on us,.....Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

## THE 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 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 Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING *Isaiah 5: 1 - 7*

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Let me sing to my friend

the song of his love for his vineyard.

My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,

and planted choice vines in it.

In the middle he built a tower,

he dug a press there too.

He expected it to yield grapes,

but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem

and men of Judah, I ask you to judge

between my vineyard and me.

What could I have done for my vineyard

that I have not done?

I expected it to yield grapes.



Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men on Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps. 79:9, 12-16, 19-20*

**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 *Philippians 4: 6 - 9*

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians**

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. Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! I choose you from the world to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last, says the Lord. Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL *Matthew 21: 33 - 43*

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

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



# focus on sunday

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 8th October 2023

The graces and gifts which God gives to us are both signs to us of his love and his care, and also his expectation that they will bear fruit in our lives.



Be a courageous tenant in the vineyard of God



## The fruits of the kingdom

The tenants in the parable today are not fulfilling their responsibilities: instead of tending the vineyard entrusted to them, they are only looking

after themselves. If we think of the vineyard as our world, this parable jumps into the modern age. Humanity has been entrusted with this beautiful and bountiful planet. But instead of caring for it and sharing its fruits, our common home has been exploited for profit. The parable is critical of the entitled attitude of those who take but refuse to offer anything in return. Jesus ends with a warning that the precious vineyard will be leased to better tenants - "a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom". We've heard this language before in the Beatitudes, when Jesus says the kingdom belongs to the meek, pure in heart, just, merciful. These are the carers our earth needs.

As we continue to celebrate the Season of Creation, may we discern on how we are each being called to care more deeply for this precious vineyard. We are invited to prayer and to action for this sacred earth. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis pleads with us to embrace an "ecological conversion," whereby the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ becomes evident in our relationship with the world around us. He says, "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience." (LS, 217).

Jane Mellett & Triona Doherty are the authors of *The Deep End – A Journey through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew*, Messenger Publications, Dublin, 2022

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters, .....

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.

### AFTER THE CONSECRATION

*The mystery of faith.*

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.