

October 3 - 4, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Readings

First Reading

A Reading from Isaiah

I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning God's 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 watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten 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 rotten 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 wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds that they drop no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah are God's cherished garden;
God expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

(pause)

Reader: Word of God, word of Life.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from Philippians

Paul writes:

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 Christ's 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 Christ,
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.

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A Proclamation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

Jesus said: "Listen to another parable.
There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it,
dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower.
Then he leased it to tenants and went away.

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.

Then 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 its fruits.
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 Jesus' parables,
they realized that Jesus was speaking about them.
They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds,
because they regarded Jesus as a prophet.

Pastor: **The Gospel of the Lord.**
Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.