

## Twenty-Seventh Sunday | Year A

October 08, 2023 (Is 5:1-7 | Phil 4:6-9 | Matthew 21:33-43)

Isaiah refers to God as the vineyard owner who invests so much love, time, and energy into Israel and Judah, but the leaders of the people failed him. Let us ask God to hear our pleas.

1/ The vineyard of God is the house of Israel. Today this vineyard collectively consists of all those who love God. For every spiritual leader of God's people. We pray especially that Pope Francis and pastors may not fail their mission in cultivating justice and peace. Let us pray.

2/ Paul urges the Philippians to have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and with thanksgiving, to make their requests known to God. For lawmakers, politicians, and those in public office. We pray that they heed Paul's message and act on it, not to enrich themselves, but for the well-being of all, especially the vulnerable ones in society. Let us pray.

3/ Paul asks us to put our trust in God who oversees the course of the world. For those who are victims of war in Israel and Palestine these days. We pray that God take care of the dead and give solace to their families. Let us pray.

4/ Jesus reinterprets Isaiah's message of God's vineyard. In his parable, the religious leaders of Jerusalem would eventually murder God's only Son. For religious and civil leaders. We pray that their religious rulings and economic policies may not turn into institutional ordeals causing the outcry and subtle killing of the vulnerable and resourceless citizens. Let us pray.

5/ To those who misuse God's grace and love, Jesus warns that the kingdom of heaven will be taken away from them and given to those who live and behave in Christian manners. For our sisters and brothers who have departed before us. We pray that God count **NOT** their waywardness but remember their faith in Jesus Christ, and grant them admittance to heaven. Today we remember [**at 4:30 PM**] Gene and Debbie Hardesty and Martha Annie Rough; [**at 10:00 AM**] Bob and Joan Whelan, Red and Libby Lucas, Martha Chandley, and Martha Annie Rough. Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, and hope of the world to come, your goodness is beyond what our spirit can touch, your strength is more than the mind can bear. Lead us to seek beyond our hand and give us the courage to stand before your truth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.