

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost -Year A
4th October 2026

Sentence: Philippians 3.13b-14

Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, let us press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Collect:

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus was the stone rejected by the builders,
and, by your doing,
he has been made the chief cornerstone:
grant that, by the power of his Spirit working in us,
we may become living stones
built up into your dwelling place,
a temple holy and acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 5.1-7

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

¹ 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!
Hear the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80.7-15

⁷ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

⁸ You brought a vine out of Egypt:
you drove out the nations, and planted it in.

⁹ You cleared the ground before it:
and it struck root and filled the land.

¹⁰ The hills were covered with its shadow:
and its boughs were like the boughs of the great cedars.

¹¹ It stretched out its branches to the sea:
and its tender shoots to the Great River.

¹² Why then have you broken down its walls:
so that every passer-by can pluck its fruit?

¹³ The wild boar out of the woods roots it up:
and the locusts from the wild places devour it.

¹⁴ Turn to us again, O Lord of hosts:
look down from heaven, and see.

¹⁵ Bestow your care upon this vine:
the stock which your own right hand has planted.

Second Reading: Philippians 3

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians

¹ Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a safeguard. ² Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the flesh! ³ For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ 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; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ 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 ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold fast to what we have attained. ¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Hear the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 15.15

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 21.33-46

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew,
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

³³ ‘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. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ ⁴¹ 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.’ ⁴² 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”?’ ⁴³ 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. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’ ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realised that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.