

**4 OCTOBER 2020**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY**

**OPENING HYMN**

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of all nations,**  
Tell forth his fame, O ye peoples, with loud acclamations,  
His love is sure, faithful his Word shall endure,  
Steadfast through all generations.

Praise to the Lord who doth prosper, thy work and defend thee,  
Surely his goodness and mercy, shall daily attend thee,  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
Who with his love doth befriend thee.

*(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)*

**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, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**FIRST READING:** Is 5:1-7

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

Our Response: The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

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/**

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 beast of the field. **R/**

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/**

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:** Phil 4:6-9

**GOSPEL:** Mt 21:33-43

**REFLECTION:**

God, in His infinite goodness, created a beautiful and perfect world and entrusted it to us to nurture it and reap a good harvest. Similarly, God has bestowed us with many gifts and privileges, expecting that we will utilise them for the glory of His kingdom. Let us be thankful today on Thanksgiving Day, for the countless blessings we have received from God.

In today's first reading and Psalm, God cares for and protects the people of Israel as a vineyard owner would care for his vineyard. He chooses and plants a fine set of men in Israel, bestows a fertile and favourable environment, provides them with every privilege and resource needed to blossom in their endeavours and bring forth good fruit. But instead of sweet grapes of love, patience, humility, integrity and compassion, it yields only sour grapes of selfishness, corruption, wastefulness, injustice, exploitation and intolerance. As Christ's followers, are we living good Christian lives and producing the sweet grapes that God expects of us? **Pause**

Today's Gospel draws a parallel with the first reading where again the vineyard represents Israel, the landowner represents God, the servants represent the Prophets and the bad tenants represent the religious leaders. It highlights the infinite goodness, patience and mercy of God in His dealings with humankind and the greed, ingratitude and wickedness of men. Instead of recognising and thanking God for the authority and privileges given to us, we misuse and reject God's teachings. But God "*desires mercy, not sacrifice.*" He gives us many opportunities to change our ways and remain faithful by speaking to us through Scripture, through our Church's teaching and through modern day prophets. Are we receptive to working honestly and devotedly for the glory of God's kingdom? **Pause**

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Leader:** God invites us to reap a good harvest and bring forth good fruit. United in prayer, let us confidently bring our prayers before Him

Our response is: **Loving Father, hear our prayer**

We pray for all the members of the Church, that we may utilise our blessings and privileges for the glory of God's kingdom and for the benefit of others; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for our world leaders and leaders of the Church, that they may use the powers vested in them to fulfil their responsibilities with honesty and integrity; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for our family members and our support system, for all those who make our lives easier

and cater to our needs especially those most in need of assistance during this Covid pandemic, that God will provide.

We pray for the health and safety of the doctors, nurses, healthcare workers and all those courageous men and women working in the frontline of the fight against Covid-19; that God may protect and strengthen them in mind and body; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord.

**Leader:** Lord, we thank you for Your infinite goodness and for the countless blessings and graces You have showered on us. Hear the prayers of Your people and help us to be faithful to Your Word. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Let us together at the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:  
*(All say the Lord's Prayer together)* Our Father...

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Almighty God, grant that we may be refreshed and nourished by the Word which we have received, and open to be transformed by it. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS**

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **CLOSING HYMN**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,**

Give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks because He's given

Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now, let the weak say, "I am strong"

Let the poor say, "I am rich"

Because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks.

*(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)*

*Commission For Liturgy  
Archdiocese of Bombay*