



08 October 2023  
Twenty- Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time - A



### INTRODUCTION:

The Liturgy of the Word today, is a reminder of the need to be grateful to God for having chosen us to be His witnesses and the many blessings He has so freely given to us. However, it also cautions us (through the example of the chosen people of Israel) of the disastrous consequences we bring upon ourselves when we abuse this privilege and misuse our free will, to rebelliously and repeatedly reject God and His message. We not only betray God's trust and test His patience, but forfeit our privilege as heirs to His Kingdom.

**READINGS:** First Reading: Isaiah 5: 1-7  
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 80: 9&12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20  
Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-9  
Gospel: Mathew 21:33-43

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER:

**Celebrant:** Gracious Father, with confidence in Your mercy and providential love for us, we come before You with our petitions, humbly asking that You hear and answer our prayer.

Our response is: *Hear us, O Lord; hear our prayer, O Lord*

For Pope Francis, our Bishops, Priests and Religious: that they may zealously persevere in their ministry of bringing God's Word to the faithful, never to be deterred by rejection... *(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord

For world leaders and those in governance: that they may understand that their position and authority come with a responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of every citizen ...*(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord

For those who reject God's Word and His messengers: that their hardened hearts may be changed as they come to a realisation that their very life and everything they have is an unmerited and gratuitous gift from God ... *(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord

For all Christians: that grateful for our chosenness and the promise of eternal life, we may realise that we are accountable to God for the way we use or abuse our God-given privileges ...*(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord

In silence we bring to the Lord, our personal petitions and the needs of all who have asked us to pray for them ... *(longer silent pause)*... We pray to the Lord

**Celebrant:** As we place our petitions before you, O merciful Father, we ask You to give us grace to work together to bring out your Kingdom. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.