

Holy Spirit uses the “Sunday Book of Readings, The Lectionary Adapted for Children” and the Leader Guide to share the Liturgical readings with our children. This week you will find our readings for reflection are from Year A.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word Reflection – Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 80

Response: “We are your vine: take care of us. We are your vine; watch over us.”

Today’s readings focus on rejecting God’s message.

- **God does not force us to follow his ways.**
- **We are given freedom of choice to follow God’s message.**
- **Even after God’s constant loving care and grace, there are those that turn away.**

Summary of the Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7 (*This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah.*)

In today’s first reading, Isaiah shares with the people of God a story of a friend who owned a vineyard. His friend planted the best vines and took good care of them. If he cared for them, he knew they would produce good grapes. But the vines gave only wild and bitter grapes that no one could eat. Then God said, “Now tell me is there anything else I could have done for my vineyard?” When God looked for good grapes why did he only get wild and bitter ones? The vineyard is like God’s people. God loves us and does everything for us. When he looks for justice and fairness, he only finds evil and killing. When he looks for goodness, he only finds people crying because they are suffering.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-43 (*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*)

In the Gospel reading today Jesus is once again telling a parable to the chief priests and the leaders of the people. The Gospel reading like our first reading shares a story of a vineyard owner. There once was a man who owned a vineyard. He built a wall around it to protect it and placed a tower in the middle so he could watch over it. He hired some people to work in it and went off to live in another country. When it came time to pick the grapes, the owner sent his servants to collect his share from the workers. But the workers beat the servants and killed some of them. Later the owner sent more servants, and they beat and killed them.

Finally, he said, “I will send my son, for surely those workers will respect my own son.”

But the workers said to each other, “This son will be the owner someday, and he will have all this property. Let’s kill him and take the property for ourselves.” So, they took the son, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

Then Jesus asked what do you think the owner will do when he finds out what the workers have done? They answered he will punish those wicked people and give the vineyard to good people. Jesus said to them, “Remember what it says in the Psalms, “The stone which the builders did not want has become the cornerstone.”

Helping the Children to Reflect:

Remind the children that God invites us to be “good people”. He wants us to do what is right – who accept Jesus, the Son of God. “I will send my son, for surely those workers will respect my own son.”

1. Have the children create a list of things they could do to show their love for Jesus. How can we take care of others the way God cares for us.
2. Put the list in a place and let them check off the items they have done through out the week.
3. At the end of the week have them count up all the amazing ways they have shown their love for Jesus.

“Children, we are the vine. We ask God to take care of us and watch over us.”

Psalm 80