

## TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 18, 2019



### THE LESSON **Isaiah 5:1-7**

Let me sing for my loved one a love song for his vineyard. My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

<sup>2</sup>He dug it, cleared away its stones, planted it with excellent vines, built a tower inside it, and dug out a wine vat in it. He expected it to grow good grapes—but it grew rotten grapes.

<sup>3</sup>So now, you who live in Jerusalem, you people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard:

<sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard that I haven't done for it? When I expected it to grow

good grapes, why did it grow rotten grapes?

<sup>5</sup>Now let me tell you what I'm doing to my vineyard. I'm removing its hedge, so it will be destroyed. I'm breaking down its walls, so it will be trampled.

<sup>6</sup>I'll turn it into a ruin; it won't be pruned or hoed, and thorns and thistles will grow up. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.

<sup>7</sup>The vineyard of the LORD of heavenly forces is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are the plantings in which God delighted. God expected justice, but there was bloodshed; righteousness, but there was a cry of distress!

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### THE RESPONSE **Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19**

Shepherd of Israel, listen! You, the one who leads Joseph as if he were a sheep. You, who are enthroned upon the winged heavenly creatures.

**Show yourself <sup>2</sup>before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh! Wake up your power! Come to save us! . . .**

<sup>8</sup>You brought a vine out of Egypt. You drove out the nations and planted it.

<sup>9</sup>**You cleared the ground for it; then it planted its roots deep, filling the land.**

<sup>10</sup>The mountains were covered by its shade; the mighty cedars were covered by its branches. <sup>11</sup>It sent its branches all the way to the sea; its shoots went all the way to the Euphrates River.

<sup>12</sup>**So why have you now torn down its walls so that all who come along can pluck its fruit, <sup>13</sup>so that any boar from the forest can tear it up, so that the bugs can feed on it?**

<sup>14</sup>Please come back, God of heavenly forces! Look down from heaven and perceive it! Attend to this vine,<sup>15</sup> this root that you planted with your strong hand, this son whom you secured as your very own.

**<sup>16</sup>It is burned with fire. It is chopped down. They die at the rebuke coming from you.**

<sup>17</sup>Let your hand be with the one on your right side—with the one whom you secured as your own—<sup>18</sup>then we will not turn away from you! Revive us so that we can call on your name.

**<sup>19</sup>Restore us, LORD God of heavenly forces! Make your face shine so that we can be saved!**

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### THE EPISTLE

#### Hebrews 11:29–12:2

<sup>29</sup>By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if they were on dry land, but when the Egyptians tried it, they were drowned.

<sup>30</sup>By faith Jericho's walls fell after the people marched around them for seven days.

<sup>31</sup>By faith Rahab the prostitute wasn't killed with the disobedient because she welcomed the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup>What more can I say? I would run out of time if I told you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets.

<sup>33</sup>Through faith they conquered kingdoms, brought about justice, realized promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>put out raging fires, escaped from the edge of the sword, found strength in weakness, were mighty in war, and routed foreign armies. <sup>35</sup>Women received back their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured and refused to be released so they could gain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>But others experienced public shame by being

taunted and whipped; they were even put in chains and in prison. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned to death, they were cut in two, and they died by being murdered with swords. They went around wearing the skins of sheep and goats, needy, oppressed, and mistreated. <sup>38</sup>The world didn't deserve them. They wandered around in deserts, mountains, caves, and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup>All these people didn't receive what was promised, though they were given approval for their faith. <sup>40</sup>God provided something better for us so they wouldn't be made perfect without us.

**12** So then let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, <sup>2</sup>and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne.

### THE GOSPEL Luke 12:49-56

<sup>49</sup>"I came to cast fire upon the earth. How I wish that it was already ablaze! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism I must experience. How I am distressed until it's completed! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, I have come instead to bring division. <sup>52</sup>From now on, a household of five will be divided—three against two and two against three. <sup>53</sup>Father will square off against son and son against father; mother against daughter

and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

<sup>54</sup>Jesus also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud forming in the west, you immediately say, 'It's going to rain.' And indeed it does. <sup>55</sup>And when a south wind blows, you say, 'A heat wave is coming.' And it does. <sup>56</sup>Hypocrites! You know how to interpret conditions on earth and in the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret the present time?"