

## **With Thanksgiving And Love!**

Every Eucharistic celebration (Mass) gives us an opportunity to pray and sing with thanksgiving and love. Strikingly, the readings of today in different ways invite us to extend this worship with thanksgiving and love to our daily lives. In our first reading, Isaiah in his Song of the Vineyard compares the people of Israel- God's people to a vineyard. This vineyard had been given special care by God. But instead of giving Him good and sweet grapes, it had only produced sour ones, a response, which shows unfaithfulness and ungratefulness from the Israelites: Ingratitude in the face of abundant generosity!

Similarly, the Gospel today, the continuation of Matthew's account of Jesus' teaching in the temple, when he replied to the attack on His authority with three parables. We read the first last week (Parable of the Two Sons), this week (Parable of the Wicked Tenants), and the third (Parable of the Wedding Feast) next week. Today's parable presupposes knowledge of Isaiah's song of the vineyard. The parable tells us how a vineyard was leased to some people. At a certain time, the owner wants to get the harvest of grapes from his vineyard but the tenants out of their selfishness wanted to usurp the vineyard. They mercilessly treated the people sent by the owner of the vineyard and worst still killing the heir, son of the owner of the vineyard: Ingratitude in the face of abundant generosity!

To each and every one of us, God has given us the opportunity to be one of the tenants of his vineyard. If we count His limitless blessings on us with grateful hearts we will surely utter always, *'Thank You Jesus. Thank You My Lord'* Are we going to be good tenants who will appreciate the gifts we have received and become gifts to others? Or are we going to live day-by-day in regrets for who we are not or what we don't have or have not achieved? Every act of sincere thanksgiving to God for his presence in our lives is an act of faith. Thus, St. Paul encourages us in the second reading, *"in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God."* Let the good Lord help us to always see something in our lives to encourage us to live with thanksgiving and love. Amen.

***"How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me? I will raise the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord" (Psalm 116:12-13).***