

A reading from Ezekiel chapter 19 verses 10 through 14. You can find the reading on page 706 in your pew Bible.

Your mother was like a vine in a vineyard
planted by the water,
fruitful and full of branches
by reason of abundant water.
Its strong stems became
rulers' scepters;
it towered aloft
among the thick boughs;
it was seen in its height
with the mass of its branches.
But the vine was plucked up in fury,
cast down to the ground;
the east wind dried up its fruit;
they were stripped off and withered.
As for its strong stem,
fire consumed it.
Now it is planted in the wilderness,
in a dry and thirsty land.
And fire has gone out from the stem of its shoots,
has consumed its fruit,
so that there remains in it no strong stem,
no scepter for ruling.

This is a lamentation and has become a lamentation.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 80.

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**People: You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.**

Leader: You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.

**People: The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.**

Leader: It sent out its branches to the sea
and its shoots to the River.

**People: Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**

Leader: The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.

People: Turn again, O God of hosts!

Leader: Look down from heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine,

**People: the stock that your right hand planted,
and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.**

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Leader: They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down;
may they perish at the rebuke of your face!

**People: But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,
the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!**

Leader: Then we shall not turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call upon your name!

**People: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!
Let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was
in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Leader: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

(allow them time to stand)

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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***And now would you join me as we collect our prayers
(intercessions) through the collect (prayer) of the day***

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners:

Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise;

that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.