

# Reading for the Memorial of St Justin

June 1st 2026

## First reading

2 Peter 1:2-7

**‘He has granted to us his precious promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature.’**

Beloved: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 91(90):1-2. 14-15b. 15c-16. R2b**

*My God, I trust in you.*

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,  
and abides in the shade of the Almighty,  
says to the Lord, ‘My refuge,  
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!’  
Since he clings to me in love, I will free him,  
protect him, for he knows my name.  
When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will be with him in distress.  
I will deliver him, and give him glory.  
With length of days I will content him;  
I will show him my saving power.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Cf. Revelation 1:5ab**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus Christ is the first born of the dead,  
to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.  
Alleluia.

## Gospel

Mark 12:1-12

**‘They took the beloved son and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard.’**

At that time: Jesus began to speak to the chief priests and the scribes and the elders in parables. ‘A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the wine press and built a tower, and leased it to tenants and went into another country. When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. And he sent another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But those tenants said to one another, “This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the

inheritance will be ours.” And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this Scripture: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes”?’

And they were seeking to arrest him but feared the people, for they perceived that he had told the parable against them. So they left him and went away.

### **Short reflection on the reading for today**

The parable in today’s gospel is a tragic one, about rejection, violence and murder. But like great theatrical tragedies, this can have cathartic effect.

A vineyard owner sent his servants to collect his share of the fruits of the vineyard; all of them were rejected out of hand. He then sent his son who was not only rejected but killed. At the end of the story, the stone rejected by the builders goes on to become the keystone, the most important stone that holds the roof together. The parable is a veiled reference to what had happened to the prophets in the past and what would soon happen to Jesus himself. His mission would lead to him being rejected and put to death, but God would raise him from the dead and make him the keystone of a wholly new situation for mankind.

Rejection is a painful human experience, experienced by many. Jesus invites us to join our times of sadness and rejection to his passion. He is the living sign that the rejected stone can become the keystone. God can work in a life-giving way in and through all any hardships we struggle with in life. What we might judge to be misfortunes can turn out to be moments of grace. He will support us to the end with all we need.