



IF YOU
ABIDE IN ME
YOU WILL BEAR
MUCH FRUIT —

THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)
Sunday 2nd May 2021

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish this Maundy Thursday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 97: 1-2

A: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: As the Easter Season unfolds we find ourselves back at the Last Supper for today's Gospel (and indeed next weeks!); but reading this passage can also remind us that during these forty days between Easter and Ascension we are told that the risen Lord Jesus appeared frequently to his disciples, continuing to open their minds to his teaching and equipping them for their mission after Pentecost. We join the friends of Jesus today in listening to his teaching, as he reveals more of himself to them and to us. Joyfully celebrating the bodily resurrection of Jesus, we praise God's glory as we say:

Gloria

A: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Opening Prayer

L: Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

One of the distinctive features of Saint John's Gospel is the number of times Jesus says "I am ...". In fact books have been written on the eight "I Am" statements in the fourth gospel. Last week we heard him say "I am the Good Shepherd" and today he says: "I am

the true vine." Each of these statements is revealing something of Jesus and his Father, and the mission of salvation in which he is engaged. Today the image of the vine is all about fruit – after all, what is a vine without good grapes?! How does a vine produce fruit? Only with a lot of intensive labour on behalf of the vinedresser, who must prune and trim and care for the vine unceasingly (rather like the shepherd looking after his flock). The Father, who loves us, works within us through the Spirit, so that we may remain a part of Jesus, the true vine, and produce good fruit. It is by our choice and actions that we become "disconnected branches", unable or unwilling to accept God's care, and so can produce no fruit.

For our Younger Friends

You may not have ever seen a vine (that grapes come from), but you have probably looked after some plants: you know that they need things to live and grow – water, nourishment, and sometimes trimming away dead leaves or branches to let good ones grow. This is what Jesus is telling us in today's Gospel – that all together we are like a plant in him – each of us a leaf or branch that is part of the big plant! God the Father looks after this plant (which we could also call the Church family): anyone who gets "cut off" from this plant won't be able to grow – we do this when we ignore or say "no" to God. So we should make sure we stay "connected to Jesus": how do we do this? By thinking about Jesus, by praying quietly every day, by doing good things in Jesus' name, by being God's children in thought, words and deeds!

Profession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only

Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

L: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

L: **Prayer over the Offerings**

O God, who have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.



Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Loving Father, it is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. Through him the children of light rise to eternal life and the halls of the heavenly Kingdom are thrown open to the faithful; for his Death is our ransom from death, and in his rising the life of all has risen. At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to

You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Thanksgiving Psalm

L: You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

A: You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

L: My vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.

They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May their hearts live for ever and ever!

A: You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

L: All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,

all families of the nations worship before him;

They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

A: You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

L: And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.

They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,

declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:

'These things the Lord has done.'

A: You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

L: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God!

Intercessions

L: United to Christ in the Spirit of love, let us pray that our lives will bear abundant fruit for God's reign of peace, justice, holiness, and compassion.

L: Lead us by the Spirit of truth to the beauty of your saving Word, so that we may be cleansed from all evil. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Guide heads of nations and legislative bodies by your Spirit of wise counsel, so that they may foster compassion in the hearts of citizens. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Empower church leaders through your sacred Spirit to promote the dignity of every person, thereby witnessing to a genuine love for our neighbour. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: By the healing power of the Spirit reunite to the vine of Christ any who are alienated from the community of the Church for any reason. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Through the Spirit of unity draw diverse races and cultures into common bonds of respect and care. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Sustain through the consoling Spirit all who grieve the loss of a loved one. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

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