

SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



Wednesday April 24th for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

OPENING PRAYER: Christ our Vine, we gather in your name so that we may grow in our understanding of and love for your Word, and bear fruit in your name. Prune and remove all sin doubt, and clutter from our lives. Help us, like St. Paul, to boldly proclaim our faith in you. Amen.

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

John 15:1-8

The Vine and the Branches.

1* “I am the true vine,* and my Father is the vine grower.^a

2 He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes* so that it bears more fruit.

3 You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you.^b

4 Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.

6* ^c Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned.

7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.^d

8 By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.^e

Notes

* [15:1–16:4] Discourse on the union of Jesus with his disciples. His words become a monologue and go beyond the immediate crisis of the departure of Jesus.

* [15:1–17] Like [Jn 10:1–5](#), this passage resembles a parable. Israel is spoken of as a vineyard at [Is 5:1–7](#); [Mt 21:33–46](#) and as a vine at [Ps 80:9–17](#); [Jer 2:21](#); [Ez 15:2](#); [17:5–10](#); [19:10](#); [Hos 10:1](#). The identification of the vine as the Son of Man in [Ps 80:15](#) and Wisdom’s description of herself as a vine in [Sir 24:17](#) are further background for portrayal of Jesus by this figure. There may be secondary eucharistic symbolism here; cf. [Mk 14:25](#), “the fruit of the vine.”

* [15:2] Takes away, prunes: in Greek there is a play on two related verbs.

* [15:6] Branches were cut off and dried on the wall of the vineyard for later use as fuel.

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. What pruning have you experienced? Who or what has been removed from your life that ended up bringing you closer to Jesus?
2. The vine and branches speak about the union between Christ and us. What helps you to have a greater awareness of this bond?
3. What fruit have you borne in your life that could not have happened without the presence of Jesus?
4. Name one thing today’s Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed/act on.

Commentary

Last week, Jesus spoke of himself as the Good Shepherd. This week he refers to himself as the Vine which gives divine life to all who believe in him and live according to his Word. Non-fruit-bearing branches will be cut away. This could be a reference to the Jews who reject Jesus or to people

who do accept him but do not follow his ways. But even fruit-bearing believers will be pruned or purified by Jesus so that they can bear even more fruit. This daily pruning often involves dealing positively with our daily crosses and losses. In the 'vine and branch' imagery, Jesus explains the wonderful intimacy that exists between him and his followers and the responsibility that goes with it. Believers who nurture their relationship with Jesus by lives of faith and love will bear much fruit. But then follows a severe warning: those who neglect their relationship with Christ will be cut away and thrown out. It is similar to what happens in close personal relationships: unless they are nurtured, they die.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom
Wednesday, April 24 6:30 – 7:30pm
Weekly on Wednesday
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting
Time: April 24, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9>

Meeting ID: 851 3674 0699
Passcode: 284566