



Praying at Home this Sunday

Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 2, 2021

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. + **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge our sins. *(Pause)*

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father:

R. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you have given us the consolation of the truth:

R. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, leading us into everlasting life:

R. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Let us pray: *(Pause)*

O God, you graft us onto Christ,
the true vine, and, with tireless care,
you nurture our growth in knowledge and reverence.
Tend the vineyard of your Church,
that in Christ each branch may bring forth
to the glory of your name
abundant fruits of faith and love.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 9:26-31)

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples,
but they were all afraid of him,
not believing that he was a disciple.

Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles,
and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord,
and that he had spoken to him,
and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.
He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem,
and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord.

He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists,
but they tried to kill him.

And when the brothers learned of this,
they took him down to Caesarea
and sent him on his way to Tarsus.

The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace.
It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord,
and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

The word of the Lord. **R. Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32)

R. Alleluia.

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the LORD.

The lowly shall eat their fill;
they who seek the LORD shall praise him:

“May your hearts live forever!”

R. Alleluia.

All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of the nations
shall bow down before him.

R. Alleluia.

To him alone shall bow down
all who sleep in the earth;
before him shall bend
all who go down into the dust.

R. Alleluia.

And to him my soul shall live;
my descendants shall serve him.
Let the coming generation be told of the LORD
that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born
the justice he has shown.

R. Alleluia.

A reading from the First Letter of St. John (1 Jn 3:18-24)

Children, let us love not in word or speech
but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth
and reassure our hearts before him
in whatever our hearts condemn,
for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have confidence in God
and receive from him whatever we ask,
because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

And his commandment is this:

we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,
and love one another just as he commanded us.

Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them,
and the way we know that he remains in us
is from the Spirit he gave us.

The word of the Lord. **R. Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia (Jn 15:4a, 5b)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (Jn 15:1-8)

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you,

ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.

By this is my Father glorified,

that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. (Acts) On your journey as a Christian, who have you befriended whom you otherwise wouldn't have known or associated with?
2. (1John) In following Jesus's command to love others, where do your words not match your actions?
3. (John) What spiritual practices help you to "remain" rooted on the true vine?

Sample Intercessions:

1. For the church, by remaining on the true vine may it bear great fruit for the glory of God and the service of all people: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For health care workers around the world, may they receive the support necessary to care for the sick and the ailing with skill and compassion: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For ex-convicts who have been released from prison, may they find meaningful employment to support themselves and their families: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For all who are sick, especially those with the coronavirus, may they be restored to full health: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. For those who have died, welcome them into your eternal kingdom with joy: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
6. For our community, may we follow Jesus's commandment to love others in word and in deed: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray together as Jesus taught:

**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.**

Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

**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 are already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

Closing Prayer:

God of peace,
with tenderness and compassion
you call us away from sin
to the fullness of life in your presence.
Hear our prayers that by your grace
we might build communities
where all will flourish and find welcome.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sign of the Cross +