

## Prayer Gathering for Fifth Week of Easter

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of All Creation,  
You seeded the universe with life in abundance  
and peopled our planet as you pleased; calling it all “good.”  
Help us, your children, to see our role as branches on your vine,  
and prune us with your word so that our fruit may bless the world.  
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

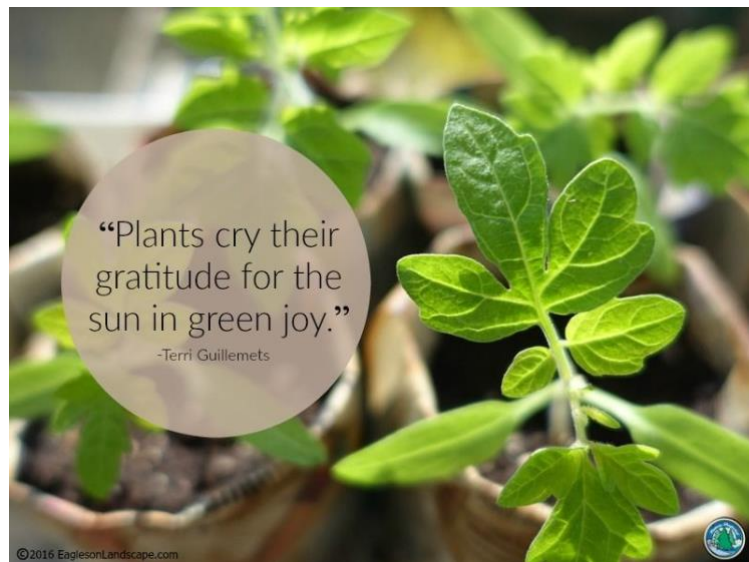
*“I am the vine, you are the branches.”*

**How are you connected to Jesus? Is it through your heart? Your thoughts?  
Your intuition? When do you sense the connection most strongly?**

*“Whoever remains in me and I in them will bear much fruit, because without me  
you can do nothing...”*

**Most of us go through a period in our lives when we are disconnected from God.  
When in your life were you most disconnected from the vine? How did you reconnect?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

*“By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit...”*

**Some beautiful green trees don't produce edible fruits,  
but their green leaves and deep roots silently benefit their habitat in many ways.  
What fruit does your connection to God produce?**

LITANY

When we wilt with indecision, make us passionate to heal those who hurt...

**Master Gardner, please tend us.**

When we grasp at what is fleeting, make us pure of heart and focused on you...

**Master Gardner, please tend us.**

When we are fuming and stewing, help us find peace in you...

**Master Gardner, please tend us.**

When we are tempted to fib to make things smooth, have us say what we mean and mean what we say...

**Master Gardner, please tend us.**

When we keep making our point and forcing our view, make us humble and open...

**Master Gardner, please tend us.**

When measuring against others makes us resentful, help us count our blessings and cherish our gifts...

**Master Gardner, please tend us.**

When we tell ourselves we can't, but we know that we must, steady our hands and guide our steps...

**Master Gardner, please tend us.**

When we want it all, and hoarding makes sense, help us love what is simple and learn to make do...

**Master Gardner, please tend us.**

When we've done all we can and we've come to our limit, give us rest and retreat; cover us in your love....

**Master Gardner, please tend us.**

OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.**

**I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.**

**Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.**

**I embrace You as if You were already here, and unite myself wholly to You.**

**Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.**

CLOSING PRAYER

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.**

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

## READING 1

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

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...*

*By this is my Father glorified,  
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”*

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*