

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



Fifth Sunday of Easter

28 April 2024 - Year B

***“All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.”***

### Something to Think About

Gardeners fertilise soil to help plants to grow healthy and strong.

Who and what has helped you to grow?

### The Story

In the gospel story this week Jesus describes himself as the one true vine. We are the branches connected to the vine and we bear fruit as long as we are connected to that vine which is Jesus. God is the gardener, the one who trims and protects the vine. Jesus tells his disciples to stay connected to him, because without Jesus they can do nothing. When we stay joined to Jesus, we can do marvellous things and our prayers will be answered.

### The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

15:1-5, 7-8

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

He cuts away every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit.

But he trims clean every branch that does produce fruit, so that it will produce even more fruit.

"You are already clean because of what I have said to you.

"Stay joined to me, and I will stay joined to you.

Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine, you cannot produce fruit unless you stay joined to me.

"I am the vine, and you are the branches.

If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit.

But you cannot do anything without me.

"Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you.

Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered.

"When you become fruitful disciples of mine, my Father will be honoured."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Video

Click to watch the video: [Vine and Branches](#)



## Group Discussion

Jesus urges us to stay connected to him so that we can produce much fruit.

What does this mean? What sort of 'fruit' can a person produce?

Some of these fruits might be kindness, patience, love, joy, peace and gentleness.

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Trusting in God's love and encouragement, we pray for the needs of the world.

*Reader 1:* We pray for all world leaders. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray for people who don't have enough food to eat. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray that we will show kindness and love to others. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray for faith to trust in Jesus and stay connected to him. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray that we will stay close to God in prayer. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to our prayers in the name of the risen Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Lord Jesus,  
Thank you for being close to us and  
for helping us in everything we do.  
Teach us to trust in you always.  
Amen.

## Group Activity

**Being connected to Jesus, we produce fruit in our lives!**

You will need: printed activity for each child (see below),  
coloured markers, coloured pencils or paints, glitter glue.

- 1) Colour the image of the vine, branches and fruit.
- 2) Add some glitter glue on the fruit to make it sparkle!
- 3) Beside the words 'Vine', 'Branches' and 'Fruit',  
write or draw what each of these represents.



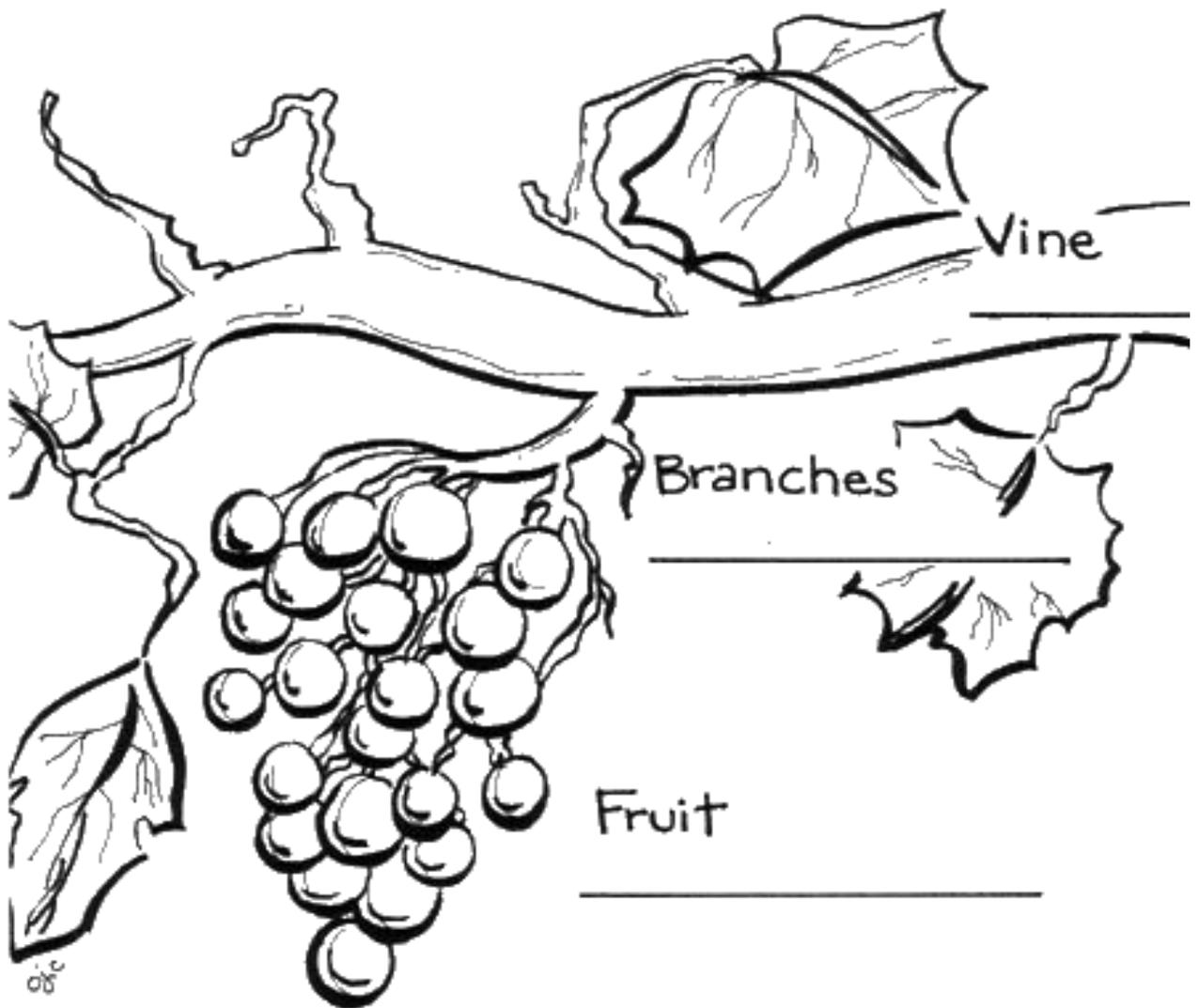
**JESUS SAID:**

**I AM THE VINE, AND YOU ARE THE BRANCHES.**

**IF YOU STAY JOINED TO ME,**

**AND I STAY JOINED TO YOU,**

**THEN YOU WILL PRODUCE LOTS OF FRUIT.**



*Colour in the vine, branches and fruit.*

*Draw some fruit on those branches that don't have any.*

**JESUS SAID: I AM THE VINE,  
YOU ARE THE BRANCHES!**



**STAY JOINED TO ME AND  
YOU WILL PRODUCE LOTS  
OF REALLY GOOD FRUIT!**

**JOINED TO JESUS, WHAT GOOD  
FRUIT CAN YOU PRODUCE?**

LOVE  
PATIENCE  
JOY  
KINDNESS

Fill the letters with colours or patterns

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE WAY  
TO STAY JOINED TO JESUS?**

- TALK TO JESUS IN PRAYER**
- READ STORIES ABOUT HIM**
- HELPING OTHER PEOPLE**
- GOING TO SUNDAY MASS**