

COMMENTATOR:

On behalf of the Charis Community, I welcome you to our Sunday Mass. All are truly welcome, and we are excited that you are joining us whether it's your first time praying with us or if you've been with us for a while. The worship aid for Mass is on our website, and we will put the address in the chat for you should you like to pull it up to support your prayer.

We are a Eucharistic people, so we invite you to have bread and wine, in whatever form you have it, with you where you are. Even though we are in many locations, we affirm that we are one table of believers. We trust that the Holy Spirit has never been and will never be restrained by time or space or distance!

So we gather as one people, as one Body, rooted in Christ, and rooted in God's love, together.

In today's Gospel, we are invited over and over to abide in Jesus. To abide in him includes keeping the commandments, particularly to love God with all our heart, soul and mind and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus is always inviting us into an intimate relationship of love with the God who first loved us.

Jesus will describe himself as the true vine, the one on whom we are grafted as branches. The fruit that Jesus speaks of is simply evidence of our relationship with him. It is a relationship that he initiates through and by his love. And we respond in return, particularly every time we set aside the sabbath to come together and meet him once again in the breaking of the bread. We meet him here, as he has promised.

Let us gather ourselves in the presence of the True Vine and begin Mass in song.

First Reading

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 God,
and that God 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 Christ.
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 God,
and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

The Word of God.

R/. Thanks be to God

Second Reading

A reading from the first Letter of John

Beloved,

This is the message that you have heard from the beginning: that we should love one another.

We know that we have crossed over from death to life because we love our sisters and brothers. My little children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love in truth and in what we do. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before God

For if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from God whatever we ask, because we carefully attend to God's command and do what pleases God.

Now, this is God's command: to trust in the name of God's one of a kind son, Jesus, the Anointed One and to love each other, just as God has commanded us. And the one who carefully attends to God's command resides in God and God resides in them. And this is how we know that God resides in us, by the Spirit God has given us.

The Word of God. R/. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I am the true vine, and God is the vine grower.

God takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit,

and every one that does God 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.

Those who remain in me and I in them 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 Loving God glorified,

that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. 5

Prayer of the Faithful (Commentator)

Vine of life, in Your branches we are nestled taking shelter and sustenance in the shade of Your strength. With thanksgiving we celebrate the growth and hope we have found in placing our roots in You. For in life You nourish us and Your Holy Spirit encourages us to reach our full potential in the gifts we have been given that others may know of Your love.

Hear us, Lord, as we lift to you our prayers for others and for ourselves.
Our response is **Easter us O God**

We invite you to unmute your mike if there is something you would like to pray for. We would very much like to pray with you.

Give time for prayers, when they are slowing down close with these words:

God, you promise never to forsake us, but to bring us to life.
Nurture us with your presence, and sustain us even in the hour of our death.
Meet us in our deepest doubts when we feel abandoned, drowning in our fear of your absence. Visit us in the tension between our yearning and our anger, that we may know your mercy and grace in our time of need. **Amen. 6**

Prayer after Communion

Our prayer after communion comes from the mystical writing of St. Catherine of Siena

You, then, are my workers. You have come from me, the supreme eternal gardener, and I have engrafted you onto the vine by making myself one with you. Keep in mind that each of you has your own vineyard. But everyone is joined to the neighbors' vineyards without any dividing lines. They are so joined together, in fact, that you cannot do good or evil for yourself without doing the same for your neighbors...

It is charity that binds you to true humility – the humility that is found in knowing yourself and me. See, then, that it is as workers that I have sent you all. Now I am calling you again, because the word is failing fast. The thorns have so multiplied and have choked the seed so badly tht it will produce no fruit of grace at all. I want you, therefore to be true workers. With deep concern, help to till the souls in the mystic body of holy church. I am calling you to this because I want to be merciful to the world as you have so earnestly begged me.

Amen

– St. Catherine of Siena 1347-1380

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resides in them. And this is how we know that God resides in us, by the Spirit God
has given us.

Hear What The Spirit is Saying to God's People...Thanks be to God