

Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B – 2nd May 2021

Preparation

- If possible arrange candles, crucifix and Gospel/ Sunday Missal on a table.

Introduction

Today is the fifth Sunday in the Easter Season. In today's Gospel we hear how Jesus is like a vine and we are the branches, bearing God's fruit. We belong to Jesus.

As we gather at home today, we thank God for our families and for this time we spend together in prayer. We do this today, knowing that God is with us, helping us always especially when times are difficult.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us.

An adult lights the candles.

Penitential Act

Adults and children think about how you have behaved in the past week. Especially when our daily routines are different just now. Have you shown patience to those around you? Have you been kind and helpful even when you don't feel like it and it's difficult?

Lead the children in singing the "Sorry Song".

We are sorry,	(To the Tune of Frere Jacques)
Truly sorry,	
Heal us Lord,	
In Your love,	
Help us to do better,	
Help us to be kinder.	
Forgive us,	
Forgive us.	

Gloria (Sung)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship You, we give You thanks,
we praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of the Father.

Amen

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

(Sing to the tune of 'If You're Happy and You Know It')

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,

As we listen to the story,
let us praise him for his glory.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord ⁽¹⁾

Gospel (John 15:5-8)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John

Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart. In this way we think God's word, we speak God's word and we keep God's word in our hearts as we say together:

“Glory to You O Lord”

Use this link to read the Gospel if you don't have a Sunday Missal

<https://cafod.org.uk>Education>Children'sLiturgy>

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

“The Gospel of the Lord.”

All reply : **“Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ”**

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

In today's Gospel Jesus compares Himself to a vine, and God the Father to a gardener. Jesus says that we are His branches and that He wants us to bear fruit for Him.

Discuss with the children the role of a gardener. (A gardener takes care of the garden including things that have already grown and planting new plants, keeping them alive, tending to them and watching them flourish).

God the Father is like our gardener who takes care of the vine. Jesus is the loving vine that keeps us - His branches strong. Connected to Jesus we grow and produce good fruit for God.

Ask the children if they know what fruit grows on a vine? Yes, that's right grapes grow on a vine.

Ask what they think Jesus means by bearing fruit for Him? This really just means that we will do good things for God, by staying close to Jesus and following his ways. So when we are kind to others, helpful to those around us - then we “bear fruit for God.”

Prayers of the Faithful

Lord Jesus,

You are the vine and we are Your branches. Help us to bear the fruits of your love to all those we meet.

Lord in Your Mercy
-Hear our Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Help us to follow where You lead and in doing so lead others to follow You.

Lord in Your Mercy

-Hear our Prayer

We now pray together saying:

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.**

We can also say the following prayer as a **Spiritual Communion**:

Spiritual Communion (Prayer of St. Alphonsus Liguori)

My Jesus,

I believe 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 soul,

I embrace You as if You were already come,

and I unite myself wholly to You.

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

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus You are the vine and we are Your branches. May we never be separated from You. Live in us always and strengthen and protect us from all harm, that through Your love, we may bear fruit for God.

References

1. The Complete Children's Liturgy Book. Katie Thomson, published by Kevin Mayhew. P349.

