

Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year BMay 16, 2021
INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

Haiku for Life
Living in God means
God's love is living in you.
So love God, live Love.

*SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 22:25-31

* OPENING HYMN: #73.....O Worship the King (vs 1, 3 & 5)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us draw closer to the Lord who is our only true source of life.

People: For we are the branches that grow from God's vine.

Leader: The Lord is our source for all that is truly good.

People: We are the branches, called upon to bear God's good fruit.

Leader: Let us give praise then to the living Lord with all that we are!

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord!

* Let us pray (Congregation):

God of all seasons, we know that in springtime our gardens need tending; we come to you that we might be pruned in order to bear fruits of the spirit that will bring a mighty harvest for your kingdom. We know that without you we can do nothing, so keep us close to you, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

* LET’S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:

569..... We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Congregation)

Lord of the vineyard, we wish to be healthy branches bearing much fruit, but we resist the pruning that would insure a bountiful harvest. Remove from us, we pray, the suckers that would sap our strength. Keep us united to you that we may not be led astray by false promises that bear no fruit for your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

* LET’S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:

#397.....I Need Thee Every Hour (vs 1, 3 & 5)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear these words from Jesus, God's gift of love to us:

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,
ask for whatever you wish,
and it will be done for you."

Jesus was sent by God to offer us new life.

In love, know that you are forgiven.

In Christ, you are empowered to live
in the freedom of love!

*SCRIPTURE READING: John 15:1-8

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: “Abide in Christ”

* RESPONSE TO THE WORD: #700 Abide with Me
CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns

* PRAYER HYMN: # 2200 O Lord, Hear My Prayer

* CLOSING HYMN: # 706..... Soon and Very Soon

* DISMISSAL BLESSING

1st Scripture Reading: Psalm 22:25-31 (NKJV)

²⁵ My praise *shall be* of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.

²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the ^[a]nations shall worship before ^[b]You.

²⁸ For the kingdom *is* the LORD's, and He rules over the nations.

²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth shall eat and worship; all those who go down to ^[c]the dust

shall bow before Him, even he who cannot keep himself alive.

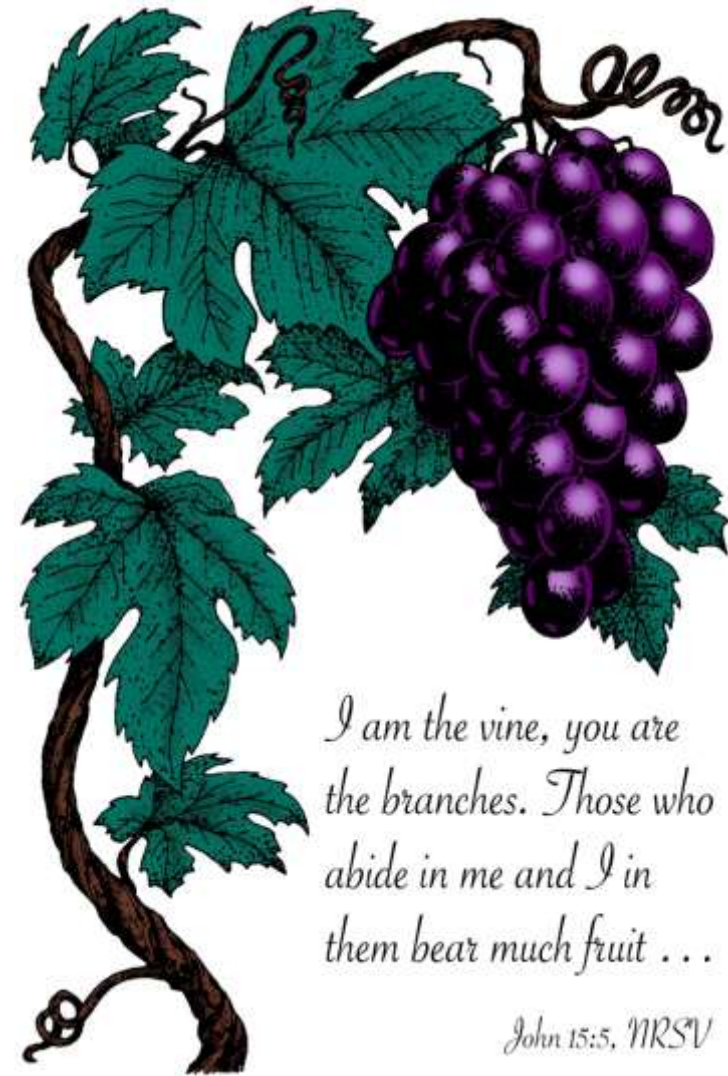
³⁰ A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the *next* generation,

³¹ They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has done *this*

2nd Scripture Reading: John 15:1-8 (NKJV)

15 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He ^[a]takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

⁵ "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you ^[b]will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.



May 16, 2021
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