



Living in the Spirit

◆ 5th Sunday of Easter - Remain in Me

Call to Prayer and Sharing

❖ *Invitation to Prayer - Leader*

Let us begin,

Now, here in this place

With a moment of silence, to reflect,

to focus, to be attentive to ourselves,

to one another, and to the presence of Christ.

May the Lord come and increase our faith. (*reflective pause*)

❖ *Opening Song - If time allows, sing a familiar hymn or song.*

❖ *Then: "In the name of the Father and of the Son"*

The Word of God

❖ *Leader: Let us welcome God's Word into our hearts.*

All: Fill our minds that we may hear your wisdom.

Touch our lips that we may speak your truth.

Hold in our hearts that we may always follow you.

Come now, O Word of God.

From John 15: 1 – 8 (The vine and the branches)

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.

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 Father glorified,

that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Word of the Lord...

❖ *At the conclusion of the reading, briefly pause for quiet reflection.*

Faith Sharing/Question of the Week (consider sharing on either question)

- ❖ **Adult:** What does the image of the vine and the branches say to you about your spiritual life?
- ❖ **Mixed Ages:** When we live in Jesus, we do good things. Name a good deed you will do for someone this week.

For further reflection and discussion

- ❖ How does this influence and affect what we are doing here at this gathering?

Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow a few minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of 3 or 4 for faith sharing.

- ❖ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*

Litany of Faith

Leader: Christ Jesus, if we stay close to you, you will never leave us for dead.
May we always serve you in faith.

All: Remain in me, as I remain in you. Come now and be my disciples.

Leader: Christ Jesus, if we are true to your word, we will receive the fruit of your love.
May we always serve you in faith.

All: Remain in me, as I remain in you. Come now and be my disciples.

Leader: Christ Jesus, if we remain in you, you will remain with us.
May we always serve you in faith.

All: Remain in me, as I remain in you. Come now and be my disciples.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together:

All: Gracious God,
we know that you are with us here, and we have taken your Word into our hearts.
You call us all to conversion,
we who are here in this place, and we who are now ready to welcome you into our lives.
We are ready,
we are willing, and we are yours.
So we surrender to you
our aches and longings into one as we pray:
Our Father...

Continue with the Meeting

Final Blessing

Leader: Now let us bless one another:

All: May God bless and keep us, may God smile upon us.
May God show us kindness, fill us with peace.
And may God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
may we always love and serve,
filled with God's Peace. Amen.

Leader: *Conclude the meeting or sing a closing song.*