

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 2, 2021



## The Vine and Branches

JOHN 15:1-8

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.”



## EXPLORE THE GOSPEL

Either before or after a Sunday meal together, designate one person to read the Gospel. Other family members should listen attentively. Then have each family member share an insight about the Gospel.

Discuss the following questions together:

- What happens to a branch when it is cut off a vine? What is Jesus trying to teach us through this story?
- In what way does the story of the vine and branches describe your friendship with Jesus?

### TIPS FOR EXPLORING THE GOSPEL



- Read the upcoming Sunday Gospel a few days before the weekend. Listen to what God is saying to you personally.
- Select part of the Gospel ahead of time and share it with your children. Have them listen for this part during Mass.

## FAMILY PRAYER



During the Easter Season, our first reading at Sunday Mass comes to us from the Acts of the Apostles. In this book of the New Testament, we hear about all of the wonderful things Jesus did through the ministry of the Apostles. The work of Jesus continues in the life of the Church today through the ministry of our bishops, priests, and all friends of Jesus. For this week's family prayer, use the acronym ACTS to spend some time reflecting and praying together as a family.

### A—Adoration

—Jesus, I praise you for \_\_\_\_\_.

### C—Confession

—Jesus, I am sorry for \_\_\_\_\_.

### T—Thanksgiving

—Jesus, I am thankful for \_\_\_\_\_.

### S—Supplication

—Jesus, I beg you for \_\_\_\_\_.

Amen.



## FAMILY FUN

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that he is the vine and we are the branches. The branches are the part of the tree or plant that bears fruit. We are all unique in our abilities and talents, and we are each called to bear much fruit. One thing that is different for every person is our fingerprints! This is a fun and easy activity to talk to kids about what things we can do to bear much fruit using our unique talents.

### Materials needed:

- Paper
- Brown marker
- Green paint
- Purple paint

Starting with a blank piece of paper, draw a trunk and branches for a tree. Dip your hand in the green paint and press onto the paper to create the leaves of the tree. Once the paint has dried, use the tips of your fingers to create clusters of grapes hanging from the branches. As you make the grapes, talk about what unique gifts God has given you that can allow you to bear much fruit!

Families are encouraged to share what they are doing to celebrate each Sunday by using the hashtag [#ReclaimingSundays](#) on social media!



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## RECIPE OF THE WEEK Thumbprint Cookies



*Grapes grow on vines. Think about today's Gospel as you make this recipe that uses grape jelly!*

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 3/4 c. flour
- 1/2 t. baking powder
- 1/2 t. salt
- 3/4 c. butter, softened
- 2/3 c. sugar
- Sugar, for rolling
- 1 large egg
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- 1/3 c. grape jelly

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Combine the flour, baking powder, and salt together in a bowl.
3. In a separate bowl, cream the butter and sugar together until fluffy, about 5 minutes. Add in the egg and vanilla and mix until just combined.
4. Slowly add in half the dry ingredients, mixing until just combined. Add the second half and mix.
5. Roll the dough into balls and roll in sugar. Place the cookies on the baking sheet.
6. Using your thumb, press an indent into the center of each cookie. Fill the indent with a small spoonful of jelly.
7. Bake the cookies until the edges are golden, about 15 minutes. Cool the cookies before serving.

Submit your own favorite snack, dessert, or dinner recipe online at [www.stmarysbismarck.org/reclaiming-sundays](http://www.stmarysbismarck.org/reclaiming-sundays)