



Fifth Sunday Of Easter

The Vine And The Branches

Introduction

There is no such thing as a solitary Christian. Every Christian is linked to Christ and to all other Christians by an invisible bond. This bond is very precious. It was Christ who wished it, and it was he who best described it. He said: "I am the vine, you are the branches". Alas, we often live as if this bond never existed. We live for ourselves. We ignore and sometimes even hurt each other.

First Reading (Acts 9:26-31)

This tells how Barnabas introduced the converted Paul to the Christians living in Jerusalem. They accepted him but the Jews tried to kill him.

Second Reading (1 John 3:18-24)

If we wish to live, as God wants, we must keep his commandments, especially the commandment to love one another.

Gospel (John 15:1-8)

Christ uses the image of a vine and its branches to illustrate the closeness of the ties that exist between him and his disciples.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Christ wanted his disciples to be united to him and to one another like a vine and its branches. Let us pray for this unity for ourselves and for all of God's people.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For the Church: that its leaders may build it into a true community, producing the fruits of love and peace. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.



Liturgy Cycle B

For our civil leaders: that they may promote the well-being of all members of society so that all, and not just a privileged few, may enjoy the fruits of freedom and justice. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For the lonely, for shut-ins, for outcasts – who belong to no community: that Christians may reach out to them. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

That we may realize that we cannot be united with one another or do the works of love unless we are united with Christ, the true Vine, We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

Communion Reflection

We need Christ – that is no surprise,
But he also needs us.

Vine and branches need each other,
But our need of him is the greater.

“Cut off from me you can do nothing”, he says.

It is not he who cuts himself off from us.
It is we who sometimes cut ourselves off from him.
Through indifference, selfishness, or pride.
And when we cut ourselves off from him,
We automatically cut ourselves off from one another.
Is it any wonder then that our lives
Are sometimes barren and lonely and empty?

Thank you, Lord for forming such a bond with us.
Thank you too for the bond
That exists among us because of you.
Thanks to this bond we have invisible riches
To share with one another.

Grant that we may never be separated,
So that together we may produce in the world
The fruits of faith, hope and love.