

Sunday 2nd May 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*



Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St John (John 10: 11-18)

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes, to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples'.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Over the past year, perhaps we have become more aware of just how many different things we need in order to live. It is only when we are lacking something that we realise how dependent we are. The pandemic and periods of lockdown have shown us that it is not only the physical things like air and water, food, clothing and shelter that we need, but also sufficient exercise and the stimulation of others' companionship. You will be able to think of plenty more. Without all these things, we are in danger of physical, mental and spiritual health problems – in other words, of withering, and of being less than the people God truly wants us to be.

In today's gospel passage, Jesus is inviting us to reflect on our dependence on him, reminding us that, since everything ultimately comes from God, we must ensure that we remain connected. 'Abide' may be an old-fashioned word, but there isn't really another word which so beautifully describes how Jesus wants us to live as part of him and the life he offers us. It's as if he is the very lifeblood that flows through us and we cut loose from this at our peril!

If we can bear to allow the things that don't really matter - things that may cause us to grow away from God – to be cut away, or pruned, we will find that the important things flourish. Our dependence can then become a great source of trust in our creator, allowing us to grow and live life in Christ forever, with all that we need to follow him and to be his disciples.

🤔 A vine can't grow fruit if it is not part of the plant. Can we do good if we are not close to God? How can we stay close?

(By reading the Bible, listening to God and bringing everything to him in prayer).

Think about what sort of fruit Jesus wants us to bear.

(You might like to have a look in your Bible at St Paul's Letter to the Galatians, chapter 5, verses 22-23).

How do we cut away the dead branches in our lives?

(Through confession, saying sorry, changing our behaviour etc.)

🙏 A Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for reminding us how much we need you and depend on your blessings every day. We promise to thank you every day for giving us all that we need so that we can live and love you. Amen.

If you scroll down, you will find some word puzzles and colouring pages.

"I AM" THE VINE

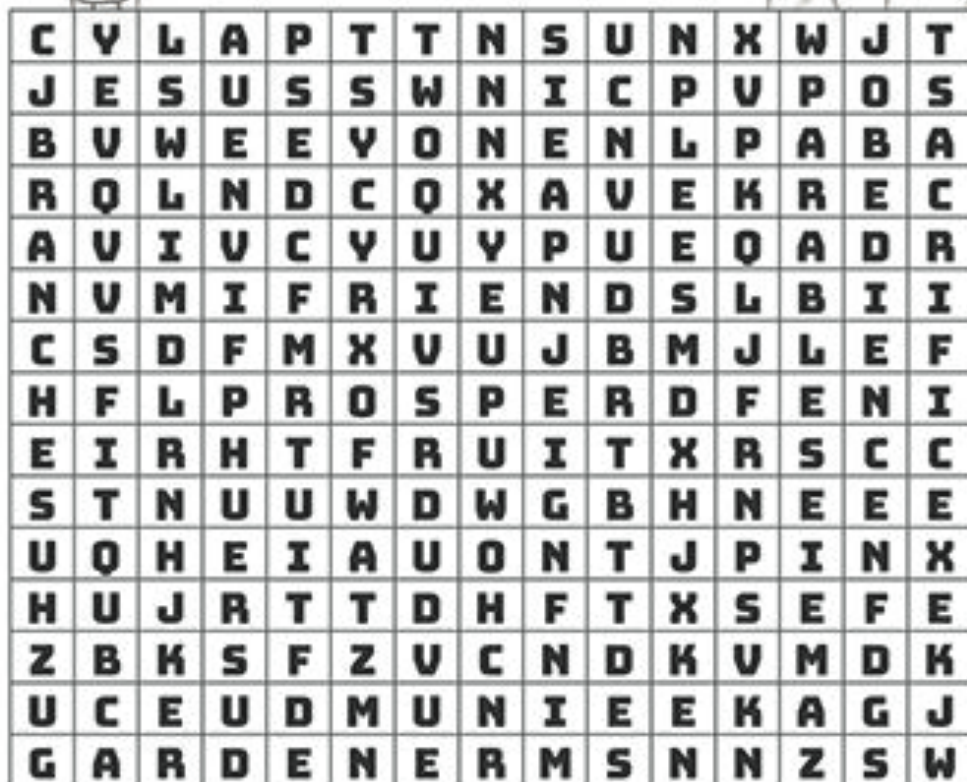
Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.





"I AM" THE VINE

Discover the hidden words.



Word Bank

PROSPER

FRUIT

OBEDIENCE

FRIENDS

SACRIFICE

PARABLES

JESUS

BRANCHES

FRUIT

VINES

GARDENER

GOD



I AM THE
TRUE
VINE
AND
MY
FATHER
IS
THE
GARDENER



John 15:1

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