



**Lectionary Bible Study  
Our Savior Lutheran, Vero Beach**

**Easter 5B – May 2, 2021**

**Live Bible Studies Hosted on Zoom  
Wednesdays @ 10:00 AM**

**More Info & Link at**

**[www.OurSaviorELCA.com/BibleStudy](http://www.OurSaviorELCA.com/BibleStudy)**

**John 15:1-8**

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.*

The context of this passage from the Gospel of John is significant. This imagery of Jesus as the true vine is a part of his final discourse to his disciples at the Passover meal, a meal through which the people of God tell the sacred story of God's faithfulness and saving action once again.

1. *Place yourself with the disciples in the Upper Room at the Passover meal. What is the mood, what is the movement, how attentive would you be to Jesus words?*

Jesus speaks of a familiar agricultural imagery of vine and branches to describe the disciples' relationship to him. On this night of remembering, Jesus' imagery calls to mind the Old Testament imagery of God as a vinedresser. (Isaiah 5:1-7) A rich and fertile vineyard is planted with choice vines; yet in spite of the vinedresser's care, the vines yield wild grapes.

2. *What do you make of Jesus' talk about branches being removed, branches being pruned, and some being thrown away to be burned? Is Jesus speaking a word of judgement, of warning? Can these words be heard as encouragement?*
3. *What does it mean to "abide" in Christ?*
4. *How do we stay connected to God?*