

## Scripture – Sunday, May 2, 2021 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

### Introduction: John 15.1-11

John is the only gospel that has Jesus saying something specific about how Jesus characterizes himself. In other Gospels, Jesus asks the disciples who they say Jesus is for them. But in John 15, as part of the series of “I AM” statements Jesus makes about himself, Jesus says, “I am the true Vine...”

Listen to the rest of the story, especially in the 11<sup>th</sup> verse when Jesus says, “<sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

### Reading: Jesus the True Vine

**15** “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<sup>[a]</sup> to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed<sup>[b]</sup> 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<sup>[c]</sup> my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.