

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15. 1-17

¹I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine-grower. ²Abba removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit Abba prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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.

⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Abba is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹As Abba has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Abba's commandments and abide in Abba's love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Abba. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that Abba will give you whatever you ask of Abba in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. Amen.

We are listening, O God; **Speak to us!**