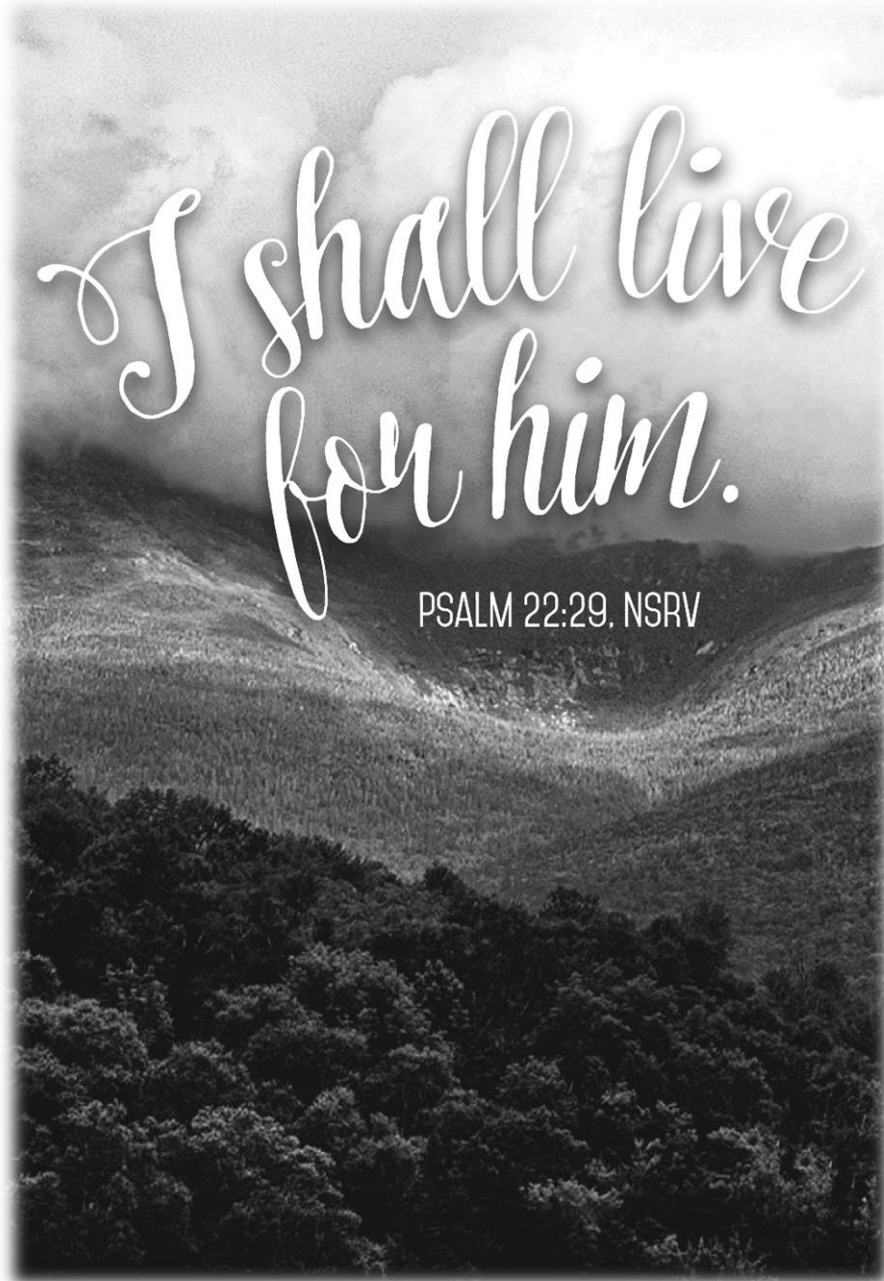


St. James Lutheran Church

Our Mission

Welcoming all people to abide in Christ, to experience God's love, and to do God's work in the world around us.



Season of Easter
Welcome to our Service

Please rise or remain seated as you are able. Congregation responds with indented bold printed parts. Where you see † you may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked on our forehead at baptism.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

We have been given the promise of forgiveness through Jesus' selfless act on the cross. In the light of that promise, let us take time for silent reflection on the ways we do not live in the light of God's love.

Time for silent reflection

Almighty God,

we are in need of your forgiveness. You have asked us to love you with our whole heart, soul and mind. Yet, we find that there are times we love our pleasures and possessions more than you.

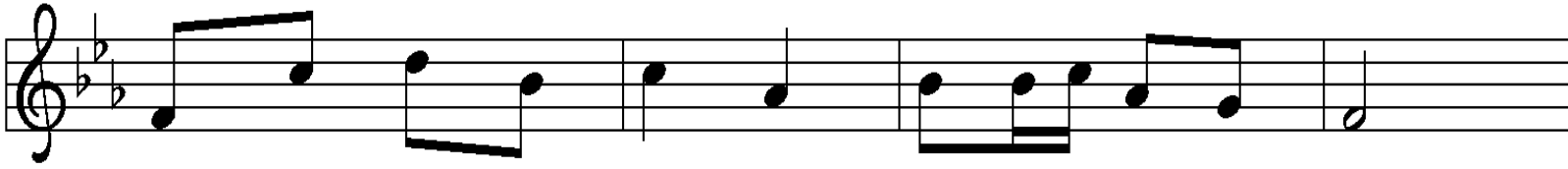
You have asked us to love others as you have loved us. Yet, we find that we withhold our love from others, even though we expect you to not withhold yours.

Because we have not loved as you have called us to love, we have sinned against you, and our brothers and sisters. We humbly ask for your forgiveness.

God shows abundant love and mercy for us. Through the power of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, God washes us clean of our sin. We are forgiven.

Amen

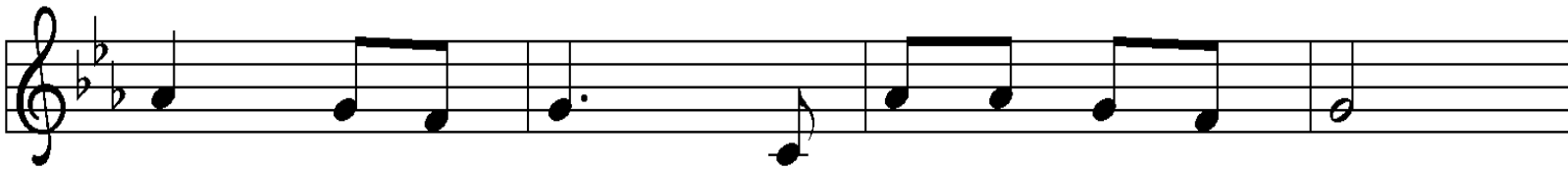
Now the Green Blade Rises



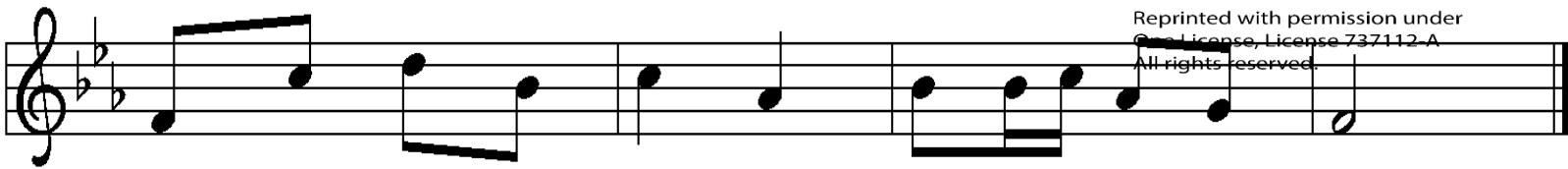
1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

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Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

PRAYER OF DAY

Let us Pray

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

THE FIRST READING IS WRITTEN IN THE 8TH CHAPTER OF ACTS.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a wilderness road. So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the

water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Hear what the Spirit is Saying to God's People. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

WE WILL READ PSALM 22 RESPONSIVELY.

From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

THE SECOND READING IS WRITTEN IN THE 4TH CHAPTER OF 1 JOHN.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify

that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. Hear what the Spirit is Saying to God's People. **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE 15TH CHAPTER OF JOHN.

Glory to you, O Lord.

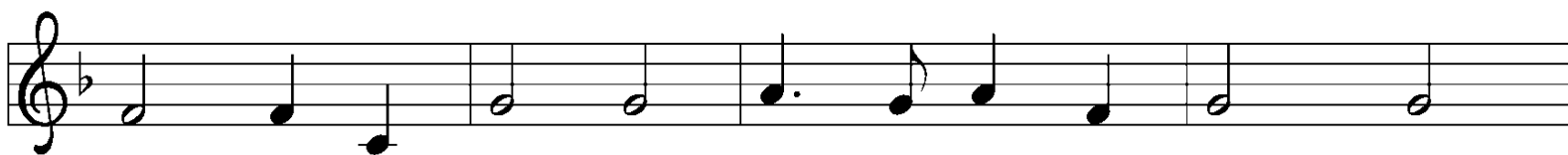
Jesus said "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch 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."

Hear what the Spirit is Saying to God's People. **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

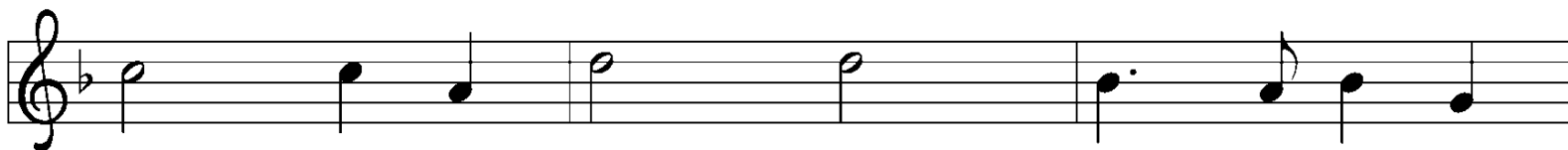
There in God's Garden



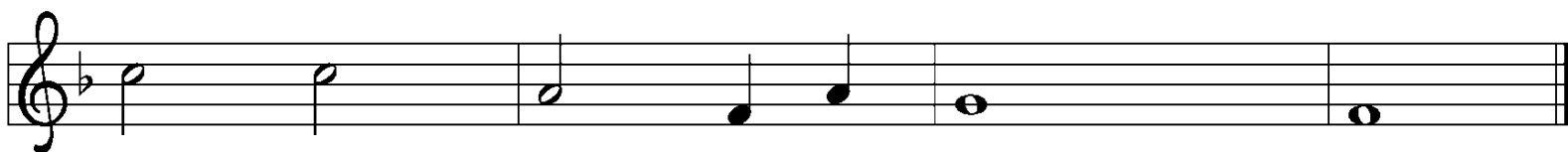
1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
self - hood feed on its life - blood.
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: SHADES MOUNTAIN, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

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Please rise or remain seated as able.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

And born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,

And is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, The holy catholic church,

The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*At end of each prayer when the pastor says: God of grace,
the response is: **Hear our prayer.***

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Jesus came to bring God's Peace to the earth. May that same peace be with you always.

And also with you.

You may share the peace with those around you as you feel comfortable and with the words: "The Peace of Christ be with you."

OFFERING

Please be seated as the communion table is prepared. Please remember to place your offering in the tray as you leave. Your gifts of thankfulness to God help us to share the Good News of God's love.

OFFERTORY - GIVE THANKS

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the holy one

Give thanks because we're given

Jesus Christ, God's son (repeat)

And now let the weak say "I am strong"

Let the poor say "I am rich

Because of what the lord

Has done for us" (repeat)

Give thanks (repeat 3x)

Please rise or remain seated as able.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

In humble sacrifice, Christ offered himself on the cross in wondrous love for us.

In mercy and compassion Christ offered us his body and blood that we might know God's forgiveness.

And so we again listen to Christ's Words, when on the night of his betrayal, Christ took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: *"Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."*

Again, after supper, Christ took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: *"Take and drink, this is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray in a manner as our Lord taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

Amen.

Please be seated. As a church of the ELCA we welcome all people to the table to receive our Lord's meal. Come forward to receive an empty cup from the tray. Then come forward to receive the wafer and wine (or grape juice). If you prefer, pre-packaged cups are available (Gluten free is available and have printing on them).

SHARING OUR LORD'S SUPPER

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior strengthen and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

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Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937
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DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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Please Pray for: Dolores Fiori, Laura Librizzi, Claire Gilmore, Joan & Marx Heller, Diane Eby, Winnie Ziegler, Hannah Bonchi, Margaret Rea, Linda Kisby, Erika Warriner, Jennifer Johnson, Rita Ricca, Lee Phillips, Don and Betty Haines, Dorcas Schellhas, Henry Butterhof, Bette Jackson, Maggie Rider, Marlene Triggian, Toni Marinelli, Bob & Ellie Frietag, Ed Shine, Christina Spahn, George Cappucio, Karin Cerrato, Jessica Lewis, Dan P., Louie Rider, Tom Dixon, Arlene Calletta, Ed Volpa, Mike Fountas, Nick Pobletti, Arlene Deptula, Sophie Stites, Thomas Rose, Linda Slater, Mike Gigliotti, Annette Scipione, Baby Octavia Marie Kozole, John Thame, George Castine, Ken Ausborn, Holly & Tom Kiernan, Chip Stewart, Rose Jones, Trish Martin, Joe Chille.

**For the NJ Synod, for Bishop Bartholomew and staff,
and the ELCA, for Bishop Eaton and staff,
and all our ministries.**

The Prayer List is available in the Narthex - – You may submit names after receiving the person’s permission for their name to be shared publicly. Each month, the list is created anew, and you may resubmit name(s). Please share your name so we may follow up on the progress of your loved one.

**Office Hours: Wednesdays & Thursdays 9:30-1:00
Please call to see if secretary is available.
Church office 609-561-4488**

Ministers	All the People of God
Pastor Pamela J. Werner	609-335-3083
Pastor’s Email	laffinggal@comcast.net
Amanda Dilks	Secretary
Church Email	stjameslutheran@folsom.comcastbiz.net
Web	www.stjamesfolsom.org
Organists	Maria Doukhnaï & Matt DiDonato



**THE ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN MEMORY
OF SPLENDORA EBY
BY CHARLES, DIANE & ELIZABETH EBY**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SUN. APRIL 28 11:00 AM THRIVENT PRESENTATION AND
REFRESHMENTS WITH GLENN STEWART
- WED. MAY 1 7:00 PM EVENING WORSHIP
- THUR. MAY 2 7:00 PM BOOK STUDY
- SUN. MAY 5 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL/CONFIRMATION
10:00 AM WORSHIP
11:00 AM PAINTING HEARTS FOR PRIDE
EVENT
- WED. MAY 8 **176 YEARS OF MINISTRY
AT ST. JAMES / ST. JACOBUS**
7:00 PM EVENING WORSHIP
- THU. MAY 9 7:30 PM BOOK STUDY



HEARTS FOR PRIDE – Join us after worship on Sundays in May to help paint hearts to hand out at Pride in the Park. Send messages of love to LGBTQ youth and adults; share the good news of Christ’s love.

We need your help: Each week we need people to help set up and clean our communion ware, plus people who are willing to assist with communion. We also need readers (scriptures are sent out prior so that you can read over them.) We will train you. Please help. Thank you.

Worship Ministers	This Week: 04/28/24	Next Week: 05/05/24
Reader	Michael Hozik	Fred Tichy
Communion Assistants	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Altar Guild	Betty Pollock	Volunteers Needed



SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

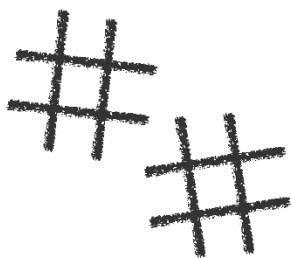
Can you find ten (10) differences between these two vineyard pictures?

TRY IT AT HOME!

Taste test different kinds of grapes and find out which one is your favorite!

Did You Know?

The oldest known winery was discovered in Armenia. They were making wine there more than 6,000 years ago!



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KidStuff

By Clergy Stuff

RCL Kid's Bulletin

April 28, 2024

John 15:1-8

Vine and Branches

Jesus told his friends, "I am the vine and you are the branches."

"You don't look like a vine," James said, squinting.

Mary shook her head. "He's not an actual vine. It means something else."

"Yes," Jesus said with a grin. "Think about a grapevine. The branches need the water and food from the vine in order to grow the grapes."

"Okay," said James. "We get what we need from you so that we can...wait...make grapes?"

Jesus laughed. "You bear fruit. That means you show love for God and all people and creation in everything you do."

Mary said, "We're connected to you, and you're connected to us, and that's how we can do God's work in the world."

"Yep," said Jesus.

"That makes a lot more sense now," said James.



REMEMBER THIS

GRAPES

Grapes were very important in Jesus' time. They were used to make wine.

Draw & Color

Color the grapes and the wine press.
Make it a beautiful vineyard!

