

WEDNESDAY EASTER 5

First Reading: Acts 15:1-6;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 122: 1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5;

Gospel Reading: Jn 15: 1-8.

THEME: The Fruits of Discipleship

The first reading tells us about a decisive factor in the determination of who becomes a follower of the Risen Lord: discipleship is not determined by following the Law of Moses such as circumcision. It mainly through faith in the Risen Lord.

The Risen Lord, the great teacher used various images, analogies, and comparisons to bring to the experiences of his listeners about who he is and the kind of life that he offers his followers. There is a very close relationship between every tree and its branches. The stem of the tree is the source of nourishment for the branches. When cut off, branches cannot survive.

Our relationship with God through Baptism makes us very close but dependent on Jesus Christ, the only means (Way) to the life of heaven. We cannot say we are spiritual without being united with the Body of Christ, the Church, and the Saints. We will wither and die spiritually. We need to be nourished by Christ in his Word, Church through the Sacraments, and Holy Spirit.

Anything that does not promote our spiritual growth, needs to be trimmed so that we can produce works of charity like the Blessed Virgin Mary in her fiat, visit to Elizabeth, and corporal work of mercy. Today we honor our Mother Mary for revealing herself in Portugal on this date in 1917. Mary's apparitions are some of the fruits of her witness to her Risen Son. May she continue to pray for the unity of the Body of Christ and our troubled times.

By Fr. Sev Kupo, Associate Pastor

