



Season of the Spirit

LWF Communion Prayer
for Pentecost 2020

Trinity Sunday, 7 June



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

Introduction

Welcome to ordinary time! The liturgical season of Pentecost is called “ordinary” because the weeks are ordered, or numbered. Some of our churches order these weeks according to the Sundays after Pentecost, some after Trinity Sunday, and others, until the start of Advent, and a new liturgical year. This season is replete with stories of the early church, and the ways in which the Holy Spirit calls, enlightens and equips the Church to participate in the ministry of reconciliation begun in Jesus Christ. Though it is called *ordinary*, the season of Pentecost is rather extraordinary!

Pentecost is a Season of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples like tongues of fire, giving the ability to be understood in diverse languages. In a great reversal of the Tower of Babel story (Genesis 11) the story of Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit equips illuminates a diversity of gifts. As a priesthood of all believers, each of us is uniquely gifted to live out our baptismal vocation. During this season, there are also a diversity of church festivals, such as Trinity Sunday, Holy Cross Day, All Saints and All Souls, and the Reign of Christ. The Pentecost season also leads into the 16 Days of Action against Gender Based Violence, where we profess the image of God and the breath of the Spirit in each human being.

Pentecost is a green time. The prominent liturgical color of this season is green, which signifies growth in many cultures. In some parts of the globe this is the growing season. But regardless of what hemisphere in which we live, Pentecost is a season to focus on the work of the Spirit who nurtures our gifts to bear fruit. In these weeks we mark the Season of Creation (*1 September – 4 October*). This is a time to give thanks for all creation, and the Holy Spirit who renews the face of the earth, and our vocation to till and keep this garden in a sustainable and just peace.

The ongoing experience of a global pandemic reminds us of our common nature, and the vulnerabilities and limits of being a creature. May Pentecost be for us a hopeful season to remember the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We offer this resource to our global Lutheran communion, as a way to be in the solidarity of prayer during this Season of the Spirit. Daily prayer follows a simple order: psalmody and prayer. Prayers can be adapted for use in your practice of prayer: singing songs, adding your prayers, or any liturgical acts that are meaningful in your context. In addition to the texts, which follow the Revised Common Lectionary, you will notice that each week contains a meditation on the Sunday text.

We commend these prayers to your use, whether alone in your home, as a family, or as your community is able to gather at a distance. As you pray in solidarity with the

communion across the globe, and the communion of saints in all times and places, be encouraged by the counsel that Luther offers in his letter, *A Simple Way to Pray*:

“Never think that you are kneeling or standing alone, rather think that the whole of the Church...are standing there beside you and you are standing among them in a common, united petition which God cannot disdain. There we find God the Creator, God the Redeemer, God the Holy Spirit, that is, God who daily sanctifies us.”

And throughout this green time, may the Spirit of God bring forth new growth in you.

Prayers are from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Augsburg Fortress, 2006. All scriptural texts are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). The daily lectionary of the Revised Common Lectionary is followed.

Trinity Sunday, 7 June 2020

Opening

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Let your ways be known upon earth,
Your saving power among the nations.

Psalmody: Psalm 8

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
***You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!***

Word

Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Meditation

In churches across the Lutheran communion, the Sunday following Pentecost is Trinity Sunday. Other Sundays in the church calendar commemorate an event in the life of Jesus or the early Church. But this Sunday focuses on the Holy Trinity: God the Creator, God the Incarnate Redeemer, God the sustaining Spirit of life.

Christians profess our faith in the Triune God in the words of the ecumenical creeds. It is the faith in which we baptize. But it has always been difficult to find the language to describe the Trinity. The Bible, liturgies of the Church, our catechisms and songs are full of metaphors to describe this mystery: Wisdom who dances and delights over the Earth, God as mother protecting her young, God as father dandling the child on his knee, God as breath, fire, wind, dove. God is like all these things, and so much more.

Ultimately, the Trinity is a community of Love. Father, Son, Spirit, Mother, Creator, Reconciler, Sustainer all describe a relationship. Relationships give birth to new life. Relationships are willing to hold what is broken and do what it takes to heal. Relationships sustain life. All this is the work of God who is Love and whose mission is to love. To proclaim a Trinity is to entrust your life to this relationship of Divine Love.

Today, we are acutely aware of broken relationships. We feel isolated from one another and from the Earth. We experience the pain and the cycles of violence that result from the abuse of power-over our neighbor. But we profess a faith in a relationship of perfect Love that refuses to let go. A compelling Love that never dominates, but liberates. A non-violent Love whose almighty power is perfected in mutuality. A compassionate Love that knows how to hold pain, and to transform grief into song. A Love whose Spirit calls, gathers, and enlightens, so that we may continue the ministry of reconciliation begun in Christ Jesus.

No matter what situation or relationships in which you are found this Sunday, take heart knowing you are baptized in the name of this Holy Trinity, who claims you with a promise, and washes you in a water that rolls down strongly enough to establish justice, yet gently enough to nurture the fields to bear fruit. You are marked with the cross of Christ, and sealed by the Spirit into this relationship of Holy Love.

Prayer

God of delight,
your Wisdom sings your Word
at the crossroads where humanity and divinity meet.
Invite us into your joyful being
where you know and are known
in each beginning,
in all sustenance,
in every redemption,
that we may manifest your unity
in the diverse ministries you entrust to us,
truly reflecting your triune majesty
in the faith that acts,
in the hope that does not disappoint,
and in the love that endures. Amen.

Our Father in heaven ...

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless us and direct our days and our deeds in peace.

Amen.

Monday, 8 June 2020

Opening

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.

Psalmody: Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
***the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.***

The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
***the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.***

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
***and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"***

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Word

1 Corinthians 12:1-3

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore, I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

God of delight,
your Wisdom sings your Word
at the crossroads where humanity and divinity meet.
Invite us into your joyful being
where you know and are known
in each beginning,
in all sustenance,
in every redemption,
that we may manifest your unity
in the diverse ministries you entrust to us,
truly reflecting your triune majesty
in the faith that acts,
in the hope that does not disappoint,
and in the love that endures. Amen.

Our Father in heaven ...

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless us and direct our days and our deeds in peace.

Amen.

Tuesday, 9 June 2020

Opening

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.

Psalmody: Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
**the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.**

The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
**the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
**and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"**

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Word

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Prayer

God of delight,
your Wisdom sings your Word
at the crossroads where humanity and divinity meet.
Invite us into your joyful being
where you know and are known
in each beginning,
in all sustenance,
in every redemption,
that we may manifest your unity
in the diverse ministries you entrust to us,
truly reflecting your triune majesty
in the faith that acts,
in the hope that does not disappoint,
and in the love that endures. Amen.

Our Father in heaven ...

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless us and direct our days and our deeds in peace.

Amen.

Wednesday, 10 June 2020

Opening

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.

Psalmody: Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
**the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.**

The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
**the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
**and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"**

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Word

John 14:25-26

Jesus said, “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.”

Prayer

God of delight,
your Wisdom sings your Word
at the crossroads where humanity and divinity meet.
Invite us into your joyful being
where you know and are known
in each beginning,
in all sustenance,
in every redemption,
that we may manifest your unity
in the diverse ministries you entrust to us,
truly reflecting your triune majesty
in the faith that acts,
in the hope that does not disappoint,
and in the love that endures. Amen.

Our Father in heaven ...

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless us and direct our days and our deeds in peace.

Amen.

Thursday, 11 June 2020

Opening

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.

Psalmody: Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

***Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.***

Know that the Lord is God.

***It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.***

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

***and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.***

For the Lord is good;

***his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.***

Word

Hebrews 3:1-6

Therefore, brothers and sisters, holy partners in a heavenly calling, consider that Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses also “was faithful in all God’s house.” Yet Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that would be spoken later. Christ, however, was faithful over God’s house as a son, and we are his house if we hold firm the confidence and the pride that belong to hope.

Prayer

God, whose fingers sculpt sun and moon
and curl the baby’s ear;
Spirit, brooding over chaos
before the naming of day;
Savior, sending us to earth’s ends
with water and words:
startle us with the grace, love, and communion
of your unity in diversity,
that we may live to the praise of your majestic name. Amen.

Our Father in heaven ...

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless us and direct our days and our deeds in peace.

Amen.

Friday, 12 June 2020

Opening

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.

Psalmody: Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

***Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.***

Know that the Lord is God.

***It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.***

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

***and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.***

For the Lord is good;

***his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.***

Word

Exodus 4:27-31

The LORD said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went; and he met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD with which he had sent him, and all the signs with which he had charged him. Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the Israelites. Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses, and performed the signs in the sight of the people. The people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had given heed to the Israelites and that he had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

Prayer

God, whose fingers sculpt sun and moon
and curl the baby's ear;
Spirit, brooding over chaos
before the naming of day;
Savior, sending us to earth's ends
with water and words:
startle us with the grace, love, and communion
of your unity in diversity,
that we may live to the praise of your majestic name. Amen.

Our Father in heaven ...

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless us and direct our days and our deeds in peace.

Amen.

Saturday, 13 June 2020

Opening

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.

Psalmody: Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

***Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.***

Know that the Lord is God.

***It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.***

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

***and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.***

For the Lord is good;

***his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.***

Word

Exodus 7:5-6

The LORD said to Moses, “The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out from among them.” Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the LORD commanded them.

Prayer

God, whose fingers sculpt sun and moon
and curl the baby’s ear;
Spirit, brooding over chaos
before the naming of day;
Savior, sending us to earth’s ends
with water and words:
startle us with the grace, love, and communion
of your unity in diversity,
that we may live to the praise of your majestic name. Amen.

Our Father in heaven ...

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless us and direct our days and our deeds in peace.

Amen.