

Morning Prayer and Bible Study, Monday, 2 July

Liturgist: Ms Sally Azar, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

We open with the sound of a gong or singing bowl

Psalm 18:

God my friend,
You give me strength.

God, my shield, my help,
You watch over me.

You bring me out into a broad place
Because you delight in me.

It is you who light my lamp.
You light up my darkness.

By you, God, I can leap over a wall.
For this I will extol you in the morning and in the evening, now and always. Amen.

We sing (1st verse in Swahili)

Wilson Niwagila: Tanzania

Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho Mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji - wa - tu. Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi-
Come a - mong us, lov - ing Spir - it, touch us and make us whole. Show us glimps - ses of the

Refrain

ngu - ni. Tu - we wa - tu wa - pya. Njo - o, njo - o, njoo, Ro - ho Mwe - ma.
King - dom, use us to spread its rule. Lov - ing Spir - it, fill us with your life.

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2. Utufanye waamini Wa Yesu Mwokozi.
Tukaishi kikundini, Kanisani mwako.

3. Roho Mwema, Mfariji, Utupe hekima;
Tukiwaza na kutenda, Yote yawe yako.

4. Tudumisha, tuwe hai Na ukweli wako.
Tusivutwe na dunia, Tushu'die neema.

2. Loving Spirit, come and kindle faith in our Lord, God's Son.
Make your people in their worship and in their action one.

3. Loving Spirit, let your wisdom guide what we think and do.
Make us willing and responsive as you make all things new.

4. From the grip of fear and conflict, Spirit, your world release.
Help your people to discover things that will make for peace.

Let us pray,

We are grateful for the gift of each body gathered here this morning. We give you thanks for the gifts that you give, and the many ways in which we receive them. Today we thank you for our sense of touch. You placed your hands on the infirm and reached out to the marginalized. You restored the untouchable with a gracious touch. We sense your incarnate presence when we extend the hand of peace, or share a comforting embrace. We reject violence in all forms: Gender Based Violence, sexual abuse, trafficking, marginalization or the exploitation that abuse the precious

bodies that you have made. We pray that your Spirit would restore right relationships, transforming them to embody healthy sexuality, respectful, loving touch that honours the dignity of each body regardless of ability, color, or shape.

God, your gift of touch can heal us
Through a hug or kind embrace.
When we share the peace you give us,
It can change us, by your grace.
When we offer prayers for healing,
Laying hands on those in need,
By your loving, gentle caring,
Those who hurt are blessed and freed.

Bible reading and study

Bishop Jack Urame, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea

Gal 5:13-18, 22-26

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law...By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

Group Discussions

Prayers

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

We thank you, God, for the night's rest, for the hours of sleep and dream.

Open our minds and hearts to all we meet today.

We are one with each other.

Show us the people to serve and the work we are to do.

We cannot live by ourselves.

God, be near us and lift us up.

Walk with us,

Step by step, hour by hour.

We pray to God, our light and salvation, in the words Jesus taught us, each in our own language.

Our Father in heaven...

We sing

Galatians 5:1 Luis Olivieri: Puerto Rico

For free - dom Christ has set us free. For free - dom Christ has set us free. Stand firm there-
fore, and nev - er a - gain put on, and nev - er a - gain put on the yoke of sla - ve - ry.

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Gracious God, we thank You, through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, that You kept us safe from all evil and danger last night. Save us, we pray, today as well, from every evil and sin, so that all we do and the way that we live will please you. We put ourselves in your care, body and soul and all that we have. Let Your holy Angels be with us, so that the evil one will not gain power over us. Amen.

Benediction

Sending

May the God of creation, incarnation and redemption,
sharpen our senses

so that we may continue to discern God's loving presence,
freely receive

the blessings of life,
and freely share

the joy of God's reconciling love.
Thanks be to God!