Morning Prayer and Bible Study
Friday 14 June

This week in the ecumenical prayer cycle, we pray for Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Liturgist: Rev. Thuridur Björg Wiium Árnadóttir
Bible study: Bishop Jensen Seyenkulo

Opening

Gathering Hymn: “Listen for the Call of God”

1. Listen for the call of God, ringing through the morning air:
2. Listen for the call of God, whispering in our dreaming gifts,
3. Listen for the call of God, soaring through the evening skies,
4. Listen for the call of God, steady through our nights and days,

Steeple bell or muezzin cry, bidding people, “Come to prayer.”
of-fring grace, freely shared, crafting beauty that uplifts.
hovering angels, rushing wings, herald voices, restless sighs.
 Sanctifying work and prayer, shaping all our life to praise.

Feel the rhythmic pulse that thrums through the chant of beating drums.
Heed the Spirit’s guiding voice, singing through our deepest joys.
Starlight music fills the earth, drawing hearts to wondrous birth.
Varied earthly tasks fulfill aspects of one heavenly will.

Tribes and nations, one and all, hush and listen: hear the call!
Artists, builders, one and all, hush and listen: hear the call!
Sages dreamers, one and all, hush and listen: hear the call!
Saints and stewards, one and all, hush and listen: hear the call!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, 2002; © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622-1702 (text was originally set to the tune: ABERYSTWYTH; Joseph Parry, 1841-1903)
Confession:

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence may be kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
Response: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Amen.

Chant:

Psalm 46 (read alternately between presider and people)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

God makes wars cease to the end of the earth; God breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; God burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Word

A reading from the of Gospel of Mark 9:1-8:
And Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.” Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” 6He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

Word of God! Word of life!
Thanks be to God!

Meditation: Bible reading and study
Leader: Bishop Jensen Seyenkulo

Group Discussions
We sing as we gather together for prayer...

Listen, God Is Calling

Neno lake Mungu

Refrain

Listen, listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
Neno, ne-no la ke Mu-ngu la-ku-i-ta we-we,
of-fering for-give-ness, com-fort, and joy.

Intercessions

By your birth and poverty, your fasting and temptations, by your anguish and all your suffering. Lamb of God...

Show us your face.

By your wounds and death, your descent from the cross and your rest in the tomb. Lamb of God...

Show us your face.
In the suffering of our neighbor, in the naked and hungry, in the homeless and refuge, Lamb of God…

Show us your face.

In the midst of strife and warfare, through violence and destruction, open a way of peace. Lamb of God…

Show us your face.

In your suffering, reveal to us the mystery of your love,
In your baptism through death, light a fire on earth,
In your tears, give us consolation and strength. Lamb of God…

Show us your face.

In your broken body and blood poured out for us, sustain us. Lamb of God…

Show us your face.

[brief silence]

O God, look upon your family. For us, Jesus Christ did not hesitate to suffer the agony of the cross, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

Amen.

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

Our Father in heaven…
**Blessing**

May the God of hope – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (+) – fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Romans 15:13) **Amen.**