



Season of the Spirit

LWF Communion Prayer
for Pentecost 2020



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

2nd Sunday after Pentecost, 14 June

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 and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers, Augsburg Fortress, 2002. All scriptural texts are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). The daily lectionary of the Revised Common Lectionary is followed.

About the cover photo:

30 May 2019, Mokolo, Cameroon: Aisha Bukar (left) and Hawa Harona (right) place a tray of fresh charcoal briquettes in the sun to dry. At the Minawao camp hosting 58,000 refugees from Nigeria, degradable and non-degradable waste are separated, so that biomass can be burnt in metal containers, processed and finally transformed into charcoal briquettes as a source of recycled energy to be used for cooking. The full process from waste to charcoal is managed and run by the refugees themselves, with support from the LWF and other partners. Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert

Sunday, 14 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

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.***

– Psalm 100

Word

Matthew 9:35-10:8

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Meditation

Jesus was not only a miracle worker going around performing signs and wonders everywhere he set foot; he was not merely an announcer of good news and an authoritative teacher who amazed his audience – he was more. He ‘saw’ the deepest need of the crowds, he ‘saw’ that they were a people ‘harassed and helpless’: tormented, oppressed, put down, vulnerable, and in genuine need to be freed from subjugation. Furthermore, he ‘saw’ that they were ‘like a sheep without a shepherd’: leaderless, confused and wandering without direction.

When Jesus looks at our lives and our world today, where does he zoom in to pay attention to? A quick scan might include victims of police brutality, refugees and internally displaced persons trapped in camps, farmers with heads down after their crops have been destroyed by locusts, crying mothers who have lost their children because of a flash flood, violence in homes and between warring factions in battle zones often unreported to the public, and a world weighed down by the impact of a pandemic that doesn’t seem to be disappearing soon.

More than a distant grand observer, his laser-like focus is motivated by a heart of compassion for the crowd – a heart that is overturned at the gut level. He genuinely cares for people in need like a good shepherd cares for his sheep. Unlike many political leaders driven by self-interests or the interests of strong lobbies, Jesus shows genuine interest in those who were ‘harassed and helpless’. Connecting to this Jesus lifts us up when we are downtrodden; for the comfortable, this compassionate Jesus moves us to ‘see’ what he sees and maybe do more.

What else does he see today? A world under judgment ready to close shop? He sees a harvest that needs laborers because this world is not finished yet. Jesus is not calling for the angels to execute judgement and close the final accounts of human history, he invites new co-workers to extend his mission in rolling out his rescue package for humankind. It is not over yet. Prayer is a must, no doubt about that. Rather than a distant future, the answer to prayer often is one sentence away. Today, the next sentence includes our names too. Like the mixed collection of imperfect disciples, we too are empowered by the Spirit to proclaim the good news of God’s dream for our world, bring healing to the sick, and work for justice and freedom. Freely we have received, now we freely give.

Prayer

God of the prophets and apostles,
you greeted old Abraham and Sarah
with news of wonder and life.
Send us into the world
to preach good news, as Jesus did,
heal the sick,
resist evil,
and bring the outcast home.
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, 15 June 2020

Opening

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Sing to the Lord, sing praises to our God;
tell of all God's wonderful works.

Psalmody

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,
O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

He is the Lord our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.
He is mindful of his covenant forever,
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac,
which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan

as your portion for an inheritance."

– *Psalm 105:1-11*

Word

Joshua 1:8-9

This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the **LORD** your God is with you wherever you go."

Prayer

God of the prophets and apostles,
you greeted old Abraham and Sarah
with news of wonder and life.
Send us into the world
to preach good news, as Jesus did,
heal the sick,
resist evil,
and bring the outcast home.

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, 16 June 2020

Opening

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Sing to the Lord, sing praises to our God;
tell of all God's wonderful works.

Psalmody

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,
O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

He is the Lord our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.
He is mindful of his covenant forever,
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac,
which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan

as your portion for an inheritance."

– *Psalm 105:1-11*

Word

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Prayer

God of the prophets and apostles,
you greeted old Abraham and Sarah
with news of wonder and life.

Send us into the world
to preach good news, as Jesus did,
heal the sick,
resist evil,
and bring the outcast home.

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, 17 June 2020

Opening

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Sing to the Lord, sing praises to our God;
tell of all God's wonderful works.

Psalmody

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,
O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

He is the Lord our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.
He is mindful of his covenant forever,
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac,
which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance.”

- Psalm 105:1-11

Word

Luke 6:17-19

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Prayer

God of the prophets and apostles,
you greeted old Abraham and Sarah
with news of wonder and life.
Send us into the world
to preach good news, as Jesus did,
heal the sick,
resist evil,
and bring the outcast home.

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, 18 June 2020

Opening

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Sing to the Lord, sing praises to our God;
tell of all God's wonderful works.

Psalmody

It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,
that shame has covered my face.

***have become a stranger to my kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.***

It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.
When I humbled my soul with fasting,
they insulted me for doing so.

Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good;
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.
Do not hide your face from your servant,
for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.
Draw near to me, redeem me,
set me free because of my enemies.

– *Psalm 69:7-10; 16-18*

Word

Hebrews 2:8b-9

As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Prayer

Through dreams and visions, O God,
you broaden the horizon and hope of your people,
that they may discover the meaning of your covenant,
even in the midst of trial and exile.

Increase the number of those who believe in your word
so that all people may joyfully respond to your call
and share in your promises.

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, 19 June 2020

Opening

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Sing to the Lord, sing praises to our God;
tell of all God's wonderful works.

Psalmody

It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,
that shame has covered my face.

***have become a stranger to my kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.***

It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.
When I humbled my soul with fasting,
they insulted me for doing so.

Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good;
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.
Do not hide your face from your servant,
for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.
Draw near to me, redeem me,
set me free because of my enemies.
– *Psalm 69:7-10; 16-18*

Word

Acts 5:17-21

Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Saducees), being filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, “Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life.” When they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and went on with their teaching.

Prayer

Through dreams and visions, O God,
you broaden the horizon and hope of your people,
that they may discover the meaning of your covenant,
even in the midst of trial and exile.

Increase the number of those who believe in your word
so that all people may joyfully respond to your call
and share in your promises.

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, 20 June 2020

Opening

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Sing to the Lord, sing praises to our God;
tell of all God's wonderful works.

Psalmody

It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,
that shame has covered my face.

***have become a stranger to my kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.***

It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.
When I humbled my soul with fasting,
they insulted me for doing so.

Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good;
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.
Do not hide your face from your servant,
for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.
Draw near to me, redeem me,
set me free because of my enemies.

– *Psalm 69:7-10; 16-18*

Word

Luke 12:2-3

Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops.

Prayer

Through dreams and visions, O God,
you broaden the horizon and hope of your people,
that they may discover the meaning of your covenant,
even in the midst of trial and exile.

Increase the number of those who believe in your word
so that all people may joyfully respond to your call
and share in your promises.

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.