

HIMNARIO EVANGÉLICO
LUTERANO

Season of the Spirit

LWF Communion Prayer
for Pentecost 2020



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

Week 10 – Ninth Week after Pentecost

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.

Sunday, 2 August 2020

Psalmody

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

The Lord upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.

The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.

The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

– *Psalm 145:8-9,14-21*

Word

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Meditation

The way of new creation reveals God's extraordinary justice and mercy which is beyond any measure we know. The gesture of welcome opens up to a generosity that surpasses all human calculations and expectations. In the coming Kingdom, generosity itself multiplies and grows such that even the smallest amount has an incredible impact as we heard in the parables of the mustard seed that grows into the tallest of shrubs.

We are invited into this amazing dynamic with the little that we have, even just five loaves and two fish. The extraordinary of God comes to the forefront in the feeding of the 5000 that defies all human (and market!) calculations. God is the One who is doing something and invites us to see and hear and most importantly to participate.

The passage this week begins with Jesus' retreat. He withdraws himself to a deserted place. In the desert, in the wilderness – and we can say, in our current wilderness shaped by physical distancing and imposed isolation – Jesus is always present. The empty and lonely space that can be oppressive and discouraging is also a space of prayer, a prayer that is attentive and which listens both to God and to neighbor.

Jesus has compassion on the crowd, the hungry and thirsting crowd. The generosity of God touches the crowd and heals. The generosity of God engages all neighbors with whatever they have and the extraordinary takes place: all are satisfied. We too are called

to participate in this gospel generosity with whatever we have, wherever we are, and whoever we are. We are called to participate as community and with all our neighbors.

Prayer

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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, 3 August 2020

Psalmody

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.

He established a decree in Jacob,
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children;
that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,
so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;
and that they should not be like their ancestors,
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,
whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Yet they sinned still more against him,
 rebellng against the Most High in the desert.
They tested God in their heart
 by demanding the food they craved.
They spoke against God, saying,
 “Can God spread a table in the wilderness?
Even though he struck the rock so that water gushed out
 and torrents overflowed,
can he also give bread,
 or provide meat for his people?”

Therefore, when the Lord heard, he was full of rage;
 a fire was kindled against Jacob,
 his anger mounted against Israel,
because they had no faith in God,
 and did not trust his saving power.
Yet he commanded the skies above,
 and opened the doors of heaven;
he rained down on them manna to eat,
 and gave them the grain of heaven.
Mortals ate of the bread of angels;
 he sent them food in abundance.
He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens,
 and by his power he led out the south wind;
he rained flesh upon them like dust,
 winged birds like the sand of the seas;
he let them fall within their camp,
 all around their dwellings.
And they ate and were well filled,
 for he gave them what they craved.

– *Psalm 78:1-8,17-29*

Word

Romans 1:8-15

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as I have among the rest of the Gentiles. I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish—hence my eagerness to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

Prayer

Merciful God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken faith within us, strengthen it through community and in mutual support of one another; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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, 4 August 2020

Psalmody

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.
We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.

He established a decree in Jacob,
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children;
that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,
so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;
and that they should not be like their ancestors,
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,
whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Yet they sinned still more against him,
 rebellng against the Most High in the desert.
They tested God in their heart
 by demanding the food they craved.
They spoke against God, saying,
 “Can God spread a table in the wilderness?
Even though he struck the rock so that water gushed out
 and torrents overflowed,
can he also give bread,
 or provide meat for his people?”

Therefore, when the Lord heard, he was full of rage;
 a fire was kindled against Jacob,
 his anger mounted against Israel,
because they had no faith in God,
 and did not trust his saving power.
Yet he commanded the skies above,
 and opened the doors of heaven;
he rained down on them manna to eat,
 and gave them the grain of heaven.
Mortals ate of the bread of angels;
 he sent them food in abundance.
He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens,
 and by his power he led out the south wind;
he rained flesh upon them like dust,
 winged birds like the sand of the seas;
he let them fall within their camp,
 all around their dwellings.
And they ate and were well filled,
 for he gave them what they craved.

– *Psalm 78:1-8,17-29*

Word

Act 2:37-42

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Prayer

Merciful God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken faith within us, strengthen and nurture it through your Word and sacraments. We ask this all through the power of your Holy Spirit and in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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, 5 August 2020

Psalmody

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.
We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.

He established a decree in Jacob,
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children;
that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,
so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;
and that they should not be like their ancestors,
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,
whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Yet they sinned still more against him,
 rebellng against the Most High in the desert.
They tested God in their heart
 by demanding the food they craved.
They spoke against God, saying,
 “Can God spread a table in the wilderness?
Even though he struck the rock so that water gushed out
 and torrents overflowed,
can he also give bread,
 or provide meat for his people?”

Therefore, when the Lord heard, he was full of rage;
 a fire was kindled against Jacob,
 his anger mounted against Israel,
because they had no faith in God,
 and did not trust his saving power.
Yet he commanded the skies above,
 and opened the doors of heaven;
he rained down on them manna to eat,
 and gave them the grain of heaven.
Mortals ate of the bread of angels;
 he sent them food in abundance.
He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens,
 and by his power he led out the south wind;
he rained flesh upon them like dust,
 winged birds like the sand of the seas;
he let them fall within their camp,
 all around their dwellings.
And they ate and were well filled,
 for he gave them what they craved.

– *Psalm 78:1-8,17-29*

Word

Matthew 15:32-39

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way." The disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?" Jesus asked them, "How many loaves have you?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. Those who had eaten were four thousand men, besides women and children. After sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan

Prayer

Generous God, your mercy waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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, 6 August 2020

Psalmody

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

– *Psalm 85:8-13*

Word

Acts 17:10-12

That very night the believers sent Paul and Silas off to Beroea; and when they arrived, they went to the Jewish synagogue. These Jews were more receptive than those in Thessalonica, for they welcomed the message very eagerly and examined the scriptures every day to see whether these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, including not a few Greek women and men of high standing.

Prayer

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your children from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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, 7 August 2020

Psalmody

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

– *Psalm 85:8-13*

Word

Acts 18:24-27

Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately. And when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the believers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. On his arrival he greatly helped those who through grace had become believers.

Prayer

O God our defender, teach us your Word that we may witness to your immeasurable goodness in all times and places. Deliver your children from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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, 8 August 2020

Psalmody

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

– *Psalm 85:8-13*

Word

Matthew 16:1-4

The Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test Jesus they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.” Then he left them and went away.

Prayer

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your children from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.