

Prayers and Readings for Sunday May 31, 2020 – Pentecost

PRAYER OF PREPARTION

Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INTRODUCTORY RESPONSES

God's love has been poured into our hearts.
We dwell in him and he in us.

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;
Make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him,
And speak of all his marvellous works.

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.**

INVITATORY PSALM

Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord renews the face of the earth:
O come, let us worship.

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God;
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his name.
For the Lord is good;**

**his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord renews the face of the earth:
O come, let us worship.

1ST READING- ACTS 2:1-21

***Introduction:** It's been 50 days since Jesus first showed his followers that he had risen the dead, and 10 days since his followers witnessed him ascend. Jewish pilgrims and gentile converts to Judaism have come to Jerusalem from all over the known world for the festival of Pentecost, a harvest celebration and a commemoration of God giving the Law to Moses at Mount Sinai. Meanwhile, Jesus' followers are gathered together in prayer as they await the coming of the Holy Spirit.*

A reading from ACTS 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs - in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"

Hear the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 104:25-35, 37

***Introduction:** In this psalm we are invited to both celebrate and call upon the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit for all of creation. I invite you to respond to each stanza with the refrain "Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth."*

O Lord, how manifold are your works! in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number, creatures both small and great.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, which you have made for the sport of it.
All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.

You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

You hide your face, and they are terrified; you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust. You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in all his works.
He looks at the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being.
May these words of mine please him; I will rejoice in the Lord.
Bless the Lord, O my soul. Hallelujah!

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

PRAYER AFTER THE PSALM

O God of eternal light, heaven and earth are the work of your hands, and all creation sings your praise and beauty. As in the beginning, by your Spirit, you gave life and order to all that is, so by the same Spirit redeem us and all things, through Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL- JOHN 7:37-39

Introduction: At another of the great pilgrimage festivals in Jerusalem, this time the Festival of Tabernacles, Jesus is in the Temple teaching. Many of the people have come to believe in him, but the religious authorities are opposed to his teachings and send servants to arrest him. With all of this controversy swirling around him, Jesus cries out to everyone in the Temple and offers them an incredible invitation.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to JOHN 7:37-39.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH-

Together let us proclaim the core of the Christian faith, shared by Christians throughout the ages and around the world, and expressed in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

In the power of the Spirit let us pray to the Father,
through Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.
We pray for all who follow the Way of Christ
and for the unity of all Christian people;
break down that which separates us from one another and from you,
that knowing your forgiveness we may share your love
with a needy world.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for those who hold positions of responsibility and power
both internationally and in our local communities;
may your Holy Spirit guide them in their decision-making,
so that paths of truth and justice may be open to everyone.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

We give you thanks and pray
for all who support and care for us as we follow the Way of Christ,
our families and friends,
and our fellow pilgrims along the way;
nourish us all with the words of life and the bread of heaven,
that we may worship you joyfully,
listen to you willingly
and serve you gladly.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for those who,
through sickness, misfortune or abuse,
feel that their lives are without meaning or direction;

surround them with your love,
and give wisdom and patience to all who support and guide them.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We thank you for the fullness of life you give us in Jesus Christ,
and for all whose lives have been an example of your truth
and life for us;
may our communion with them, and with all the saints,
nourish and support us on our earthly pilgrimage.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Amen.

CONFESSION-

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.

(psalm 103.8-18)

Let us humbly confess our sins to almighty God.

-silence is kept-

**Most merciful God,
we confess that 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 neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION-

Almighty God have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COLLECT-

Almighty and everliving God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal,
keep us in the unity of your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

LORD'S PRAYER-

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Together we say,
**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Let's go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.