Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church universal, for its ministries, and for the spread of the gospel. Shower your Spirit upon Sunday school students, confirmands, and the newly baptized (*especially*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the earth, our precious home. We give thanks for the diversity of plant and animal life on our planet. Empower us by your Spirit to be wise and faithful stewards of all you have made. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the nations and those who govern. Give those in authority understanding hearts, that they work together to bring justice and peace on earth. Grant all who vote in elections wisdom and discernment. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For those in need around the world: for victims of crimes, for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, for those who are incarcerated. For all who suffer in any way (*especially*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For this congregation and its ministries: for those who plan and lead worship, for acolytes and communion servers, for readers and tech ministers, for all who prepare and clean our worship space. May our worship be pleasing in your sight. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember the faithful departed. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us in the faith. At the last day, breathe new life into our dry bones, that we might feast forever with all the saints in light. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 104:24-34, 35b. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Helena, mother of Constantine, c. 330) 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. **Wednesday** Ezekiel 37:1-14. **Thursday** Psalm 29. **Friday** (commemoration of Nicolaus Copernicus, 1543; Leonhard Euler, 1783; scientists) Romans 8:9-11. **Saturday** John 15:18-20; 26-27. **The Holy Trinity** Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17.

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Celebrate

Day of Pentecost
May 19, 2024

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

Prayer of the Day

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 2:1-21

Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community bears witness to God's activity in multiple languages.

When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place.
2 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. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.
6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?
9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."
14 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. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:
17 '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.
18 Even upon my slaves, both men
and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
19 And I will show portents in the
heaven above

continued

Psalm

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; refrain, Ps. 104:30

How manifold are your | works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full | of your creatures.
[25]Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
with its swarms too man- | y to number,
living things both | small and great.
[26]There go the ships | to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the | sport of it.
[27]All of them | look to you
to give them their food | in due season. R
[28]You give it to them; they | gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled | with good things.
[29]When you hide your face, | they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return | to their dust.
[30]You send forth your Spirit, and they | are created;
and so you renew the face | of the earth.
[31]May the glory of the LORD en- | dure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in | all your works. R
[32]You look at the earth | and it trembles;
you touch the mountains | and they smoke.
[33]I will sing to the LORD as long | as I live;
I will praise my God while I | have my being.
[34]May these words of | mine please God.
I will rejoice | in the LORD.
[35b]Bless the LORD, | O my soul.
Hal- | lelujah! R

First Reading, continued

and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
[20]The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's
great and glorious day.
[21]Then everyone who calls on the name of
the Lord shall be saved.'"

or Ezekiel 37:1-14 [not printed]

The Hebrew word rendered as ruach *means "spirit," "wind," or "breath." This reading plays on the different meanings of the word. Just as the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision are given new life, flesh, and breath (or spirit), so God will give the exiles God's own spirit and will bring them home to the land of Israel.*

Second Reading

Romans 8:22-27

By pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts, God gives us the promised first fruit of eternal life so that we await God's future in hope. In the meantime, the Spirit also intercedes for us by carrying the prayers of our weak human hearts to God.

We know that the whole creation has been
groaning in labor pains until now; [23]and not
only the creation, but we ourselves, who have
the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly
while we wait for adoption, the redemption
of our bodies. [24]For in hope we were saved.
Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who
hopes for what is seen? [25]But if we hope
for what we do not see, we wait for it with
patience.
[26]Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weak-
ness; for we do not know how to pray as we
ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with
sighs too deep for words. [27]And God, who
searches the heart, knows what is the mind
of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes
for the saints according to the will of God.

or Acts 2:1-21 [printed on p. 1]

Gospel

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

While speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as "the Helper" and describes the difference the Spirit will make in their lives and in the world.

[Jesus said:] "When the Advocate comes,
whom I will send to you from the Father, the
Spirit of truth who comes from the Father,
he will testify on my behalf. [27]You also are to
testify because you have been with me from
the beginning.
[16:4b]"I did not say these things to you
from the beginning, because I was with
you. [5]But now I am going to him who sent
me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are
you going?' [6]But because I have said these
things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.
[7]Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to
your advantage that I go away, for if I do not
go away, the Advocate will not come to you;
but if I go, I will send him to you. [8]And when
he comes, he will prove the world wrong
about sin and righteousness and judgment:
[9]about sin, because they do not believe in
me; [10]about righteousness, because I am
going to the Father and you will see me no
longer; [11]about judgment, because the ruler
of this world has been condemned.
[12]"I still have many things to say to you,
but you cannot bear them now. [13]When the
Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into
all the truth; for he will not speak on his
own, but will speak whatever he hears, and
he will declare to you the things that are to
come. [14]He will glorify me, because he will
take what is mine and declare it to you. [15]All
that the Father has is mine. For this reason
I said that he will take what is mine and
declare it to you."