

Worship in the time of COVID-19

An order of worship for May 31, 2020

Day of Pentecost

Welcome by Pastor Kristen

Call to Worship: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

24How manifold are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

25Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,
living things both small and great.

26There go the ships to and fro,

and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

27All of them look to you

to give them their food in due season.

28You give it to them; they gather it;

you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

29When you hide your face, they are terrified;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

30You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;

and so you renew the face of the earth.

31May the glory of the Lord endure forever;

O Lord, rejoice in all your works.

32You look at the earth and it trembles;

you touch the mountains and they smoke.

33I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will praise my God while I have my being.

34May these words of mine please God.

I will rejoice in the Lord.

35bBless the Lord, O my soul.

Hallelujah!

Psalm Song: It's a New Day (Psalm 104)

Chorus: Breathe into the earth, Holy One, and renew us; it's a new day (x2)

1. The whole planet prospers in your care, thriving within your design
Your own trees, your rivers, and your birds, everything is satisfied

Chorus

2. All of life in rhythm with your breath, everything is in its place
All our days, our nights, our seasons turn, life and death and holy change

Chorus

3. We will sing for you for all our lives, sing as long as we have breath
We will sing for you for all our lives, sing as long as we have breath

Chorus

Prayer of the Day: O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Sermon

Acts 2:1-21

1When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. 2And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 12All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

14But 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. 15Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16No, 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.

18Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

19And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

20The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

21Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

Sermon

Hymn: Spirit of Gentleness

Refrain

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

**1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:**

"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." Refrain

**2 You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. Refrain**

- 3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. Refrain**
- 4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise. Refrain**

Blessing of the Masks

The CDC has recommended that everyone who is able to should wear a mask whenever they leave their home, especially if they may be interacting with others. According to their recommendation, wearing a mask can not only help the person wearing it from getting the coronavirus, but if the person is an asymptomatic carrier, a mask helps prevent them from spreading the coronavirus to others.

Therefore, wearing a mask is a way for us to care for ourselves and those around us. Jesus told us that the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and the second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself. As followers of Jesus, we are called to think about how our actions affect those around us. Wearing a mask is a simple way to love both yourself and your neighbor during this coronavirus pandemic.

So if you do not already have a mask, I encourage you to get one. If you do have one, please grab it and hold it while we offer this blessing.

Great Physician, Giver of All Life, may these masks we wear show your true face: a face of mercy and compassion, a face that loves others above ourselves, a face that protects the vulnerable and weak.

*As we wear these masks, save and protect us from danger that may come our way.
As we wear these masks, save and protect others from danger we may send their way,
even without meaning to.*

As once you hid your face from Moses, in order to reveal the glory of your presence, teach us to hide our outward faces, to reveal our inward love for the world, and the glory of your presence in us. Amen.

Peace Be With You video (“Peace be with you” in many languages”)

Prayers of Intercession

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We call on your spirit of unity, giving thanks for our different vocations. Activate and utilize the diverse gifts present in your church, that they reveal your love for all. Watch over and protect all those whose jobs put them at risk for catching Covid-19. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We call on your spirit of life, present in air, wind, humidity, storms, and oxygen in our atmosphere, breathing energy into all things. Heal with your breath the whole creation, especially those who struggle to breathe due to air pollution. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We call on your spirit of righteousness. Wherever we as a people are divided, unite us. Wherever we are prideful, humble us. Give each one of us a heart for justice and empathy. During this time of great political division, guide all elected leaders at every level of leadership; grant them a spirit of wisdom and compassion, that they might make decisions that bring healing to all of our brokenness. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We call on your spirit of diversity. We give you thanks that you broke every boundary and dividing line when you empowered God’s people to speak the languages of the world. Guide our culture to repent of the sin of white supremacy, and help us to reach out with respect to all who are different from us. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We call on your spirit of healing. Bless and protect nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need, especially during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. Guide the work of medical researchers as they continue to seek treatments and vaccines for Covid-19. We pray for all who long for comfort, especially those who are afflicted with Covid-19, those who have loved

ones who are ill, and those who are grieving loved ones who have died. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We call on your spirit of friendship. Help us to always remember your commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, so that when we make decisions, we think about how we can love, care for, and protect those around us. Surprise us daily with unexpected grace, that we rejoice in every blessing you send. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We call on your spirit of hope. As you have led your saints in all times and places, stir in us the desire to follow their example, leading us from death to new life in you. Console all those who mourn, especially those who have lost loved ones during this time of pandemic, when they cannot have the type of funeral they wish they could have. Bring peace and comfort especially to Marie Bushkofsky and her family, as they mourn the death of Ron. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: O Day Full of Grace

- 1** O day full of grace that now we see
appearing on earth's horizon,
bring light from our God that we may be
abundant in joy this season.
God, shine for us now in this dark place;
your name on our hearts emblazon.

- 2** O day full of grace, O blessed time,
our Lord on the earth arriving;
then came to the world that light sublime,
great joy for us all retrieving;
for Jesus all mortals did embrace,
all shame and despair removing.

- 3** For Christ bore our sins, and not his own,
when he on the cross was hanging;
and then he arose and moved the stone,
that we, unto him belonging,
might join with angelic hosts to raise
our voices in endless singing.

- 4** God came to us then at Pentecost,
the Spirit new life revealing,
that we might no more in death be lost,
its pow'r over us dispelling.
This flame will the mark of sin efface
and bring to us all true healing.

- 5** When we on that final journey go
that Christ is for us preparing,
we'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,
all joy of the heavens sharing,
and there we will join God's endless praise,
with angels and saints adoring.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

And have fun doing it. We will! Amen!

Liturgy is from sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

License for streaming through OneLicense.net.

Scripture is from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

It's A New Day by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Copyright 2016, Worldmaking.net

A Blessing for the Masks is by Rev. Carol Ferguson, Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church.