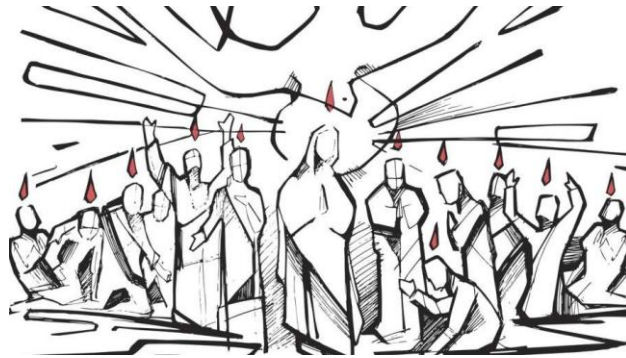


Our Sunday Service Together

Pentecost 2024

May 19th



An Acclamation for Pentecost

All: It is our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.
This day we give you thanks because in fulfilment of your promise you pour out your Spirit upon us, filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth, and uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith. Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father, to proclaim your gospel to all nations and to serve you as a royal priesthood. And so earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Our Confession

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord.

Amen.

The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

The Psalmody Psalm 104.26 - 37 *We say the psalm aloud*

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

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

There is the sea, spread far and wide, and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.

There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan which you have made to play in the deep.

All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.

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

When you hide your face they are troubled; when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works;

He looks on the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will make music to my God while I have my being.

So shall my song please him while I rejoice in the Lord.

Let sinners be consumed out of the earth and the wicked be no more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Scripture Reading Acts 2.1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they 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.' 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 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."

At the end of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Gospel

John 15.26-27 and 16.4b-15

'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. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

'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 judgement: 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 judgement, 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.

At the end of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A Reflection for the day

There is nothing more ordinary, or normal than having a conversation with another person, talking about the day, the weather and about what has been in the news; especially sharing 'our good news'!

It is easy to lose sight of the ordinariness of what occurred at Pentecost and get distracted by talk of flames

and wind and with this a wondering why it doesn't figure today in the ordinariness of faith in Christ, of church activity.

I wonder if you remember taking your first breath? I wonder if you can recall the impact on your lungs filled with the breath of life, of how your heart surged, and your whole response to being alive burst out with a cry. I suspect you can't, you were very young at the time, but those around you at that moment will remember the moment, and the rejoicing of all at the sound of your cry.

I am sure ever since it has only been when you could not catch your breath that you will have even been aware of the very ordinary, yet essential presence of that life giving breath, in and out every 15 or 20 seconds over every day. Without the breath we take, without the life giving gases each brings and expels we can't run, dance, walk, talk, sing – we simply are lost without it; it is the source of life for us!

The Pnuma, the wind, the breath of God's Spirit is the very same for how we are enabled to simply live the life of faith in relationship with God and each other. The breath came to the church at Pentecost, and as much as we make little notice of our first breath and instead focus on our breathing for living well, so we might be forgiven for ignoring the first reception of the Spirit in the church and instead look to how the everyday presence enables us to live or faith life well!

Following the 'first breath' of the Spirit amongst the fledgling church community we ordinary conversations about the goodness of God's presence. The disciples, with lives now filled with the breath of the Spirit, find they simply have to make a sound and begin to have conversations with folks from far and wide about this life of faith in Jesus Christ they had begun living.

People from all over the Empire came to Jerusalem on pilgrimage, looking for God, hoping for a word, any word of hope. And now, as the breath of the Spirit fills the disciples lives and lungs they cry out, and the people hear that word of hope in Jesus Christ. They hear that in Jesus Christ God has sent a message of love for the entire world. The amazing thing is that they hear this message from ordinary folks, not religious teachers, and they hear it in their ordinary, everyday language.

In their everyday language they hear that God, In Jesus Christ, loves each and every one, no matter where they are from, no matter what their background, royalty, pipe joiner, student, OAP, engineer, sportswoman, cleaner, millionaire, in Jesus Christ God says 'I love you', come and let that love dwell in your life – that really is good news.

The message of this love came not through fire or the sound of a roaring wind, but in the everyday words of the folks of the church, enabled by the Spirit within. The calling of the church is the same today as then, filled with the breath of the Spirit to go and have an ordinary chat in everyday language, and 'live and tell the story of Jesus'.

It's always time for a chat!

The Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

Prayers

We make our intercessions

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.

As we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples, we pray that the church may be led and enthused by the Spirit. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

Strengthen our bishops, clergy and Lay ministers who seek to serve you in this diocese. May they be filled with the Spirit and serve you as the first disciples. We give thanks for all those who have spread the good news throughout the ages. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We Pray for our Prime Minister and all World leaders, that they may have the Spirit of wisdom to lead us through this difficult time. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for our families, friends and neighbours that we may serve Christ in one another and seek the common good. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the sick, suffering and dying and we give thanks and pray for those who use their skill and risk their lives to care for them. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer*

Hear us as we remember those who have died..... According to your promises grant them a share in your eternal kingdom. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer*

The Collect

All: God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Gathering all our prayers and praises into one, we pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All: 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.

The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.
Christ under me, Christ over me;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me.
Amen.