
St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Day of Pentecost
Holy Eucharist, Rite II
May 23, 2021

Welcome: Whatever your background and however you have come to be here, we welcome you. It is our prayer that you will encounter God's peace this morning. If you're new to our community, or if you have questions or other needs, please ask. There's no such thing as a stupid question. We've all been new at some point, and as the old adage goes, "we're all just walking each other home" one step at a time.

About Our Worship: This service may look and feel different than that which you have previously experienced.

As Christians in the Episcopal (episcopal=church with bishops) tradition, our worship is rooted in Holy Scripture and the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), which—for centuries—has united Christians all over the world in a common language of prayer and worship. These prayers have been used for hundreds of years by people all over the world, and are still used today. The hope of finding ourselves in the midst of this ancient tradition is that we might both learn from those who have come before, and add our own voices to the heavenly chorus. Our liturgy (the work of the people in worship) helps us when our words fail, ensures that we hear a thorough account of God's Word, and invites us to add our own voices and experience to God's story." The liturgy makes worship something the whole community does, not just the minister up front. Who we are and what we bring is enough because we are assured that God delights in our worship! You will find some people kneeling, bowing, and making the sign of the cross as expressions of devotion and blessing. This is neither requisite nor uniform, and we invite you to participate as you feel comfortable.

As an act of care for yourself and all those gathered, please maintain appropriate physical distance at all times. Masks must be worn by all those above the age of two. We will not be passing an offering plate, though there is an offering box available for use on the Welcome Table.

OPENING HYMN

Come down O Love divine

vv. 1,3

1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,
 2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

CALL TO WORSHIP

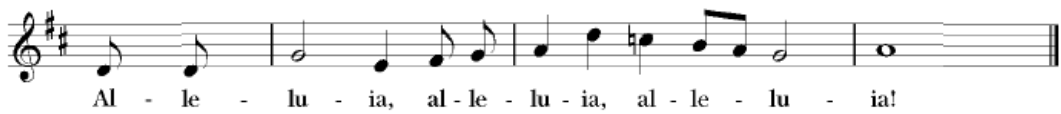
Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God
People **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory

v.1



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put

my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,” says the LORD.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

²⁵ **HOLY ONE**, how manifold are your works; *
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁶ **Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.**

²⁷ There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.

²⁸ **All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.**

²⁹ You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

³⁰ **You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.**

³¹ You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.

³² **May the glory of GOD endure for ever; *
may the HOLY ONE rejoice in all creation.**

³³ GOD looks at the earth and it trembles; *
GOD touches the mountains and they smoke.

³⁴ **I will sing to GOD as long as I live; *
I will praise my God while I have my being.**

³⁵ May these words of mine find favor; *
I will rejoice in the THE HOLY ONE.

³⁷ **Bless the HOLY ONE, O my soul. *
Alleluia!**

THE GOSPEL LESSON John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. 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. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 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. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Linda Calkins

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Celebrant Let us affirm our faith in the One, holy, and living God:

All **We believe in God creator of all, whose love is more than mind can measure or time contain. We believe that God's desire is fullness of life for all, and from the heights of heaven to the depths of hell nothing and no one has fallen beyond the reach of God's mercy. We believe in Jesus Christ, who unveiled the divinity of human flesh and revealed to us the nature of God; who embodied God's holy wisdom**

and brought forth fruits of love, joy, peace, goodness, faithfulness and humility. We believe in the way of the cross, for when Christ embraced the outcasts and unmasked the arrogant, he stirred into deadly confrontation the power of love and the love of power. The enemies of life had their way with him, tearing spirit from flesh, but God's saving power raised him to life, so that we and every person of earth might follow him into the fullness of life which death cannot overcome. We believe in the Holy Spirit God's ceaseless and mysterious Go-between, who kindles the fires of passion and integrity. Elusive and uncontrollable, comforting and disturbing, she purges our delusions with fire and whispers grace with a lover's breath, empowering us to refuse what is evil and be taken up with praise. Though sometimes fearful, in God we trust. We lay ourselves open to the Spirit's touch that we might be the body of Christ, offering our life for the life of the world, and being drawn into the mysterious dance of the Trinity, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and praise forever.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant

In the peace of the risen Christ let us offer our prayer to God:

Intercessor

For all the people of God, that wholeness and freedom by the Spirit will be ours this day, and that all who claim the name of Jesus will bear witness in every aspect of life to the full force of resurrection. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St.

Augustine's Church, DC. We pray:

Amen. Alleluia.

For our world in its brokenness, that the peace of the risen Christ heal the wounds of all victims of injustice and exploitation, and transform the hearts of those who lead the nations and who make public policy, that they may truly become makers of peace, we pray:

Amen. Alleluia.

That all on differing sides of politics, policies and beliefs may be drawn together in truth by the Spirit and come to rejoice in differing gifts and points of view, we pray:
Amen. Alleluia.

For those weighed down by despair, suffering from addiction, or burdened by illness, especially **Mother Maria, Sewell, Cheryl, Stephanie, Barbara, Brooke, John, Gail, Re-Gathering Team, Sally, Donna, Diane, Jack, Joyce, Rodgers, Shauna, Margaret, Tom, George, Rev. Larry, Mary Anne, Carly, Art, Bob, Cora, George, Hani, Barbara, Steve, Colton, and Leo**, will experience the freedom the Spirit gives to all God's children, we pray:
Amen. Alleluia.

In remembrance of the departed, including Joseph Jay Robinson and Bettie Porter, and for all who witnessed to us of God's love poured into our hearts by the Spirit, and for the grace to the faithful to all they have been for us, we pray:
Amen. Alleluia.

All

Gracious God, receive our prayer, hear our hearts' deep yearnings, yet to be formed into words. Give us the courage to yield ourselves, all that we are and have yet to become, to the transforming motion of your Holy Spirit, and carry out in us and through us your work of new creation. This we pray in the name of Jesus, your Christ, the risen and living one. Amen.

Please add your intercessions, silently or aloud.

CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING :

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider

In the beginning, God of creation, your wind swept the darkness, stirring up life from the heights to the depths.

Your spirit raised us from dust and formed us to be like you children with one common breath. We couldn't see where the wind had come from we couldn't tell where the wind would go.

Divided, we hid behind walls turning away from the breath of life.

But you blew through the prophets you gave visions to slaves, you spoke in the whirlwind and promised salvation.

You breathed on Mary, your listening servant, making your Word alive in her flesh.

You gave us Jesus, who shared our same breath receiving your Spirit in the river Jordan.

He proclaimed freedom to captives, good news to the poor he gave hope to the suffering, and life to the dead.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was a supper with his friends.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them saying:

Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: **Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

Therefore, God of endless mercy, of all the things that are yours we offer you these, which are yours especially. We offer them gladly, as he told us, giving thanks for his death and resurrection.

Filled with your Spirit, and drawn together in his peace we praise you and we bless you: **We praise you, we bless you and we give thanks to you, God of wind and fire.**

Now pour out your Spirit once more to make this bread and wine the body and blood of Christ, that we might blow through the world with his love healing and forgiving, reconciling like Jesus until the heights and depths are filled with your children from every tribe and language, and people and nation joined with the angels in one triumphal song:

**Holy, holy, holy God of power and light
heaven and earth are filled with your glory
Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna!

We pray in the words Jesus taught his disciples:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

As an act of adoration, a moment of reverent silence is kept as the bread is broken. This symbolizes the breaking of Jesus' own body.

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

Upon the presentation of the consecrated elements,
Behold you are: **may we become what we receive.**

THE COMMUNION

All those who are baptized, as well as those who yearn to be fed with Christ's grace, are welcome at this table. You need not be an Episcopalian to feast here. The Celebrant will bring the bread to your seat. Please stand to receive the consecrated bread.

COMMUNION HYMN

Breath on me, Breath of God

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die;

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do or to en - dure.
till all this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant

Let us pray.

People

Most loving God we offer our praise for you hand in all creation. We are restored to your goodness throughout eternity and renewed in your love. May we be imitators of your holiness and goodness even as we have received this blessed bread and wine. Redeem the world as we seek to stand with you in the power of your Spirit. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Christ, our brother and your servant. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & MILESTONE BLESSINGS

PRAYER FOR A BIRTHDAY

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants *she/he/they* begin another year. Grant that *she/he/they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his/her/their* trust in your goodness all the days of *his/her/their* life(ves); through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ANNIVERSARY

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

CLOSING HYMN

Holy Spirit, ever living

vv. 1,2

1 Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er liv - ing as the Church's
2 Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er work - ing through the Church's

ve - ry life; Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er striv - ing
min - is - try; quick - ening, strength - ening and ab - solv - ing,

through her in a cease-less strife; Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er
 set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free; Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er

form-ing in the Church the mind of Christ; thee we praise with
 bind-ing age to age, and soul to soul, in a fel - low -

end - less wor-ship for thy fruits and gifts un - priced.
 ship un - end-ing thee we wor - ship and ex - tol.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

Douglas

THIS WEEK

Questions for Reflection

In this coming week consider how many ways and through which persons you are shown a new path for your life. Watch for startling nudges or sudden epiphanies; listen for sighs that signal letting go of something pressing so that you can hear the Spirit's guidance. What have you learned? How can you give thanks?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of newness and delight, you greet your world again with light and life. I awaken to your presence behind, before, beneath, above, and within me. I thank you for another day and ask only that you keep me so firmly in your care that I can move gracefully through all I have to do. Guard my family, my friends, and all my brothers and sisters in faith. Let me be a peacemaker today; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Good and Holy One, you have led me through this day of many encounters to the time when I may close my eyes and dream. I thank you for the people you have sent my way today, for the work I have had to do, for the food, shelter, and safety you have given. I pray that people everywhere may have all necessary comfort and nourishment and that I may lie down in peace, resting in the trust that you are watching over all creation. I pray this in the name of the One who made Earth, called the children to come, and blows through our days with wisdom. Amen.

PERMISSIONS

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