





Animating a life of prayer through the manifold beauty of the church

The Daily Prayer Project's Living Prayer Periodicals feature daily morning and evening prayer guides for the week. These guides are used throughout the current season of the Christian year. Their simplicity, brevity, and repetition facilitate transformative patterns of prayer in everyday life.

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JUNE 8-SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

Pentecost is the culminating feast of the season of Easter, concluding the season. Pentecost celebrates the sending of the Holy Spirit and the birth date of the church (Acts 2). The Feast of Pentecost is Sunday, June 8. Ordinary Time begins Monday, June 9, and ends Saturday, November 29. This edition covers Sunday, June 8, through Saturday, September 6.

The flame icon embodies the wild generosity of Pentecost. In this moment the Spirit descended like tongues of fire, marking the birth of the church and the unleashing of God's presence into every tongue, tribe, and heart. The shape opens like a whisper of wind or a spark catching fire, drawing us into the bold, radiant life of the Spirit.

2024-25 CHRISTIAN YEAR



DEC 1-24



CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY

DEC 25-MAR 4



LENT

MAR 5-APR 19



EASTER

APR 20-JUN 7



PENTECOST

JUN 8



ORDINARY TIME

JUN 9-NOV 29

O God the Holy Ghost

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI

O God the Holy Ghost who art light unto thine elect,

Evermore enlighten us.

Thou who art fire of love,

Evermore enkindle us.

Thou who art Lord and giver of life,

Evermore live in us.

Thou who art holiness,

Evermore sanctify us.

Thou who bestowest sevenfold grace,

Evermore replenish us.

As the wind is thy symbol,

So forward our goings.

As the dove,

So launch us heavenwards.

As water,

So purify our spirits.

As a cloud,

So abate our temptations.

As dew,

So revive our langor.

As fire,

So purge out our dross.

Christina Rossetti (1830–1894) was a prolific English poet who wrote both devotional and gothic fantasy verse.

1

PENTECOST 2025



SUN	Jun 8	Ps. 104	Gen. 11:1-9	Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17
MON	Jun 9	Ps. 138	Lev. 9	Acts 1:12-14
TUE	Jun 10	Ps. 139	Lev. 10	Acts 1:15-26
WED	Jun 11	Ps. 140	Lev. 11	Acts 2:22-47
тни	Jun 12	Ps. 141	Lev. 12	Acts 3:1-26
FRI	Jun 13	Ps. 142	Lev. 13	Acts 4:1-31
SAT	Jun 14	Ps. 143	Lev. 14	Acts 4:32-5:16
SUN	Jun 15	Ps. 8	Prov. 8:1-4	John 16:12-15; Rom. 5:1-5
MON	Jun 16	Ps. 144	Lev. 15	Acts 5:17-42
TUE	Jun 17	Ps. 145	Lev. 16	Acts 6:1-7
WED	Jun 18	Ps. 146	Lev. 17	Acts 6:8-7:53
THU	Jun 19	Ps. 147	Lev. 18	Acts 7:54-8:3
FRI	Jun 20	Ps. 148	Lev. 19	Acts 8:4-25
SAT	Jun 21	Ps. 149	Lev. 20	Acts 8:26-40
SUN	Jun 22	Ps. 22:19-28	Isa. 65:1-9	Luke 8:26-39; Gal. 3:23-29
SUN	Jun 22 Jun 23	Ps. 22:19-28 Ps. 150	Isa. 65:1-9 Lev. 21	Luke 8:26–39; Gal. 3:23–29 Acts 9:1–31
MON	Jun 23	Ps. 150	Lev. 21	Acts 9:1-31
MON TUE	Jun 23 Jun 24	Ps. 150 Ps. 1	Lev. 21 Lev. 22	Acts 9:1-31 Acts 9:32-43
MON TUE WED	Jun 23 Jun 24 Jun 25	Ps. 150 Ps. 1 Ps. 2	Lev. 21 Lev. 22 Lev. 23	Acts 9:1-31 Acts 9:32-43 Acts 10:1-48
MON TUE WED THU	Jun 23 Jun 24 Jun 25 Jun 26	Ps. 150 Ps. 1 Ps. 2 Ps. 3	Lev. 21 Lev. 22 Lev. 23 Lev. 24	Acts 9:1-31 Acts 9:32-43 Acts 10:1-48 Acts 11:1-18
MON TUE WED THU FRI	Jun 23 Jun 24 Jun 25 Jun 26 Jun 27	Ps. 150 Ps. 1 Ps. 2 Ps. 3 Ps. 4	Lev. 21 Lev. 22 Lev. 23 Lev. 24 Lev. 25	Acts 9:1-31 Acts 9:32-43 Acts 10:1-48 Acts 11:1-18 Acts 11:19-30
MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT	Jun 23 Jun 24 Jun 25 Jun 26 Jun 27 Jun 28	Ps. 150 Ps. 1 Ps. 2 Ps. 3 Ps. 4 Ps. 5	Lev. 21 Lev. 22 Lev. 23 Lev. 24 Lev. 25 Lev. 26	Acts 9:1-31 Acts 9:32-43 Acts 10:1-48 Acts 11:1-18 Acts 11:19-30 Acts 12:1-25
MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT	Jun 23 Jun 24 Jun 25 Jun 26 Jun 27 Jun 28 Jun 29	Ps. 150 Ps. 1 Ps. 2 Ps. 3 Ps. 4 Ps. 5	Lev. 21 Lev. 22 Lev. 23 Lev. 24 Lev. 25 Lev. 26	Acts 9:1-31 Acts 9:32-43 Acts 10:1-48 Acts 11:1-18 Acts 11:19-30 Acts 12:1-25 Luke 9:51-62; Gal. 5:1, 13-25
MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON	Jun 23 Jun 24 Jun 25 Jun 26 Jun 27 Jun 28 Jun 29 Jun 30	Ps. 150 Ps. 1 Ps. 2 Ps. 3 Ps. 4 Ps. 5 Ps. 16 Ps. 6	Lev. 21 Lev. 22 Lev. 23 Lev. 24 Lev. 25 Lev. 26 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Lev. 27	Acts 9:1-31 Acts 9:32-43 Acts 10:1-48 Acts 11:1-18 Acts 11:19-30 Acts 12:1-25 Luke 9:51-62; Gal. 5:1, 13-25 Acts 13:1-12
MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON TUE	Jun 23 Jun 24 Jun 25 Jun 26 Jun 27 Jun 28 Jun 29 Jun 30 Jul 1	Ps. 150 Ps. 1 Ps. 2 Ps. 3 Ps. 4 Ps. 5 Ps. 16 Ps. 6 Ps. 7	Lev. 21 Lev. 22 Lev. 23 Lev. 24 Lev. 25 Lev. 26 1 Kings 19:15–16, 19–21 Lev. 27 Isa. 1	Acts 9:1-31 Acts 9:32-43 Acts 10:1-48 Acts 11:1-18 Acts 11:19-30 Acts 12:1-25 Luke 9:51-62; Gal. 5:1, 13-25 Acts 13:1-12 Acts 13:13-41
MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON TUE WED	Jun 23 Jun 24 Jun 25 Jun 26 Jun 27 Jun 28 Jun 29 Jun 30 Jul 1 Jul 2	Ps. 150 Ps. 1 Ps. 2 Ps. 3 Ps. 4 Ps. 5 Ps. 16 Ps. 6 Ps. 7 Ps. 8	Lev. 21 Lev. 22 Lev. 23 Lev. 24 Lev. 25 Lev. 26 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Lev. 27 Isa. 1 Isa. 2	Acts 9:1-31 Acts 9:32-43 Acts 10:1-48 Acts 11:1-18 Acts 11:19-30 Acts 12:1-25 Luke 9:51-62; Gal. 5:1, 13-25 Acts 13:1-12 Acts 13:13-41 Acts 13:42-14:7



SUN	Jul 6	Ps. 66:1-9	Isa. 66:10-14	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20; Gal. 6:1-16
MON	Jul 7	Ps. 12	Isa. 6	Acts 16:6-15
TUE	Jul 8	Ps. 13	Isa. 7	Acts 16:16-40
WED	Jul 9	Ps. 14	Isa. 8	Acts 17:1-15
THU	Jul 10	Ps. 15	Isa. 9	Acts 17:16-34
FRI	Jul 11	Ps. 16	Isa. 10	Acts 18:1-22
SAT	Jul 12	Ps. 17	Isa. 11	Acts 18:23-19:10
SUN	Jul 13	Ps. 25:1-10	Deut. 30:9-14	Luke 10:25-37; Col. 1:1-14
MON	Jul 14	Ps. 18	Isa. 12	Acts 19:11-41
TUE	Jul 15	Ps. 19	Isa. 13	Acts 20:1-35
WED	Jul 16	Ps. 20	Isa. 14	Acts 20:36-21:16
THU	Jul 17	Ps. 21	Isa. 15	Acts 21:17-39
FRI	Jul 18	Ps. 22	Isa. 16	Acts 21:40-22:21
SAT	Jul 19	Ps. 23	Isa. 17	Acts 22:22-23:11
SUN	Jul 20	Ps. 15	Gen. 18:1-10a	Luke 10:38-42; Col. 1:15-28
SUN		Ps. 15 Ps. 24	Gen. 18:1-10a Isa. 18	Luke 10:38-42; Col. 1:15-28 Acts 23:12-35
MON	Jul 21	Ps. 24	Isa. 18	Acts 23:12-35
MON TUE	Jul 21 Jul 22	Ps. 24 Ps. 25	Isa. 18 Isa. 19	Acts 23:12-35 Acts 24:1-27
MON TUE WED	Jul 21 Jul 22 Jul 23	Ps. 24 Ps. 25 Ps. 26	Isa. 18 Isa. 19 Isa. 20	Acts 23:12–35 Acts 24:1–27 Acts 25:1–22
MON TUE WED THU	Jul 21 Jul 22 Jul 23 Jul 24	Ps. 24 Ps. 25 Ps. 26 Ps. 27	Isa. 18 Isa. 19 Isa. 20 Isa. 21	Acts 23:12-35 Acts 24:1-27 Acts 25:1-22 Acts 25:23-26:32
MON TUE WED THU FRI	Jul 21 Jul 22 Jul 23 Jul 24 Jul 25	Ps. 24 Ps. 25 Ps. 26 Ps. 27 Ps. 28	Isa. 18 Isa. 19 Isa. 20 Isa. 21 Isa. 22	Acts 23:12-35 Acts 24:1-27 Acts 25:1-22 Acts 25:23-26:32 Acts 27:1-44
MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT	Jul 21 Jul 22 Jul 23 Jul 24 Jul 25 Jul 26	Ps. 24 Ps. 25 Ps. 26 Ps. 27 Ps. 28 Ps. 29	Isa. 18 Isa. 19 Isa. 20 Isa. 21 Isa. 22 Isa. 23	Acts 23:12-35 Acts 24:1-27 Acts 25:1-22 Acts 25:23-26:32 Acts 27:1-44 Acts 28:1-31
MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT	Jul 21 Jul 22 Jul 23 Jul 24 Jul 25 Jul 26 Jul 27	Ps. 24 Ps. 25 Ps. 26 Ps. 27 Ps. 28 Ps. 29	Isa. 18 Isa. 19 Isa. 20 Isa. 21 Isa. 22 Isa. 23 Gen. 18:20–32	Acts 23:12-35 Acts 24:1-27 Acts 25:1-22 Acts 25:23-26:32 Acts 27:1-44 Acts 28:1-31 Luke 11:1-13; Col. 2:6-19
MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON	Jul 21 Jul 22 Jul 23 Jul 24 Jul 25 Jul 26 Jul 27 Jul 28	Ps. 24 Ps. 25 Ps. 26 Ps. 27 Ps. 28 Ps. 29 Ps. 138 Ps. 30	Isa. 18 Isa. 19 Isa. 20 Isa. 21 Isa. 22 Isa. 23 Gen. 18:20–32 Isa. 24	Acts 23:12-35 Acts 24:1-27 Acts 25:1-22 Acts 25:23-26:32 Acts 27:1-44 Acts 28:1-31 Luke 11:1-13; Col. 2:6-19 1 Cor. 12
MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON TUE	Jul 21 Jul 22 Jul 23 Jul 24 Jul 25 Jul 26 Jul 27 Jul 28 Jul 29	Ps. 24 Ps. 25 Ps. 26 Ps. 27 Ps. 28 Ps. 29 Ps. 138 Ps. 30 Ps. 31	Isa. 18 Isa. 19 Isa. 20 Isa. 21 Isa. 22 Isa. 23 Gen. 18:20–32 Isa. 24 Isa. 25	Acts 23:12-35 Acts 24:1-27 Acts 25:1-22 Acts 25:23-26:32 Acts 27:1-44 Acts 28:1-31 Luke 11:1-13; Col. 2:6-19 1 Cor. 12 1 Cor. 13
MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON TUE WED	Jul 21 Jul 22 Jul 23 Jul 24 Jul 25 Jul 26 Jul 27 Jul 28 Jul 29 Jul 30	Ps. 24 Ps. 25 Ps. 26 Ps. 27 Ps. 28 Ps. 29 Ps. 138 Ps. 30 Ps. 31 Ps. 32	Isa. 18 Isa. 19 Isa. 20 Isa. 21 Isa. 22 Isa. 23 Gen. 18:20–32 Isa. 24 Isa. 25 Isa. 26	Acts 23:12-35 Acts 24:1-27 Acts 25:1-22 Acts 25:23-26:32 Acts 27:1-44 Acts 28:1-31 Luke 11:1-13; Col. 2:6-19 1 Cor. 12 1 Cor. 13 1 Cor. 14



SUN	Aug 3	Ps. 49:1-12	Ecc. 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23	Luke 12:13-21; Col. 3:1-11
MON	Aug 4	Ps. 36	Isa. 30	2 Cor. 2
TUE	Aug 5	Ps. 37	Isa. 31	2 Cor. 3
WED	Aug 6	Ps. 38	Isa. 32	2 Cor. 4
THU	Aug 7	Ps. 39	Isa. 33	2 Cor. 5
FRI	Aug 8	Ps. 40	Isa. 34	2 Cor. 6
SAT	Aug 9	Ps. 41	Isa. 35	2 Cor. 7
SUN	Aug 10	Ps. 33:12-22	Gen. 15:1-6	Luke 12:32-40; Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16
MON	Aug 11	Ps. 42	Isa. 36	2 Cor. 8
TUE	Aug 12	Ps. 43	Isa. 37	2 Cor. 9
WED	Aug 13	Ps. 44	Isa. 38	2 Cor. 10
THU	Aug 14	Ps. 45	Isa. 39	2 Cor. 11
FRI	Aug 15	Ps. 46	Isa. 40	2 Cor. 12
SAT	Aug 16	Ps. 47	Isa. 41	2 Cor. 13
SUN	Aug 17	Ps. 82	Jer. 23:23-29	Luke 12:49-56; Heb. 11:29-12:2
MON	Aug 18	Ps. 48	Isa. 42	Gal. 1
TUE	Aug 19	Ps. 49	Isa. 43	Gal. 2
WED	Aug 20	Ps. 50	Isa. 44	Gal. 3
THU	Aug 21	Ps. 51	Isa. 45	Gal. 4
FRI	Aug 22	Ps. 52	Isa. 46	Gal. 5
SAT	Aug 23	Ps. 53	Isa. 47	Gal. 6



SUN	Aug 24	Ps. 103:1-8	Isa. 58:9b-14	Luke 13:10-17; Heb. 12:18-29
MON	Aug 25	Ps. 54	Isa. 48	Eph. 1
TUE	Aug 26	Ps. 55	Isa. 49	Eph. 2
WED	Aug 27	Ps. 56	Isa. 50	Eph. 3
THU	Aug 28	Ps. 57	Isa. 51	Eph. 4
FRI	Aug 29	Ps. 58	Isa. 52	Eph. 5
SAT	Aug 30	Ps. 59	Isa. 53	Eph. 6
SUN	Aug 31	Ps. 112	Prov. 25:6-7	Luke 14:1, 7-14; Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16
SUN	Aug 31 Sep 1	Ps. 112 Ps. 60	Prov. 25:6-7 Isa. 54	Luke 14:1, 7-14; Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16 Phil. 1
MON	Sep 1	Ps. 60	Isa. 54	Phil. 1
MON TUE	Sep 1 Sep 2	Ps. 60 Ps. 61	Isa. 54 Isa. 55	Phil. 1 Phil. 2
MON TUE WED	Sep 1 Sep 2 Sep 3	Ps. 60 Ps. 61 Ps. 62	Isa. 54 Isa. 55 Isa. 56	Phil. 1 Phil. 2 Phil. 3

PENTECOST 2025

The Holy Wind of God

BY JOEL LITTLEPAGE

"Unfurl the sails, and let God steer us where he will."

-ST. BEDE THE VENERABLE

Greetings in this season after the great feast of Pentecost! In the beginning of this ordinary time, I pray that you feel the holy Wind of God at your sails, leading you on.

"If we live by the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit," St. Paul writes to the congregations of Galatia (Gal. 5:25). "Spirit" (*pneuma* in Greek) means "breath" or "wind." It is the teeming power of life that blew into Adam in the beginning, animating the man of clay. It is the One who fell upon the friends of Christ at Pentecost, forcing them out of the upper room with a fiery gust that has never since been contained. It is that same Wind who "blows where it wishes," Christ said (John 3:8). A spiritual life is a life moving *with* that direction and not against it.

I have a dear member of my family who is a lifelong sailor. A sailor's friend (or foe) is the wind, of course. "Wind changes direction," he tells me. A watchful sailor then adjusts the sails to make the greatest use of the new direction. "... let us also follow the Wind," says the Apostle.

A life following Jesus in the power of the Spirit is one of great adventure precisely because of this dynamism. The Spirit seeks to lead us toward holiness, and holiness necessitates conversion, suffering, faith, and, above all, love. Holiness

is not to be equated with common sense or convention; it very often moves against such things. How the Spirit is leading each of us on that journey into the heart of God is perhaps the most profound mystery of our life and one that takes patience and guidance to discern.

As I have meditated on that practice of discernment, I have imagined the sailor who, after licking his finger, holds it in the air and waits to see whence the wind comes and where it is leading. On the one hand, he places himself in a posture to perceive and respond; he is active. Yet he is also ultimately passive because he is not in control of the very force that propels him. It is like that with the Spirit of God. To sail on, we must place ourselves in a posture of stillness and attentiveness, so that we might follow the Wind. But we must never confuse the matter of who is in control; we must always seek attentiveness. Otherwise, we forsake the way toward Love and are left adrift and turned about.

But I don't pretend that the Wind is always perceivable or that our perception is perfect. Far from it! Life is confusing and often unclear. And yet for the sailor, when all else fails, there is always the horizon, the sun, and the stars. Fixed and immovable celestial bodies that provide the ultimate stability when navigating the open seas.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, known as "The Little Flower," once reflected on a time with her sister when "at the hour when the sun seems to sink into the vast ocean, leaving behind it a trail of glory, I sat with Pauline on a bare rock and gazed for a long while on this golden furrow, which she told me was an image of grace illumining the way of faithful souls here below. Then I pictured my soul as a

tiny barque, with a graceful white sail, in the midst of the furrow, and I resolved never to let it withdraw from the sight of Jesus so that it might sail peacefully and quickly toward the heavenly shore" (*The Little Way*, 120).

May the Lord grant us all this luminous "sight of Jesus" and a blessed discernment over this Pentecostide, so that we might adjust our sails and make the greatest use of the new directions in our lives.

Many companions offer their spiritual gifts in this edition of the Living Prayer Periodical. The Church of South India prays adventurously to God for the help of the Spirit so "that we may expect great things from you, and attempt great things for you." In the Practices, Barbara Peacock seeks to deepen our practice of meditation and contemplation so that we might heed the Spirit's invitation to "come aside and be with God." American quilter Terry Peckarsky offers an evocative portrayal of Ezekiel 37 in *Breathe on Me*. Finally, in the Songbook, the traditional corito "No hay dios" reminds us again that it is "not by our weapons, nor by our power, but by your Spirit we are led." Amen.

My friends, may you sail on into the heart of God, toward the horizon of eternal life. On behalf of the team of the Daily Prayer Project, I thank you for the opportunity to journey with you.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" (Rom. 15:13).



JOEL LITTLEPAGE is the associate pastor of Grace Mosaic, laboring in the areas of worship and spiritual formation. A professional musician, he lives in the beautiful Fifth Ward of Washington, DC, with his wife, three sons, and a flock of chickens.



Sunday Morning

CALL

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

Psalm 150:6

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

LECTIONARY

JUN 8

Ps. 104

Gen. 11:1-9

Acts 2:1-21;

John 14:8-17

JUN 15

Ps. 8

Prov. 8:1-4

John 16:12-15;

Rom. 5:1-5

JUN 22

Ps. 22:19-28

Isa. 65:1-9

Luke 8:26-39;

Gal. 3:23-29

JUN 29

Ps. 16

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Luke 9:51-62;

Gal. 5:1, 13-25

THE GLORIA

Glory be 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.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 61-67.

LESSON

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

Come, thou Holy Spirit, Send from highest heaven Radiance of thy light. Come, Father of the poor, Come, giver of all gifts, Come, light of every heart. Of comforters the best, Dear guest of every soul, Refreshment ever sweet. In our labor, rest, Coolness in our heat, Comfort in our grief. O most blessed light, Fill the inmost hearts of thy faithful ones. Give joy that has no end. Without thy holy presence Amen.

All is dark. Nothing free from sin. What is soiled, cleanse; What is dry, refresh; What is wounded, heal. What is rigid, bend; What is frozen, warm; Guide what goes astray. Give thy faithful ones Who in thee confide Sevenfold hallowing. Give goodness its reward, Give journey safe through death,

Adapted from the anonymous 13th-century Latin hymn "Veni Sancte Spiritus," trans. George Appleton, taken from The Oxford Book of Prayer

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For an awareness of the global and beautiful body of Christ
- For those who have been hurt and abused by the church
- For the fruit of the Spirit in your life

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Hear the Most High say: "I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live." May you go from this place with an awareness of the living Spirit within you. *Adapted from Ezekiel 37:14a*



LECTIONARY

JUL 6 Ps. 66:1-9

Isa. 66:10-14 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20;

Gal. 6:1-16

Ps. 25:1-10 Deut. 30:9-14 Luke 10:25-37; Col. 1:1-14

JUL 20

Ps. 15 Gen. 18:1-10a Luke 10:38-42; Col. 1:15-28

JUL 27

Ps. 138 Gen. 18:20–32 Luke 11:1–13; Col. 2:6–19

Sunday Evening

CALL

But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." *My times are in your hand.*

Psalm 31:14-15a

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be 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.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 61-67.

LESSON

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Worship of the Church of South India.

PRAYER

O God, who to an expectant and united church gave at Pentecost the gift of the Holy Spirit, and has wonderfully brought into one fold those who now worship you here: grant, we ask you, the help of the same Spirit in all our life and worship, that we may expect great things from you, and attempt great things for you, and being one in you may show to the world that you sent Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Adapted from the words of William Carey (1761–1834), an English Baptist missionary, linguist, and translator. Taken from *The Book of Common*

LECTIONARY

AUG 3

Ps. 49:1-12
Eccles. 1:2, 12-14;
2:18-23
Luke 12:13-21;
Col. 3:1-11

AUG 10

Ps. 33:12-22 Gen. 15:1-6 Luke 12:32-40; Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16

AUG 17

Ps. 82 Jer. 23:23-29 Luke 12:49-56; Heb. 11:29-12:2

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

BENEDICTION

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. May you rest now in the freedom of the Spirit of God.

Adapted from 2 Corinthians 3:17-18



LECTIONARY

AUG 24

Ps. 103:1-8

Isa. 58:9b-14

Luke 13:10-17;

Heb. 12:18-29

AUG 31

Ps. 112

Prov. 25:6-7

Luke 14:1, 7-14;

Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16

Monday Morning

CALL

The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Job 33:4

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

LECTIONARY

JUN 9

Ps. 138

Lev. 9

Acts 1:12-14

JUN 16

Ps. 144

Lev. 15

Acts 5:17-42

JUN 23

Ps. 150

Lev. 21

Acts 9:1-31

JUN 30

Ps. 6

Lev. 27

Acts 13:1-12

THE GLORIA

Glory be 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.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 61-67.

LESSON

 ${\it Read the Old Testament passage of the day}.$

PRAYER

O Great Spirit,

whose breath gives life to the world, and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze:

We need your strength and wisdom.

Cause us to walk in beauty.

Give us eyes ever to behold the red and purple sunset.

Make us wise so that we may understand

what you have taught us.

Help us learn the lessons you have hidden

in every leaf and rock.

Make us always ready to come to you

with clean hands and steady eyes,

so when life fades, like the fading sunset,

our spirits may come to you without shame.

Amen

A prayer of Chief Yellow Lark of the Lakota Sioux tribe (located in modern-day North and South Dakota)

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a humble dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit
- For those who work in public transportation
- For those who have suffered from gun violence

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. May the Lord fill you with hope in the surety of this promise.

Adapted from Romans 8:11



LECTIONARY

JUL 7

Ps. 12

Isa. 6

Acts 16:6-15

JUL 14

Ps. 18

Isa. 12

Acts 19:11-41

JUL 21

Ps. 24

Isa. 18

Acts 23:12-35

JUL 28

Ps. 30

Isa. 24

1 Cor. 12

Monday Evening

CALL

Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

Psalm 55:22

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

LECTIONARY

AUG 4

Ps. 36

Isa. 30

2 Cor. 2

AUG 11

Ps. 42

Isa. 36

2 Cor. 8

AUG 18

Ps. 48

Isa. 42

Gal. 1

THE GLORIA

Glory be 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.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 61-67.

LESSON

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

confession: God of peace and justice, we long for the peace within, and without. We long to find serenity of spirit in the midst of life's struggles. We long for harmony in our families and in all our relationships. We long for the day when each family everywhere might live in peace without fear, enjoying the fruit of vine and tree. Yet we confess that there is much anxiety, fear, distrust, and even violence within us. We are not willing to take the risks and make the sacrifices which peace requires. Look upon us with kindness and mercy; rule in our hearts and our world; and show us how to walk in your paths; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A prayer of Ruth Duck (1947–2024) of the United States, taken from Flames of the Spirit

ASSURANCE: I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. *Ezekiel 36:25-27*

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

BENEDICTION

After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. May you rest now in the gracious will of God.

Adapted from 1 Peter 5:10



LECTIONARY

AUG 25

Ps. 54

Isa. 48

Eph. 1

SEP 1

Ps. 60

Isa. 54

Phil. 1

Tuesday Morning

CALL

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. *O my God, in you I trust.*

Psalm 25:1-2

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

LECTIONARY

JUN 10

Ps. 139

Lev. 10

Acts 1:15-26

JUN 17

Ps. 145

Lev. 16

Acts 6:1-7

JUN 24

Ps. 1

Lev. 22

Acts 9:32-43

JUL 1

Ps. 7

Isa. 1

Acts 13:13-41

THE GLORIA

Glory be 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.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 61-67.

LESSON

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

Aidez-moi, mon Dieu; Help me, O God;

Donnez-moi votre présence. Give me your presence.

Écoutez-moi, mon Dieu; Hear me, O God; Donnez-moi votre Esprit. Give me your Spirit.

Regardez-moi, mon Dieu; See me, O God; **Donnez-moi votre lumière.** Give me your light.

Aidez-moi, Jésus; Help me, Jesus;

Vous êtes le Roi. Amen. You are the King. Amen.

A prayer of Kari Kristina Reeves, taken from Canyon Road

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For gratitude
- For those who live on the margins of your community and for their inclusion in the family of God
- For those who work as musicians, designers, writers, and artists

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13



LECTIONARY

JUL 8

Ps. 13

Isa. 7

Acts 16:16-40

JUL 15

Ps. 19

Isa. 13

Acts 20:1-35

JUL 22

Ps. 25

Isa. 19

Acts 24:1-27

JUL 29

Ps. 31

Isa. 25

1 Cor. 13

Tuesday Evening

CALL

I long for your salvation, O LORD, and your law is my delight.

Let my soul live and praise you, and let your rules help me.

Psalm 119:174-75

LECTIONARY

AUG 5

Ps. 37

Isa. 31

2 Cor. 3

AUG 12

Ps. 43

Isa. 37

2 Cor. 9

AUG 19

Ps. 49

Isa. 43

Gal. 2

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be 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.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 61-67.

LESSON

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

For your Spirit, holy God, we pray, the Spirit with which you equipped your prophets, apostles, martyrs, and confessors, the Spirit who opens our hearts for your service as he did theirs. We seek our neighbors, and find them only when we open our hearts to them. We must speak your word to them aright. They must understand that you are their Redeemer. Otherwise they are lost. Come, Holy Spirit, prepare us to enter the huts of others. Amen.

A prayer of a young Ghanaian Christian, taken from *I Lie on My Mat and Pray*

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

BENEDICTION

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen. *Adapted from Galatians 6:18*



LECTIONARY

AUG 26

Ps. 55

Isa. 49

Eph. 2

SEP 2

Ps. 61

Isa. 55

Phil. 2

Wednesday Morning

LECTIONARY

JUN 11

Ps. 140

Lev. 11

Acts 2:22-47

JUN 18

Ps. 146

Lev. 17

Acts 6:8-7:53

JUN 25

Ps. 2

Lev. 23

Acts 10:1-48

JUL 2

Ps. 8

Isa. 2

Acts 13:42-14:7

CALL

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; *let the one who desires take*

the water of life without price.

Revelation 22:17

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning is now and or

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 61-67.

LESSON

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

CONFESSION: Holy God, Holy and Mighty,

Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty,

Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty,

Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

The Trisagion, an ancient prayer of the Eastern church. "Trisagion" is a Greek word that means "thrice holy." Pray this prayer repeatedly and slowly. Allow it to accompany you during your day.

ASSURANCE: Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For an awareness of the holiness of God
- For those who are in conflict
- · For those who work as cleaners and janitors

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." May the peace of Christ be with you.

Adapted from John 20:21-22



LECTIONARY

JUL 9

Ps. 14

Isa. 8

Acts 17:1-15

JUL 16

Ps. 20

Isa. 14

Acts 20:36-21:16

JUL 23

Ps. 26

Isa. 20

Acts 25:1-22

JUL 30

Ps. 32

Isa. 26

1 Cor. 14

Wednesday Evening

CALL

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

Psalm 139:7

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

AUG 6

LECTIONARY

Ps. 38

Isa. 32

2 Cor. 4

AUG 13

Ps. 44

Isa. 38

2 Cor. 10

AUG 20

Ps. 50

Isa. 44

Gal. 3

..._ 0._0....

Glory be 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.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 61-67.

LESSON

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

We thank you for the benediction of night, when the eye no longer sees, the ear no longer hears, and the mind no longer thinks. In that condition of night, all humanity is completely under your rule. Lord, let your Holy Spirit go to work on us tonight so that when the dawn comes, our eyes may see aright, our ears may hear aright, and our minds may think aright. Amen.

A prayer from the church in Asia, adapted from Morning, Noon and Night

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PRAYER OF MINDFULNESS

Throughout the history of the church, Christians have incorporated practices of prayer that call to mind God's presence in the moment, humbly and gratefully review the time that has passed, and look forward to the gift of another day. Pray through these prompts slowly, giving time to each step of the practice.

- 1. Become aware of God's presence.
- 2. Review the day with gratitude.
- 3. Pay attention to your emotions.
- 4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
- 5. Look toward tomorrow.

BENEDICTION

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26



LECTIONARY

AUG 27

Ps. 56

Isa. 50

Eph. 3

SEP 3

Ps. 62

Isa. 56

Phil. 3





The Beautiful Community

MEDITATION

What may be described as the first multinational worship service in the New Testament took place on the day of Pentecost. However, the worship of God brought confusion before it brought clarity. It was a scene like none other. All the disciples, presumably the 120 mentioned in Acts 1:15, are together in the house. The day of Pentecost has come. This is the day Jesus told them to wait for, the day that they would be clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8). As they are gathered, still devoted to prayer (Acts 1:14), the Holy Spirit arrives in dramatic fashion. A sound like the mighty driving of the wind fills the entire house. Individual tongues like fire appear resting on each of them. Luke says they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, which resulted in their speaking other languages.

The coming of the Holy Spirit was not a private matter. It was a public declaration to the nations that the kingdom of God has come. How large was the crowd in Jerusalem? Luke doesn't say, but the delegation of international representatives is unmatched: "Parthians and Medes and 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 Arabians" (Acts 2:9–11). What did they hear? The sound of the disciples declaring the mighty works of God. What they experienced left them confused, astonished, amazed, and perplexed. It left them either utterly confused or certain the disciples were drunk (Acts 2:12–13). To bring clarity, conviction, and resolve, Peter rises to preach (2:14–36).

The message that these people from every nation needed to understand was that the end had come, the end that marked a new beginning.

The message that these people from every nation needed to understand was that the end had come, the end that marked a new beginning. That new beginning was the lavish pouring out of the Spirit of God. Peter tells them that what they see might be new, but it's not unexpected. He explains to his multinational audience that all of what they witnessed was rooted in God's promise through the prophet Joel (2:17–21). The coming of the Holy Spirit was a public declaration that the kingdom of God had come. God would fill his people with his Spirit for the purpose of kingdom mission—to reverse the tragic effects of Babel. The expression of unity in humanity would be for the praise and glory of God, not for the establishment of people's own kingdom in rebellion against his rule.

The fall destroyed union and unity with God and each other. Reunion is the story of scripture. These words we find throughout God's word—"renewed," "reconciled," "united"—are the reversal of the fractures, divides, breaks, and partitions of life in this world and before God that were and are so desperately needed. We are truly stamped from the beginning for unity and union, for wholeness and shalom, for beauty. God himself is committed to knitting the human race back together in Jesus Christ. This is why, in spite of the inherent instability of the pursuit, in spite of the frustrating feeling of running hard and getting nowhere, we still press on toward the vision.

EXPLORATION

The story of Pentecost is one of culmination, in which those who were previously fractured by ethnicity, language, and a host of other divisions were united again through the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost gives us hope and endurance to seek that unity continuously till Jesus returns. Consider the following practices to help aid in the pursuit of beautiful community:

- 1. Join a community group or start a group and read a book together on unity and racial reconciliation. It can be difficult to generate conversations around reconciliation, so having a text in common helps spark and facilitate such discussions. *The Beautiful Community* is an excellent place to begin.
- 2. Simplify your calendar and schedules to make margin for community. When our days, weeks, and months are filled to the brim, we can go years without making significant progress toward fostering healthy community. Where can you make space to invite others into your home? Could you start a weekly or monthly gathering at a local spot or park? Hospitality and community always go together, and hospitality can happen anywhere.
- 3. Pray together when gathering in community. Unity demands difficult requirements for each of us, regardless of our own ethnic background. Renewal and reconciliation presuppose confession, repentance, and forgiveness, and without prayer, each of those evades us. Make your requests known to God together and pray for unity in diversity to be true of your community as it is of our Triune God.



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degree from Covenant Theological Seminary. He has authored two books: *Hope Ain't A Hustle: Persevering by Faith in a Wearying World* and *The Beautiful Community: Unity, Diversity and the Church at Its Best.*



Meditation and Contemplation

BARBARA L. PEACOCK

MEDITATION

One of my favorite verses in scripture is Joshua 1:8, which reads: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success" (NKJV).

"Meditate" in this passage is the Hebrew word *hagah*, meaning to ponder and deeply connect. The disciplines of prayerful meditation and contemplation lead men and women of God to a place where they can ponder and deeply connect with God.

Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night. (PSALM 1:1-3 NKJV)

In this passage the psalmist recognized how one who delights in the Lord is prone to meditate on God's Holy Word. From God's Word we learn to live life more effectively in his kingdom and according to his principles.

Unlike the word "meditate," "contemplate" appears in scripture only once or twice, depending on the translation. However, in our study and teachings of spiritual disciplines of twenty-first-century Christendom, both terms are widely used. Sometimes they are used independently of each other and sometimes they are used interchangeably. Nonetheless, the call remains the same from the Spirit of God: come aside and be with God to ponder and connect with him by any means necessary. Meditation and contemplation are excellent tools to use when doing this.

... the call remains the same from the Spirit of God: come aside and be with God to ponder and connect with him by any means necessary.

The disciplines of meditation and contemplation open us to teaching of the Holy Spirit as we seek to draw closer to God through his Word. Joshua 1:8 emphatically informs us of the key to prosperity: it is not based on the systems of the world but on the spiritual condition of the heart and soul. Thus we understand that meditation on God's Word is the key to a successful life in Christ. For the purposes of our discussion, contemplation can be understood as taking the discipline of meditation to a deeper level. Contemplative spirituality draws us into a more focused being and knowing as we open ourselves up to the intimacy of God's totality.

I encourage you to ruminate on God's Word. I liken it to a cow chewing its cud. I can't help but smile at this analogy because it brings to mind childhood memories of standing by the cow pasture in the country near Whiteville, North Carolina.

We actually didn't have a name for our little community, so I'll call it Peacock's Estate—for truly that is what it was: plentiful land of some twenty-five acres that our ancestors had purchased. On this land I saw the cow chewing on the grass. On that very ground I was implicitly learning about meditation and contemplation. Just as the cow allowed the food to digest fully before taking another bite, a kingdom disciple is called to allow God's Word to fully digest in his or her very being. We are to ruminate on it.

See your time of contemplation as a sacred solo space with an audience of One. Respond to his call to be with you, to sup with you, and to dance with you in the Spirit as he serenades you. Come aside and just be. No agenda. Just rest. Bathe in his holy presence. Receive his holiness. Embrace his unconditional love. Saturate. Soak in silence. Be.

EXPLORATION

- 1. Process through your relationship with meditation in your spiritual life. Is this practice natural or challenging, and why? Do you regularly cultivate the stillness and silence necessary for contemplation?

 Take stock of potential barriers and opportunities for growth.
- 2. Cultivate a habit of memorization to "be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Rom. 12:2). Start small; the purpose of committing scripture to memory isn't perfection or achievement, but worship and formation. Whether it's one verse or an entire chapter, write it out, speak it aloud, or listen to a recording. Chew. Digest. Abide.
- 3. Meditate in community. Ask a friend to memorize scripture with you, implement *lectio divina* in your small group, or process through a passage of scripture around the dinner table with your family. Marry the sacred and the ordinary in this practice through the power of the Holy Spirit.



DR. BARBARA L. PEACOCK is the author of the award-winning book Soul Care in African American Practice and the founder of Barbara L. Peacock Ministries. She received her doctor of ministry degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Massachusetts, with a focus on spiritual formation for ministry leaders.

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Gallery

for CONTEMPLATION



PENTECOST

Sadao Watanabe, 1975

 $Hand\mbox{-colored kappazuri-dyed stencil print on washi paper, $25\%\times22\%$ in.}$ Image courtesy of Saint John's University and the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, Collegeville, Minnesota. Published with permission. All rights reserved.

Pentecost

"When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit . . ."

ACTS 2:1-4

CURATOR COMMENTARY

The most prolific Asian artist of the twentieth century working on biblical themes was Sadao Watanabe (1913–1996) of Japan, who converted from Buddhism to Christianity at age seventeen. Originally trained as a textile dyer, he was inspired by the *mingei* folk art movement to pursue a career in printmaking. He used a technique called *katazome*, which entails cut-paper stenciling and dyeing with a variety of natural mineral and organic pigments.

Watanabe's *Pentecost* print from 1975 shows nine of the apostles aflame with the newly descended Spirit of God. One of them bends down to the ground with his hands over his eyes, which I take to be a posture of humility, though perhaps it's fear. What a strange phenomenon, after all! His companion places a reassuring hand on his shoulder. The others look at one another with amazed curiosity, reaching toward the mystery, trying to discern this new power they've received from on high.

Initial V: The Descent of the Holy Spirit

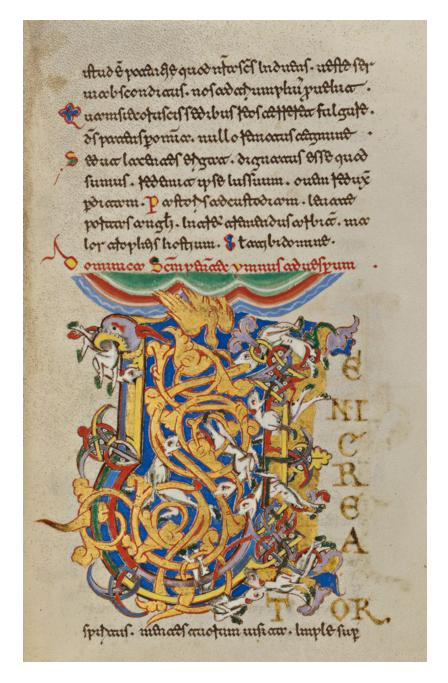
ANONYMOUS, ITALIAN

CURATOR COMMENTARY

This whimsical image is from a small breviary—a book of prayers, hymns, psalms, and readings for the canonical hours—made in 1153 at the monastery of Montecassino in southern Italy for a monk's private use. It shows an illuminated initial V, which introduces the hymn sung at Vespers on Pentecost: *Veni Creator Spiritus* ("Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest").

The anonymous artist has captured something of the wild excitement of the Holy Spirit's descent at Pentecost, which Acts 2 describes as a sudden and mighty insweeping, resulting in the apostles being given the ability to speak in languages they did not know so that the gospel could be understood by all the diverse peoples gathered in Jerusalem. The artist shows the Spirit as a fiery-gold dove plunging from the arc of heaven into a tangle of vine scrolls and biting dogs.

Imaginative play was common in medieval manuscript illumination—you can often see the joy that was had in beautifying the words of scripture and the liturgy. Giving the first letter of a text an elaborate decorative treatment, which sometimes meant inhabiting it with figures (not always related to the text's content), was a way of marking that text as important and especially worthy of dwelling with.



INITIAL V: THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

From~a~breviary~made~in~Montecassino,~Italy,~1153 $Tempera,~gold~leaf,~gold~paint,~and~ink~on~parchment,~7\% \times 5\% in.$ Ms.~Ludwig~IX~1,~fol.~289r,~J.~Paul~Getty~Museum,~Los~Angeles

PENTECOST 2025 45



Breathe on Me

TERRY PECKARSKY

CURATOR COMMENTARY

Evekiel's vision in the valley is a doozy. God brings the prophet to a place strewn with human bones and, before his astonished eyes, breathes life into them: they re-form into skeletons, then grow tissue, then flesh, and finally are animated by God's breath. The takeaway? A divine promise: "I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live" (Ezek. 37:14). Christian interpreters see this promise as having been fulfilled at Pentecost.

Art quilter Terry Peckarsky from Northern Virginia visualizes the valley of dry bones from Ezekiel 37 in her work *Breathe on Me*. She writes, "What image can convey desperate hopelessness and unlimited flourishing at the same time? I wanted to capture the potential for truly restored humanity in all its fullness, even after our individual and communal failure. Nothing can beat a valley of dry bones for the epitome of lifelessness. What is the antidote? According to the Jewish prophet Ezekiel, only the breath of God."

To create the bones, Peckarsky used anatomical drawings by the Old Masters, printing them onto sheets of fabric, which she dyed with tea to age them. She inserted these pieces into strips of a striated batik fabric, which serve as the desert floor. For the breath of God, she used curved fabric pieces with wave motifs, piecing them to suggest vast sweeping movement. A blue fabric forms the sky, which faintly bears two stitched inscriptions: "Breathe on me" and "He breathed on them."

BREATHE ON ME

Terry Peckarsky, 2018

Commercial cotton fabrics and photographic images printed on fabric, machine stitched and quilted, $25 \times 30\%$ in.

PENTECOST 2025



Prayers, Part 2

THURSDAY MORNING to SATURDAY EVENING

Thursday Morning

CALL

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,

that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

LECTIONARY

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

JUN 12

Ps. 141

Lev. 12

Acts 3:1-26

JUN 19

Ps. 147

Lev. 18

Acts 7:54-8:3

JUN 26

Ps. 3

Lev. 24

Acts 11:1-18

JUL 3

Ps. 9

Isa. 3

Acts 14:8-28

THE GLORIA

Glory be 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.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 61-67.

LESSON

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

Wind of God, keep on blowing. Sail over the barriers that we build to divide ourselves from each other. Pick up your seeds of freedom and truth wherever they flourish, carry them across frontiers to be planted in other soil, to begin fresh growth and new forms. Blow from the South to the ears of Northern peoples. Blow away the blinders which keep our eyes focused only on the past, repeating its violence, deepening its divisions, and adding to its despair. Reveal the new future you have in mind for us.

Fire of God, keep on burning, smolder in the hearts of people where oppression keeps them in chains, where unemployment and poverty devalue their humanity, and where hunger weakens the spirit. Burn in them, like Moses' bush, and do not let them be destroyed.

Tongue of God, keep on speaking so that the peoples of earth can speak your language to each other and all can hear you in their own. Speak peace where nations meet, justice where ideas clash, mercy where power reigns, healing where minds and bodies hurt, and love where churches seek your unity, and wherever else Babel drowns out the sound of Pentecost.

A prayer of Graham Cooke of England, taken from Bread of Tomorrow

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For the comfort of the Holy Spirit
- For the courage to not make peace with evil
- For the children who are growing up in your neighborhood

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. May your spirit be free from anxiety as you place your life in his hands. *Adapted from 1 Peter 5:6-7*



LECTIONARY

JUL 10

Ps. 15

Isa. 9

Acts 17:16-34

JUL 17

Ps. 21

Isa. 15

Acts 21:17-39

JUL 24

Ps. 27

Isa. 21

Acts 25:23-26:32

JUL 31

Ps. 33

Isa. 27

1 Cor. 15

Thursday Evening

CALL

When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.

Psalm 94:19

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

LECTIONARY

AUG 7

Ps. 39

Isa. 33

2 Cor. 5

AUG 14

Ps. 45

Isa. 39

2 Cor. 11

AUG 21

Ps. 51

Isa. 45

Gal. 4

THE GLORIA

Glory be 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.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 61-67.

LESSON

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.

Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.

Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.

Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

A prayer of St. Augustine (354–430), a North African bishop

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

BENEDICTION

Be still and let God's peace wash over you like waves lapping over pebbles, smoothing rough edges of insurmountable worries to tiny insignificant grains of sand, taking away the jaggedness of sin to leave smooth, shining love. And let the peace of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us all tonight and every night.

A prayer of Lesley Steel of Scotland, adapted from Seeing Christ in Others



LECTIONARY

AUG 28

Ps. 57

Isa. 51

Eph. 4

SEP 4

Ps. 63

Isa. 57

Phil. 4

Friday Morning

CALL

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD my God, you are very great!

Psalm 104:1

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

LECTIONARY

JUN 13

Ps. 142

Lev. 13

Acts 4:1-31

JUN 20

Ps. 148

Lev. 19

Acts 8:4-25

JUN 27

Ps. 4

Lev. 25

Acts 11:19-30

JUL 4

Ps. 10

Isa. 4

Acts 15:1-35

THE GLORIA

Glory be 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.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 61-67.

LESSON

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

Tlo Moya o halalelang Moe'a 'nete, wa cheseho Kena di pelong tse batang Di tukiswe ka Lerato Re be jwale ka difate Tse hlomiloeng pel'a metsi Re nosetswe, Moe'a Ntate Ka matsatsi le matsatsi Come, Holy Spirit
The Spirit of truth
Enter into our cold hearts
Warm them with your Love
May we be like the trees
That are planted beside the waters
That we may be watered with the Holy Spirit
Day by day

Adapted from a traditional hymn sung in the Sotho (pronounced *sootoo*) language of South Africa and Lesotho

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For intimacy with God
- For deep spiritual friendships
- For the rights of all who labor

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the steadfast love of the Lord be upon you even as you hope in him.

Adapted from Psalm 33:22



LECTIONARY

JUL 11

Ps. 16

Isa. 10

Acts 18:1-22

JUL 18

Ps. 22

Isa. 16

Acts 21:40-22:21

JUL 25

Ps. 28

Isa. 22

Acts 27:1-44

AUG 1

Ps. 34

Isa. 28

1 Cor. 16

Friday Evening

CALL

Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling! Psalm 43:3

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be 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.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 61-67.

LESSON

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

Almighty, eternal, just, and merciful God, grant us in our misery to do for your sake alone what we know you want us to do, and always to want what pleases you; so that, cleansed and enlightened within and inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit, we may be able to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and so make our way to you, Most High, by your grace alone—you who live and reign in perfect Trinity and simple Unity, and are glorified, God almighty, forever and ever. A prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (ca. 1181–1226)

LECTIONARY

AUG 8

Ps. 40

Isa. 34

2 Cor. 6

AUG 15

Ps. 46

Isa. 40

2 Cor. 12

AUG 22

Ps. 52

Isa. 46

Gal. 5

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

BENEDICTION

May grace be unto you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

Adapted from Revelation 1:4b-5



LECTIONARY

AUG 29

Ps. 58

Isa. 52

Eph. 5

SEP 5

Ps. 64

Isa. 58

Col. 1

Saturday Morning

CALL

Singers and dancers alike say, "All my springs are in you."

Psalm 87:7

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

LECTIONARY

JUN 14

Ps. 143

Lev. 14

Acts 4:32-5:16

JUN 21

Ps. 149

Lev. 20

Acts 8:26-40

JUN 28

Ps. 5

Lev. 26

Acts 12:1-25

JUL 5

Ps. 11

Isa. 5

Acts 15:36-16:5

THE GLORIA

Glory be 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.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 61-67.

LESSON

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

CREED

The church is deeply aware that its central emphasis throughout must be: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is Lord and Savior. It confesses this faith in communion with the Christian church throughout the world. In this faith the church worships the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit; one God in Trinity. Its faith is in Almighty God, Father of Jesus Christ, and Father of all men and women in Jesus Christ. He is the Creator and Ruler of the universe, who sustains and provides for our lives in his everlasting love. He is the holy God. Its faith is in Jesus Christ, the Lord, the only-begotten Son of God. There is one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all. Jesus alone is our hope, and through him we await the final victory.

It is a faith in the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of the Father and the Son. He brings about faith unto the new birth through which salvation is received. He is the teacher, who explains God's word to us, and he enables us to bring forth good works to the glory of God. And God's people said: Amen!

A creed of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, derived from the 1958 Statement of Faith approved in Madagascar in 1968

PRAYER

O God, You are One-make us one.

A prayer from India, adapted from Morning, Noon and Night

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a heart of joyful rest
- For those who have left the faith
- For the flourishing of all people in your place, from the womb to the tomb

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

BENEDICTION

forever. Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14



LECTIONARY

JUL 12

Ps. 17

Isa. 11

Acts 18:23-19:10

JUL 19

Ps. 23

Isa. 17

Acts 22:22-23:11

JUL 26

Ps. 29

Isa. 23

Acts 28:1-31

AUG 2

Ps. 35

Isa. 29

2 Cor. 1

Saturday Evening

CALL

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, *for in you my soul takes refuge*.

Psalm 57:1

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

LECTIONARY

AUG 9

Ps. 41

Isa. 35

2 Cor. 7

AUG 16

Ps. 47

Isa. 41

2 Cor. 13

AUG 23

Ps. 53

Isa. 47

Gal. 6

THE GLORIA

Glory be 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.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 61-67.

LESSON

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

confession: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

The Agnus Dei

ASSURANCE: Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PRAYER OF MINDFULNESS

- 1. Become aware of God's presence.
- 2. Review this past week with gratitude.
- 3. Pay attention to your emotions.
- 4. Choose one feature of the week and pray from it.
- 5. Look toward tomorrow and the beginning of a new week.

A PRAYER FOR SABBATH

Creator God,
on the seventh day you rested and were refreshed.
Please help me now to enter into
the rest of your Sabbath,
that I may cease from my work
and delight in your care over my life
both now and forever,
Amen.

BENEDICTION

Lord, you now have set your servants free to go in peace as you have promised, for these eyes of ours have seen the savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see: a light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon), based on Luke 2:29-32



LECTIONARY

AUG 30

Ps. 59

Isa. 53

Eph. 6

SEP 6

Ps. 65

Isa. 59

Col. 2





No hay dios tan grande como tú



(THERE'S NO GOD AS GREAT AS YOU)



Traditional Latin American corito

65

TRANSLATION:

There's no god as great as you, O Lord, my God. There's no god as great as you, O Lord, my God. There's no god who works the mighty wonders, all the wonders that you do. There's no god who works the mighty wonders, all the wonders that you do. Not by our weapons, nor by our power, but by your Spirit we are led. Not by our weapons, nor by our power, but by your Spirit we are led. And these mountains will be moved, and these mountains will be moved, and these mountains will be moved, by your Holy Spirit.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

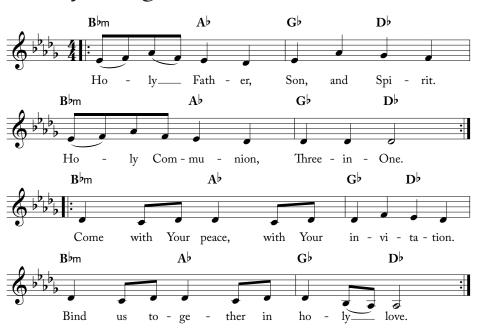




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Trinity Song





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Rejoice in All Your Works



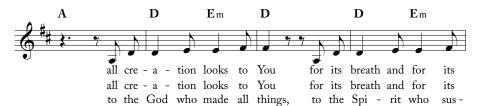
(PSALM 104)



- 1. È very mouth that cries for food, e very lung that yearns for
- 2. E very tree that thirsts for rain, e very bird that seeks its
- 3. May the pon d'rings of my heart and the song u pon my

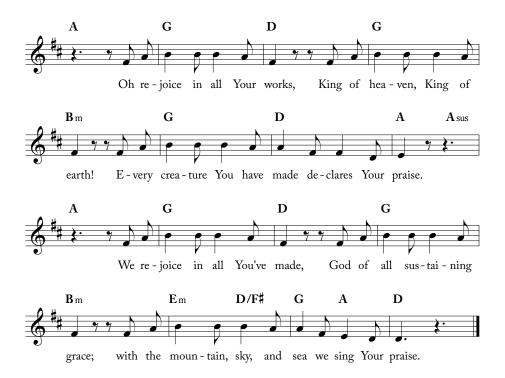


breath, e - very eye that sear-ches through the dark for light, nest, e - very heart that waits in hope to be made glad, lips with the cho - rus of cre - a - tion join in praise





food; from the good-ness of Your hand we're sa - tis - fied. food; from the good-ness of Your hand we're sa - tis - fied. tains, to the Son who o - ver all cre - a - tion reigns.



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