

## **INVOCATION**

Holy and Gracious God, we come.

We gather to praise you as Creator, (+) Christ, and Holy Spirit.

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS** from “Not the God we would have Chosen,” *Awed to Heave, Rooted in Earth* by Walter Brueggemann

Holy and Gracious God, we come.

Yet, we know that in you we are called to be changed, challenged, and set free.

It is then with incredible joy and deep-seeded fear we come and we confess.

Ever Gracious God,

we confess that we have refused to see your Spirit working around us and upon us;

we confess that we have failed to open our hearts to the power of your Spirit.

We continue the divisions of Babel,

speaking in tongues that confound rather than clarify,

hurt rather than heal,

separate rather than unite.

We pray for the gift of community that confirms your Spirit's presence among us.

We pray for the power of your Spirit to transform us into vessels of grace and compassion.

Restore our fractured lives that we, with one voice, may ever give you thanks and praise.

As we come into worship, God is revealed among us. In the gift of Spirit, our unpredictable and surprising God comes. We are changed, challenged, and set free. We are forgiven and made new. We are given grace to dwell in holy freedom and see the Spirit alive among us today. Renewed, we pray, “Come, Holy Spirit! Come!”

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God,

**on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may speak with one voice your care for all people and creation, and that we may rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Drawn into the Spirit's presence and united in one voice, we pray with the people of God in all times and places for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

We call on your spirit of unity, giving thanks for our different vocations. Activate and utilize the diverse gifts present in your church, that they reveal your love for all.

We call on your spirit of life, present in air, wind, humidity, storms, and oxygen in our atmosphere, breathing energy into all things. Heal with your breath the whole creation.

We call on your spirit of righteousness. Wherever we as a people are divided, unite us. Wherever we are prideful, humble us. Give each one of us a heart for justice and empathy.

We call on your spirit of healing. Bless nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for all who long for comfort especially this day we pray for Karen Cline, mother of Kerry Cline who had a significant fall and is recovering.

We call on your spirit of justice. Our hearts are broken by the recent death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and grieve all lives lost because of unjust actions and improper use of power; we grieve the racism that is present in our communities, cities, and nation. May your spirit transform us as we lament and grieve, and challenge us to create a different world for all your children.

We call on your spirit of hope. As you have led your people in all times and places, stir in us the desire to follow their example. This day we entrust to you the life of Donna Maas, mother of Belinda Cline. Hold her in your tender keeping and draw near to Belinda and her family as they grieve. We pray for the family and friends of John Zdechlik, friend and mentor to Charlie Preis who recently died. We lift up Charlotte Legan, mother-in-law of Deb Legan, who died this week—may a holy presence surround Deb and Mark and their family during this time.

With bold confidence in your love, O God, we offer these prayers to you.

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION** (*adapted from a text for Home Communion, written, by Rev. Meta Carlson*)

We practice two sacraments in the Lutheran tradition: baptism and holy communion. These are celebrated in community, in public worship, where we can all participate and remember together: God is known for using ordinary earthly things (like water, bread, and wine) to make extraordinary promises (like forgiveness, healing and new life) to creation.

We don't serve ourselves communion because there's something holy about that promise coming from outside our own bodies, a perfect declaration from God spoken to us by our neighbor: This is the body of Christ, given for you. This is the blood of Christ, poured out for you. If you are gathered together with others from your household, speak these words aloud when you serve each other. If you do not have someone in the room with you while you receive the sacrament, hear my voice as the external word of grace and invitation.

Today is a good reminder that this simple meal nourishes God's community across time and space - this is why we call it communion. We would rather be with you in person for the sacrament today, but we trust Jesus to show up beyond our limitations, to meet us in this separation with a Spirit that unites, to feed us with the bread of life who is our source and strength.

This is the meal  
that does not end,  
that moves from table to hands,  
to bodies beyond.

This is the meal  
that teaches enough,  
to share and break and bless  
like we are bits of heaven.

This is the meal  
through which time can move,  
linking loves lost and not yet  
with bread and wine to satisfy.

This is the meal  
that comes out to meet you,  
stretching and squinting a reunion  
in the small of your hand.

This is the meal  
that gives you strength,  
and proclaims your place  
at the longest table of all.

And this is a dinner table, where we show up  
honest and empty handed,  
where there is more than enough  
and everyone has a seat at the table.

Blessed are you, O God, the One  
who has formed us in community,  
Who blows through creation and into our lives  
Proclaiming hope and promise.  
who is sacred love and life made flesh.

### ***WORDS OF INSTITUTION***

#### ***THE LORD'S PRAYER***

Receive the gifts of God poured out for you.  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

God of Abundance, we give you thanks for your promise to provide enough for creation. Make us stewards of your generosity, prophets of your plenty, and growers of your goodness so that the whole world might taste manna from heaven and bread broken in the name of Christ who is our everlasting hope and source of life. Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

May the One who breathed life into creation  
breathe into you this day a breath of life; fill you with hope;  
and send you out the doors as witnesses to God's power.  
Almighty God, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**