

PRAY EVERY DAY May 23, 2021 Resource

Words of Praise from Psalm 104:1 (NRSV)

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD my God, you are very great.

A Collect for The Day of Pentecost from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979

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 Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2021 Challenge (Genesis to Revelation)

May 24: Nehemiah 1 - 3

May 28: Nehemiah 10 = 11

May 25: Nehemiah 4 - 6

May 29: Nehemiah 12 - 13

May 26: Nehemiah 7

May 30: Esther 1 - 5

May 27: Nehemiah 8 - 9

Small Group or personal study

Read Acts 2:1-21

- In verses 5-13 there were devout Jews from all over the world and they were amazed to hear God's powerful deeds in their own languages. This is a reminder of the grace of God that removes the barriers from us knowing Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit did a miracle that day to help people hear the Gospel in language they could understand. What is an example of when someone put the words of God into your own language you could understand and relate to?

- What languages do you already speak in your culture, interests, experience, education, and work? How could you share the Gospel in a "language" you already know? How might a language you already speak be uniquely suited for the grace of God?

- There were about 120 gathered (Acts 1:15) when the Holy Spirit filled "all of them" (Acts 2:4). That was a mixed group with regard to age, class, and gender (Acts 1:12-15; 2:16-18). All of that mixed group went out preaching, prophesying, and telling what God had done. This is the same Holy Spirit that Jesus fills us with in Christian baptism. Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit on young, old, male, female, slave, and free so they could share the Gospel. Make a list of the different kinds of people you have seen God speak the Gospel through.

- You are one of those kinds of people Jesus fills with the Holy Spirit to speak the Gospel in languages that people who have not yet understood. Invite the Holy Spirit to speak through you today in a language someone in your path can understand. When the Holy Spirit provides an opportunity to speak the Good News, speak in faith.

Spend time in silence

Prayer for others and yourself

The Lord's Prayer

A Daily Prayer for Racial Justice and Reconciliation

(The following prayer is offered by the Bishops' Work Group on Racial Justice and Reconciliation.)

O loving God,

We give you thanks for creating the world which is full of diversity
and for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth.

You reign over all the nations and are seated on your holy throne.

You rule over all the peoples without partiality in respect to nations or races
because righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.

Forgive us for the times when we put walls around us with false pride and racial prejudice.

Forgive us for the times when we were silent in the face of racism, private or institutional.

Open our eyes to see Christ who is in people of every nation and every culture.

Break down the walls that separate us. Set us free from fear, hatred and racism.

Bind us together with the unity of God's love. Restore oneness to the family of God.

We pray in the name of Jesus who came, lived and died for all humanity. Amen.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Call to Pray at Noon Every Day

Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent.

We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide.

Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
AMEN.

Share the Love of Jesus because It's All about Relationships

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Write it down and share it this week in small group for support and prayer.

Going in Praise from Psalm 104:2-4 (NRSV)

You are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,
you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,

you make the clouds your chariot,
you ride on the wings of the wind,

you make the winds your messengers,
fire and flame your ministers.