

PRAY EVERY DAY May 30, 2021 Resource

Big Praise from Psalm 29:1-2 (NRSV)

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.

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

May 31: Esther 6 – 10	June 4: Job 11 – 13
June 1: Job 1 – 4	June 5: Job 14 – 16
June 2: Job 5 – 7	June 6: Job 17 – 20
June 3: Job 8 – 10	

Small Group or personal study

Read John 3:1-17

- This passage reveals some of the loving work of the Holy Trinity: God the Father who loves the world and gave his Son; God the Son who must be lifted up so people may believe, be saved, and have eternal life; and God the Holy Spirit who makes people to be born again of the Spirit and able to see and enter the kingdom of God. What does it mean to you that the loving work of the Holy Trinity is focused on you and so that the world might be saved?
- Nicodemus was a religious person and a leader. Jesus said that Nicodemus needed to be born from above by the Spirit. Nicodemus wasn't quite sure how he could be born when he was full grown. It was work that God would do. Christians can sometimes focus on what we do such as trying harder to be good, improving attitudes or thinking, or dropping a sinful habit. Here, Jesus does not invite Nicodemus to "do more" or "be better" but to be born of God. How have you tried to get to the kingdom of God on your own by "doing more or better"?
- How have you put your faith in Jesus Christ for God to give you a new birth?
- How has God brought a new birth in you (or not)?
- What areas in your life do you need to give to Jesus today for birth and life in the Spirit?

Hymn "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" by Charles Wesley

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want, more than all in thee I find;
raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name, I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound, make and keep me pure within.

Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart; rise to all eternity.

*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.

Blessing the People from Psalm 29:10-11 (NRSV)

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!