



Monday, May 21, 2012

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

This Sunday we will celebrate Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit to the great crowd in Jerusalem. This psalm celebrates God's marvelous creation and the "sending forth" of God's Spirit (vs. 30) as a creating and sustaining life force.

**REFLECT-**

- If you've never taken time to really notice the beauty, the intricacy, the amazing balance of God's creation, take some time today to do that. Look at the night sky in all its' splendor, the veins in a leaf, the rich color and texture of an iris bloom, the silky softness of a cat's paw, the chorus of frog tunes played in the dark. Look, touch, smell, listen... and praise God!

**PRAY-**

Creator God, thank you for the rich beauty and wonder of your creation! Amen.

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

**READ-** Acts of the Apostles: Acts 2:1-21

This story has all the special effects of a Hollywood blockbuster movie! Tongues of fire, rushing wind, people suddenly speaking languages different from their native tongue – all hearing the great good news of what Christ has done for the world. Christ's church is given the power of the Spirit in a fashion no one can deny or ignore!

**REFLECT-**

- Have you accepted and embraced the power of the Holy Spirit in your own life? Do you live in a way that leaves you open and listening for the Spirit's guidance? Are you obedient to the Spirit's leading? What is the Spirit calling you to do right now?

**PRAY-**

Lord, help me to be intentional about keeping myself open to the movement of your Spirit in my life so that I may be obedient. Amen.

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

**READ-** The Epistle: Romans 8:22-27

When we have no words to express our prayer, the Spirit breathes that prayer for us. In one of Paul's most eloquent and comforting letters, he assures the Roman church that nothing and no one can separate them from God's love. No matter how bad things seem, God will prevail.

**REFLECT-**

- With all the evil and suffering happening in our world, it does seem as if the "whole creation has been groaning". In the midst of the chaos of this world, we need to be able to hold onto the hope that Christ gives us and "wait with patience", continuing to work for good in this world.

**PRAY-**

Father, help me to keep my focus on you and not become discouraged. Help me to be a positive influence for you to all around me. Amen.

Thursday, May 24, 2012

**READ-** The Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Jesus tells his disciples how the presence of the Holy Spirit will guide and support their work in spreading the gospel after he is gone. He knows that they cannot possibly fathom what is yet to come, but he tries to reassure them that he will still sustain them, just in a different way.

**REFLECT-**

- We now know that the little band of scared, confused disciples whom Jesus called did miracles things after his death and resurrection and because of their Spirit-led work, we heard the good news and have received salvation. What might the Spirit do with your life if you yield completely to his power?

**PRAY-**

O God, help me to listen, to yield to the Spirit's guidance, and to be faithful and obedient. Amen.

Friday, May 25, 2012

**ACT-**

Focus Verse: Psalm 104:33

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Take time now and think about the many ways in which God has blessed you. A new day, the sunshine and the night sky dotted with stars, food on your table, a place to lay your head at night, family and friends. Are there trials and tribulations? Yes. But there must always be time for praise and thanksgiving in our day to the God who made us, loves us and always sustains us. Lift up your voice in your favorite hymn of praise or a prayer of thanksgiving to God Almighty!