

Pentecost Prayers for Synod Assembly Opening Worship 2016

In the assurance and hope of the ascended Lord and the promise of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(Silence)

Spirit of Life we lift up your Church in prayer. Ignite in your people today a burning delight in the good news as you did on that first Pentecost. Draw us together and send us out in confidence and hope, so that we can boldly share your grace and forgiveness with a world desperate to be loved. Lord in your mercy...

Spirit of Life, we lift up Church leaders throughout the world. Be especially with our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, our Synod Bishop Craig Satterlee, and the Assistants to the Bishop – Pastors Sarah, David, and Chrysanne. Guide them as they lead us. Guide us as we follow. Open our hearts to hear your voice. Lord in your mercy...

Spirit of Life, we lift up this assembly. Kindle mercy and hope in our hearts. Move us to seek your will, listen to each other with respect, and take actions that reflect Christ's love for all. Lord in your mercy...

Spirit of Justice, we lift up your creation. Breathe new life where there is brokenness. Calm the storm where there is flood. Bring rain to places of draught. Stir up in your people a desire to care for the beauty and diversity around us and help us to live as better stewards of the gift you have given us. Lord in your mercy...

Spirit of Justice, we lift up the nations. Blow peace into this world, the peace that passes all understanding. Grant compassion to the leaders of the world, that they might see all people as wholly human and treat them as such. Be especially with our President Barack Obama, the women and men in Congress, and those who sit on the Supreme Court. Grant them wisdom to govern and bring us into a world of equality where oppression and hatred are no more. Lord in your mercy...

Spirit of Justice, we lift up all who are in need. Where people are cold, send those who would clothe them. Where people are hungry, send those who would feed them. Where people are oppressed, free them. Where fear and hate hold sway, bring understanding and love. Be especially with the men, women, and children of Flint as they continue to work for the basic necessity of clean water and send us as your hands and feet to help care for them as they need. Lord in your mercy...

Spirit of Comfort, we lift to you all those who are sick in body, mind, and spirit. We pray especially for those whom we now speak out loud or hold in the silence of our hearts. *(Space for people to speak their prayers.)* Touch their brokenness with your healing hands. Pour out your strength in their weakness, hope in their despair, and courage in their fear. Lord in your mercy...

Spirit of Comfort, we lift to you all who grieve. Envelope them in the warmth of your love, turn their sorrow into dancing and their mourning into joy with the sure and certain hope of what's to come. Hold us all, until the day we sit at your heavenly feast with the saints of every place and time; rejoicing in your majesty. Lord, in your mercy...

Trusting in your promise we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.