



The Leaves of the Tree Are for the Healing of the Nations
The Feast of the Pentecost 2020

In preparation

Find a safe and comfortable place to sit.

Light a candle.

You will be cued when to hold your candle in your hands.

Instrumental music: “*Njoo kweto*” / “Gracious Spirit” (ELW 401)

Gathering

L1 Beloved of God,
while we are separated from one another
and from others whom we love,
the Holy Spirit gathers us as one body
sheltered beneath the branches of the Tree of Life,
the cross of the crucified and risen Christ,
the sign of God’s unfailing love for us and for the whole creation.

L2 We gather to hear God’s promises,
to pray for the healing of the nations,
for the healing of all who suffer from sickness and disease,
for those who face death and those who grieve
and for the healing of our own lives and communities.

Gathering Song: “*Njoo kweto*” / “Gracious Spirit” (Tanzania)
First time, cantor; then, all.

L2 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Holy God,
when Jesus was lifted upon the tree,
he drew all things to himself.
Gather us now within the arms of your mercy,
fill us with your wisdom and compassion
and by your Spirit strengthen us for loving service

as we wait for the coming again of Christ Jesus,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Silence

Invitation (microphones open)

R1 Everyone who hungers for justice,
come, feast on God's promise to feed the hungry,
lift up the lowly and set the captive free.

All God's love endures forever.

R2 Everyone who thirsts for mercy,
come, drink from the water of life:
God's overflowing pardon and healing.

All God's love endures forever.

R1 Everyone who longs for peace among the nations,
peace in the Church and peace between peoples,
peace in each home and every heart,
come, receive the breath of the Spirit,
the peace of the living Christ.

All God's love endures forever.

R2 Everyone who hears creation groaning
under the weight of our neglect and abuse,
come, behold God's vision of the world made new.

All God's love endures forever.

R1 Everyone who suffers amid the pandemic,
those who labor to care for the sick,
those who will die today and those who grieve,
come to the One who knows your sorrow,
weeps with you and wipes away your tears.

All God's love endures forever.

R2 Everyone who is weary and heavy laden,
fearful or full of doubt,
come to the River of Life,
lay down your burdens
and pour out your hearts before the Throne of the Lamb.

All God's love endures forever.

Cantor Let not your hearts be troubled.
Be not afraid.
God's love endures forever.
Be not afraid.

All Let not your hearts be troubled.

**Be not afraid.
God's love endures forever.
Be not afraid.**

Words and music by Rolf Vegdahl, adpt. © Augsburg Fortress, 2009

Silence (microphones muted)

Word

L2 Beloved of God,
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

The prophet Isaiah announced the coming day
when God would create a new heaven and a new earth,
when neither the sound of weeping
nor the cry of distress would be heard,
when the wolf and the lamb would feed together
and God would console every broken heart
and heal the wounded world.

L2 In the Revelation to John
we see the day that Isaiah prophesied
dawning in the crucified and risen Christ,
in whom God comes to make all things new.

L1 A reading from Revelation. (*pause*)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth:
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.
And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

(Revelation 21:1-3a)

L2 “See, the home of God is among mortals,
[God] will dwell with them as their God;
they will be [God’s] peoples,
and God ... will be with them;
[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more:
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

(Revelation 21:3b-4)

L1 I saw no temple in the city,
for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.
And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,
for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.
The nations will walk by its light,

and the [rulers] of the earth will bring their glory into it.
Its gates will never be shut by day —
and there will be no night there.
People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. (Revelation 21:22-26)

L2 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal,
flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb
through the middle of the street of the city.
On either side of the river is the tree of life
with its twelve kinds of fruit,
producing its fruit each month;
and the leaves of the tree
are for the healing of the nations. (Revelation 22:1-2)

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**Let not your hearts be troubled.
Be not afraid.
God comes to dwell among us.
Be not afraid.**

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R1 A Reading from the Gospel according to John

On the last day of the festival, the great day,
while Jesus was standing there, he cried out,
“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,
and let the one who believes in me drink.
As the scripture has said,
‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’”
Now he said this about the Spirit,
which believers in him were to receive;
for as yet there was no Spirit,
because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39)

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**Let not your hearts be troubled.
Be not afraid.
Christ sends the Holy Spirit.
Be not afraid.**

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Prayer

Litany for the Nations

L2 Trusting that the Holy Spirit,
who knows our needs,

prays with and through us,
and when we have no words, for us,
let us pray for the nations of the world,
pleading for mercy and healing
for those places and peoples
torn by ancient animosities or terrorized by new fears;
those devastated by drought or disease;
those crushed by poverty, oppression or war;
and those consumed by power, wealth or greed.

You may hold your candle during the litany.

Refrain: Cantor sings the refrain first, then everyone sings.

Cantor For the healing of the nations,
 we pray to you, O God.

**All For the healing of the nations,
 we pray to you, O God.**

The cantor sings the stanzas.

*All sing the refrain, following the cantor: **Peace be yours.***

Bangladesh and India,
Nepal and China;
Japan and Hong Kong
Malaysia and Koreas.

Indonesia, and Cambodia,
Myanmar and Thailand
Philippines, Australia,
Papua New Guinea.

Egypt and Iraq,
Palestine and Israel;
Lebanon and Jordan,
Syria and Yemen.

**All For the healing of the nations,
 we pray to you, O God.**

France and Spain
Switzerland and Italy
Romania, Slovenia,
Czech & Slovak Republics.

Russia and Finland,
Austria and Hungary;
Croatia, Estonia,
Latvia and Poland.

Norway and Sweden,
Belgium and Denmark;

Germany and Serbia
Northern Ireland and England.

**All For the healing of the nations,
we pray to you, O God.**

South Africa, Angola
Madagascar, Namibia,
Botswana, Malawi
Mozambique, Zimbabwe.

Sierra Leone
Central African Republic
Senegal, Liberia,
Cameroon, Nigeria

Tanzania and Sudan
Kenya and Congo
Ethiopia, Somalia
Eritrea, Rwanda

Guinea and Ghana
Chad and The Gambia.
Burkina Faso
Mauri-tan-ia

**All For the healing of the nations,
we pray to you, O God.**

Bolivia and Chile,
Uruguay, Colombia,
Ecuador, Guyana;
Brazil and Argentina.

Venezuela, El Salvador
Mexico and Canada
Costa Rica, Honduras,
Nicaragua, Guatemala,

Haiti and Jamaica
Dominican Republic
United States and Cuba,
All immigrants and refugees.

For the nations of the world,
and for all their peoples,
For each tribe and family,
and for all creation.

All For the healing of the nations,

**we pray to you, O God.
For the healing of the nations,
we pray to you, O God.**

Words and adaptation by Susan R. Briehl, "Litany for the Nations," in *Holden Prayer Around the Cross: Handbook to the Liturgy*, © Augsburg Fortress, 2009

Companion church leaders offer intercessions.

Closing collect

At the close of all the prayers:

L2 Let us pray.
(*pause*)
You are gracious and merciful, O God,
slow to anger, rich in love.
Receive our prayers as you have promised
and uphold us by your Spirit,
until all things, mended by your mercy,
are made whole and well in you,
through Jesus Christ, our healer and our hope.

All Amen.

Susan R. Briehl, "Service of Word and Prayer" in *All Creation Sings*, © Augsburg Fortress, 2020

L1 We pray together as Jesus taught.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

Blessing

L1 The peace of God that surpasses understanding,
the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds,
and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit
keep and bless us now and always.

Amen.

Susan R. Briehl, "Service of Word and Prayer" in *All Creation Sings*, © Augsburg Fortress, 2020

L1 Let us share a sign of peace.

Closing song

First time, cantor; then, all.

Sing in the language closest to your heart.

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful.

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