

KITCHEN TABLE GATHERING

CONNECT + PRAY + BE FED

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(with selections from a Centering Prayer by Amy Loving)

The Apostle Paul tells us that the Spirit of God prays for us
“with sighs too deep for words”.

Through the Life-Giving Breath of God, we are given all that we need.

Let us breathe deeply—
inhaling the good gifts that God provides,
and exhaling all of the things that we need to release.

Let us breathe in strength. *(Pause for breath...)*
And, let us exhale our exhaustion. *(Pause for breath...)*

Let us breathe in hope. *(Pause for breath...)*
And, let us exhale self-doubt. *(Pause for breath...)*

Let us breathe in unconditional love. *(Pause for breath...)*
And, let us exhale distrust and hate. *(Pause for breath...)*

**Life-Giving Breath of God,
Stir up these dry bones of ours and
bring freedom to our lives, let us feel the mighty rush
of your presence in this place. Blow away our fears and worries,
and help us to discover your gifts of life in new ways.**

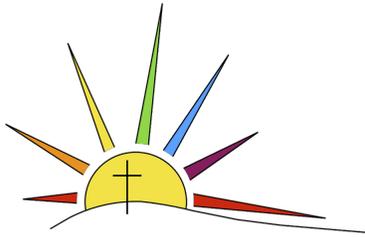
Siblings in Christ, God is at work in us and with us!
God’s breath sustains us, holds us, and enlivens us.
Know that this Divine breath dwells within us, that God may never leave
us.

We are wrapped in love by the goodness of God.
God urges us, “Keep the word near you, even on your lips and in your
heart...

This word is your salvation.”

As we worship today, with the word on our lips, dwelling deep within our
lungs, and in our hearts, experience the salvation of God for all manner of
things in our lives.

In the promise, presence, and power of God for all manner of things,
Amen.



GREETING

Thank you for joining us this morning. Welcome to our kitchen table gathering. At this time, if you haven't lit your candle yet I invite you to do that and if you would like, make sure you have a few items for our meal together.

READINGS

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

You restore my soul, O Lord,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear
no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

John 9:1-41

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

During the prayers, there will be time for you to lift up your own prayers at home. You can also share prayer requests in the comment section (if you are logged into Facebook) or send them to epiphanylutheran1@verizon.net

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

At this time, I invite you to take a moment and text one or two people a word of peace.

OFFERING

Although we are not together in person at this time, we are still church and our ministry continues. Your contributions help support our our work and I am also here to walk with you during these strange days.

THE MEAL WE SHARE

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Although our community is scattered, God's love and grace abounds! I also believe that the words that Jesus shares with his friends in a time of difficulty need to be heard and the meal he shared speaks to the tangible elements of our life in Christ. As I speak the words, I invite you to take hold of the items in front of you and follow along. In this way, let our meal together overcome the physical distance between us and remind us of our unity.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,
using the words closest to your heart.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

SHARE THE MEAL

Take a bite of what is in front of you. Take a drink from your cup.
Remember Christ and his mercy for you. Remember God and the love
poured out for you. It is worth remembering that Christ is with, in
through and under us, as we hear those words "for you."

MEAL BLESSING

Let this small act we share remind us of the power of Christ's strength
and know that you are kept in God's grace.

SENDING PRAYER

We thank you, living God,
for the presence of your Son,
which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike.
As Christ has loved us in life he shared,
so send us to love Christ in our neighbors.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

BLESSING

Breathe on us, breath of God,
So we shall never die,
But live with You the perfect life
Of Your eternity.

In the name of the Divine Three-in-One.
Amen.

SENDING

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.