



A Pentecost Interdenominational Prayer Service



*“May we become seeds of hope for all creation.”
Laudato Si week theme.*

(A simple prayer service that can be held in parishes or small groups from different denominations on the feast of Pentecost, possibly after the regular community services. It can be led by a pastor, priest or lay person or family)

Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters, there is a great need in our world today for the presence of God’s love, mercy and peace. Several world events come together that are important and relevant for the different denominations of the Christian Church in our region, our communities and families during this month of May. The Week of Prayer for Christian unity, 9 -19 May. Laudato Si week, 19-26 May, which focuses on care of the creation, with the theme “Seeds of Hope.” The 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family and Family Day on 15 May have the theme “Families and Climate Change.” These events are followed by the elections in SA on 29 May.

The great Feast of Pentecost on which all Christians welcome again the Coming of the Holy Spirit is celebrated on 19th May during these weeks. Members of different Christian denominations are invited to gather together in groups for some moments of reflection, sharing and prayer on the issues facing us, our world, our country and our families.

Suggested symbols: A main candle and small candles to light and take home. Seeds of different kinds of trees and plants to choose, distribute and take home to plant.

Gathering Hymn

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Glory to you, Father, for you reveal yourself in your creation and call all people to live in your presence.

Glory to you, Christ Jesus, for you give yourself entirely to each one of us and invite us to do the same.

Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you gather us together in love and unity.

Glory to you, One God who is Love, in whom we are created, redeemed and made one.

You, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your church, safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her may return all its force and that the spiritual food may gain her abundance of eternal redemption through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Hymn or Suitable Vernacular Hymn

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, x 2

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored,

Chorus: *And they’ll know we are Christian by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand x 2
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side, x 2
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

Scripture: (From the scripture readings for Pentecost).

Acts 2:1-11.

John 20:19-23

Homily or Individual or Group Sharing

Penitential Intercessions

Leader: Enlightened by the Word of God, let us now turn to Him with our prayers of petition.

(A leader or another person may share in leading the following petitions)

For the sins committed to divide humanity against creation, families against members
and displace people. Lord, have
mercy.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will unite the scattered Children of God across the face of
the earth. Lord hear us.

For the sins that removed the dignity of each person and the environment as created by
God.

Lord have
mercy.

We pray that the Trinity of the Unified God will draw all men, women and children together,
so that united in the One Godhead we may feel at home with one another. Lord hear us.

For the sins committed against God's Creation, the ignorance and persistence in destroying
the beauty of the environment. Lord
have mercy.

May our Christian obligation remind us of our responsible stewardship of God's Creation.
Lord hear us.

For the sins that destroy marriages and family, when individuals are found lacking the moral
and mutual support. Lord have
mercy.

As we are embarking on the upcoming elections, we pray for the unity and peace in our Country.
Lord hear us.

Hymn or Suitable Vernacular Hymn

*All things bright and beautiful all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,

He made their glowing colours, he made their tiny wings. All things.....

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun
The ripe fruits in the garden he made them every one. All things....

He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we may tell
How great is God almighty who has made all things well. All things.....

Sending Forth and Blessing Prayer

Leader: As we end our moment of prayer together let us offer one another a blessing and send each of us out to be witnesses to Christian Unity, faithfulness in marriage, commitment in family life and ready to take care of the environment:

May God the father of light who was pleased to enlighten the disciples' minds by the outpouring of the Spirit, the Paraclete, grant us gladness by his blessing and make us always be filled with the gift of the same Spirit.

May the wondrous flame that appeared above the disciples powerfully cleanse our hearts and actions from every evil against the Church of Christ, the Family and all non-human creatures and fill them with its purifying light.

And May God who has been pleased to unite many tongues in the profession of one faith, give us perseverance in that same faith and, by believing, may we journey from hope to clear vision.

(If the priest or deacon leads this service, he may bless the gathering using the formula)

Clergy: And may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on us and remain with us forever.
Amen.

(If a lay person leads this service, he/she may use the following formula)

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

All: Amen

(Prepared by departments and associated bodies of the Catholic Bishops Conference with material taken from the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Laudato Si Week.)