PENTECOST ECUMENICAL PRAYER FOR UNITY AND JUST PEACE
Pentecost 2017

L and light letter parts are read by one person.

C and bold letter parts are read by the congregation.

Prelude *(by a soloist/choir/instrumental)*

♪

Come, O come quickly, Holy Spirit *(by a soloist)*

Invocation

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

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth,
present in all places and filling all things;
treasury of good things and giver of life,
come and dwell in us and purify us from every stain,
and of your goodness save us.

Song of Pentecost

♪

Pentecost Troparion
Come, Holy Spirit, true light.
Come, hidden mystery.
Come, treasure without a name.
Come, happiness without end.
Come, awaited of all those who are to be saved.
Come, O invisible one.
Come, beloved name, everywhere repeated.
Come, my breath and my life.
Come, consolation of my poor soul.
Come, my joy, my glory, without end.  

(St. Simeon the New Theologian)

Song calling upon the Spirit

♪  Wa wa wa Ememimo
Opening responses

From east and west, south and north,
from seashores and mountaintops,
from green valleys and barren lands,
from cities and villages,
God has gathered us in this place.

From many cultures and backgrounds,
speaking in various languages,
living in different stages of life,
we believe that through baptism we are united with Christ.
Coming with varied thoughts and feelings,
thanksgiving and lament,
assurance and repentance,
joy in the Gospel and sorrow for division,
we celebrate the new life given through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Believing in God’s promise,
keeping our hearts burning with love and expectations,
we rejoice in the coming of the Spirit,
the dawn of the promised age, the fulfilment of hope!

Song of praise

♫ Bless the Lord my soul

Psalm 103:1

Jacques Berthier: Taizé, France


Lament

Give us a voice
and we will cry out.
We will raise our voices to sing
Our feet will dance
Wherever there are signs of life around us.

Give us a voice
and we will sob.
Weeping with your world,
like a child holding a broken treasure,
a child that will not be comforted:
weeping at the divisions and separations of churches and our communities;
weeping at misused powers that oppress others and destroy the earth;
weeping at the brokenness of our lives;
weeping with those who lost their loved ones because of wars and conflicts;
weeping with refugees and displaced people;
weeping with the abused and unloved children and youth;
weeping with those who are discriminated against;
weeping with the hungry and the thirsty as they search for a just peace.

Song praying for peace

Ya rabba ssalami

Send peace on our world, God, you, the creator of peace.
To you, God of peace, send peace upon us all.

Our hearts fill with peace, God. You are the source of healing peace.
To you, God of peace, fill our hearts with peace.

Give us a voice to name truth
and expose falsehood;
to encourage the downhearted
and confront the powers.

Give us a voice that speaks with passion
and a voice full of compassion.
A voice that is gentle
and a voice that knows when to be angry.

When there is no word to convey our grief and anger,
and when we cannot pray,
help us to believe
that the Spirit groans with us and intercedes for us.

♪ Ya rabba ssalami

Give us a voice,
and we will proclaim the living Christ.

Voices buried deep will shout out.
Voices that have been submerged will emerge.
Voices that have never been heard will be raised.
Even stones will cry out.

We hear the words of the Spirit of Christ whispering to us.

(Several voices of young people.)
Keep the dream alive.
Watch and wait.
One day I will return.
One day justice will flow like a river.
And I will establish peace for you.

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

♪ Refrain: Send forth your Spirit

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.

These all look to you to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.

♪ Refrain: Send forth your Spirit
May the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
**may the Lord rejoice in all these works**—  
who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
**who touches the mountains and they smoke.**  
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
**I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**  
May my meditation be pleasing to the Lord,  
in whom I rejoice.  
**Bless the Lord, O my soul.**  
**Praise the Lord!**  

**Refrain: Send forth your Spirit**

**Bible reading - Acts 2: 1-13**

**(*the yellow part is read by several people in different languages at the same time*)

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.  
2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.  
3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.  
4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.  
5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.  
6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.  
7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?  
8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?  
9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,  
10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,  
11 Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."  
12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"  
13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

**Halle, hallelujah**
Gospel Reading – John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

♪ Halle, hallelujah

Reflection

Litany of Unity

L1: God of grace, send upon us today your Holy Spirit
as you poured out the Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost.

L2: May your Holy Spirit ignite in us a passionate desire for unity.

C: We wish to be one, so that the world may believe.

L1: When your church unites people with Christ, in the power of the Spirit
and manifests communion in prayer and action,

L2: when your church affirms the sanctity of life and proclaims unity, just peace and
reconciliation,

L1: when your church provides healing and overcomes divisions of race, gender, age and
culture,

L2: we give thanks and praise, O God.

C: As we draw closer to Christ, we draw closer to each other.

L1: There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female, for all are one in Christ Jesus. (Gal.3:28)

C: In him all nations shall be blessed. (Gal.3:8)

L2: Many people will come from East and West, from North and South,
and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of heaven
(Luke 13: 29; Matthew 8: 11)

C: The nations will walk by the light of the Lamb. (Revel 21:24)

L1: Because God’s purpose is to gather the whole creation under the Lordship of Jesus
Christ;
L2: because the church is to unite people with Christ in the power of the spirit, to promote life, justice and peace;

L1: because the church is a foretaste of the koinonia (community), which God wills.

C: We give thanks and praise, O God.

Song of unity in the Spirit

♪ We are one in the Spirit (stanzas 1 and 2)

Prayers of intercession

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

♪ Response: Ya Rab urham (repeat after each paragraph)

Arabic

Ya Rab ur-ham. Ya Rab ur-ham. Ya Rab ur-ham.

Kore eleison. Lord, have mercy on us.

L: For the peace and loving kindness of God toward humanity and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For peace in the whole world and unity among all the holy churches of God; for all those responsible for our churches and communities, for all brothers and sisters in Christ, and for every Christian afflicted and weary, in need of God’s mercies and help, let us pray to the Lord.

For Jerusalem, and every city and town, for those who dwell in them in faith and in reverence of God, and for their peace and security, let us pray to the Lord.

For the people of Israel and Palestine, and all people living in the midst of conflicts and wars, that they might know the peace that is your gift and your will, for all who work for a just peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who bear fruit and do good work in God’s holy churches, for those who remember the poor, the widows, the orphans, the strangers, the refugees and the needy; and for those who have charged us to remember them in our prayers,
let us pray to the Lord.

For us in this place and all Christians throughout the world, who have been united in one Spirit and called to live in unity, may the Holy Spirit empower us to commit ourselves to seeking and showing the unity of the body of Christ and with our gifts to care for one another in the bond of peace.

For our prayer, that it may be heard and be well accepted by God and that God's mercies and compassion be sent to us, let us pray to the Lord.

Glory to you, O Christ our God and our hope, Glory to you. May Christ, our true God, have mercy on us and save us, for he is good and loves humankind.

All: Amen.

Let us say the Lord’s prayer in our own language with a strong, confident voice. We celebrate Pentecost; therefore, each language must be heard.

The Lord’s Prayer (in many languages)

♪ We are one in the Spirit (stanzas 3 and 4)

Sending and blessing

We are sent to lead a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-2)

Calling upon the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us, we are ready to be sent out to the world in the name of Christ. We ask for God’s mercy for all people and nations.

(Each blessing for the people in a region is said by a young person.)

May God’s blessing and peace be with the people of Africa.
May God’s blessing and peace be with the people of Asia.
May God’s blessing and peace be with the people of Caribbean.
May God’s blessing and peace be with the people of Europe.
May God’s blessing and peace be with the people of Latin America.
May God’s blessing and peace be with the people of Middle East.
May God’s blessing and peace be with the people of North America.
May God’s blessing and peace be with the people of Pacific.

And may God bless us with life forever; may Christ Jesus breathe his Spirit and peace into us; may the Holy Spirit kindle our hearts with love and undying hope;
and may the Blessed Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, preserve us in unity and help us to discover joy in walking together as part of Christ's body. Amen.

Sharing peace *(while singing, we greet each other and exchange olive branches)*

Song of peace

♪  

La paz del Señor

Anders Ruuth: Sweden-Argentina

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