

Taking Worship Home

Talk about one or more of the following with a friend or family member.

How did you celebrate Easter as a kid? Who was usually present? What kinds of traditions have you held onto as you get older?

Have you ever seen an immersion baptism in person? Who was baptized and why were you there? What do you know about your baptism day?

Have you ever been in a situation where you could have died? What happened? How did it turn out? What did you take away from that experience?

Discuss with someone who can point you back to Jesus and his love for you.

The perfectionist won't go down into the waters of baptism; the fatalist won't come back out. Which is more like you, to want to avoid admitting your sins or to want to dwell on your sins and avoid living out your forgiven identity? Why do you think that is?

A purifying fire does damage, but if controlled properly, it consumes only the imperfections that taint or stain. Have you had an experience of refining through fire? What did you lose? What did you gain? How did you pray in the fire?

Where do you think the Holy Spirit is killing or raising or refining or sculpting you right now? What help from others or promise from Jesus will shape your response to the Spirit's work?

Sermon Notes



Sunday

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
Romans 6:4 (ESV)

Spirit of Creation and New Creation, join me to the death of Jesus. Bury me deep in the watery grave of my baptism; kill my selfishness and pride. Join me to the death of Jesus that the sins of my past may have no power over me.

Then bring the power of Easter to my present reality. Raise me to newness of life even now, ahead of my future resurrection, that the life of Jesus may define my present identity. Fill me, change me, guide me, and overflow through me, to the glory of the Father. Amen.



Sunday, April 28
St. Luke, Ann Arbor
www.stlukeaa.org

Monday

**The Spirit of God
was hovering over the waters.
Genesis 1:2**

Come, Holy Spirit, creator of all things! Cast aside the chaos of my hectic week and order my days after the Father's will.

Hover over today's needs and desires; be present in my thinking, feeling, and speaking. Bring peace to my turmoil, trust to my uncertainty, and light to my darkness.

Use your creative power to make the life of Jesus present in my routine, so that I labor for Christ even as I rest in Him. Amen.

Tuesday

**Jesus breathed on them and said,
"Receive the Holy Spirit."
John 20:22**

Resurrected Lord, breathe on me again today!

As You personally breathed the Spirit of life into the human being You shaped from the dust, give me Your personal, life-giving Spirit in abundance. As I breathe in, I am aware of Your presence; as I breathe out, I give my burdens to You.

Jesus, I need Your breath—Your Spirit—in my life, or I will die. Be as close and as present today as my breathing, and increase my dependence on You. Amen.

Wednesday

**All of you who were baptized into Christ
have clothed yourselves with Christ.
Galatians 3:27**

Come, Holy Spirit, sculptor from on high! Chisel away the rough edges of my selfish heart and mold me more and more into the image of Christ.

Give me that image as my new garment; clothe me with Jesus; cover me with His Easter life, so that by faith in Him I put on His resurrection power.

As a free and forgiven heir of the New Creation, I want to walk in the steps of the risen Son and live out my calling as an heir of promise. Spirit, make me look like Jesus. Amen.

Thursday

**He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit and fire.
Matthew 3:11**

Come, Holy Spirit, fire from above! Burn away my sins and purify my heart with God's love, so that my life mirrors Christ's faithfulness to the Father and service for the world.

O Holy Fire, You who kill and make alive, I confess my sins to You today. I hold nothing back, known or unknown. I especially need forgiveness for ...

Consume my dross with your flame; put to death everything in me that opposes your purpose; kindle in me a faith that trusts You. Amen.

Friday

**For we were all baptized by one Spirit
so as to form one body...and we were all given
the one Spirit to drink.
1 Corinthians 12:13**

Lord God, Heavenly Father, thank You for arranging the members of the Body so carefully! Thank you for the variety of Your gifts, and for the unique life you give me to use for Your glory.

Give me to drink again of the one Spirit that binds Your people together. Give your Church one heart and one mind, that we may speak with one voice. Bring unity in our division, Lord, and give us Your Spirit of Peace, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

Saturday

**The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit
that we are God's children.
Romans 8:16**

Loving Father, thank you for Your Spirit, who lives in me. What an amazing thought! The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead also gives me life!

Come, Holy Spirit, Spirit of Adoption, and empower me to cry out, "Abba, Father!" Fill me with resurrection power and resurrection joy as you continue to shape the death and resurrection of Jesus in me.

All praise, and glory, and honor be to You, O God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—now and forever! Amen.