

A WEEKLY DEVOTION



INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 16, 2021

Reading

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. -1 Corinthians 12:4-13

Reflection

I often read this passage and think what a relief it is that I am not responsible for all of these gifts. Can you imagine if we had to be all things at all times to all people? This is why we give thanks for our community in Christ. Together, we are the Body of Christ, supplying strength and support to one another and complementing one another's gifts. By its very nature, the Body of Christ is egalitarian. Paul affirms that we "were all made to drink of one Spirit", and that all gifts "are activated by one and the same Spirit". Not only are we all equally valued in the Body, we are all also equally necessary to the Body's proper functioning. What are your gifts and talents? Where are your weaknesses? How can we, as the Body of Christ, more effectively witness to our community?

Prayer *(Setting 8, Kyrie, ELW)*

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord,

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord,

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;

for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord,

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord,
Kyrie eleison. Amen