

# Sunday, May 27

First Reading

[Isaiah 6:1-8](#)

Psalm

[Psalm 29](#)

Second Reading

[Romans 8:12-17](#)

Gospel

[John 3:1-17](#)

## OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall  
proclaim your praise.  
Glory to the Father,  
and to the Son and to  
the Holy Spirit: as it  
was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be  
forever. Amen.

## CLOSING PRAYER

O God, you have  
called your servants  
to ventures of which  
we cannot see the  
ending, by paths as  
yet untrodden,  
through perils  
unknown. Give us  
faith to go out with  
good courage, not  
knowing where we go,  
but only that your  
hand is leading us  
and your love  
supporting us;  
through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.

Additional prayer ideas  
on Page 2.

## Psalm 29 (NLT)

Honor the Lord, you heavenly beings;

honor the Lord for God's glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> Honor the Lord for the glory of God's name.

Worship the Lord in the splendor of God's  
holiness.

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord echoes above the sea.

The God of glory thunders.

The Lord thunders over the mighty sea.

<sup>4</sup> The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
the voice of the Lord is majestic.

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord splits the mighty  
cedars;

the Lord shatters the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup> The Lord makes Lebanon's mountains skip  
like a calf;

The Lord makes Mount Hermon leap  
like a young wild ox.

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the Lord strikes  
with bolts of lightning.

<sup>8</sup> The voice of the Lord makes the barren  
wilderness quake;

the Lord shakes the wilderness of  
Kadesh.

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the Lord twists mighty oaks  
and strips the forests bare.

In the Temple everyone shouts, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> The Lord rules over the floodwaters.

The Lord reigns as king forever.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord gives the people strength.  
The Lord blesses them with peace.

## I WONDER

- This Psalm describes a mighty storm. I wonder what the storm looked like ... sounded like ... smelled like ... felt like ... .
- In this psalm, the words "the voice of the Lord" appear 7 times. (Can you find them?) I wonder what it is like to hear the voice of the Lord. I wonder what the Lord is saying.
- Read verse 11 together. I wonder what that tells us about God.

## SLOW DEVOTIONS

Sit quietly with this psalm for a time.  
Feel the power within it. Notice the  
voice (commands) of the Lord control  
all those things that were considered  
most powerful or fearful for the  
ancients: the power and chaos of the  
sea, the huge cedars of Lebanon, the  
wild animals, the barren wilderness.

Consider what is powerful and  
fearsome for you. Rewrite some or all  
of the verses of this psalm comparing  
God's power to the those things that  
have power over you or make you  
afraid. (Eg. "The voice of the Lord  
echoes above the *need to be perfect*.  
The God of glory shines through.").  
End your psalm with a promise like in  
verse 11.

## ACTIVE DEVOTIONS

Make a storm together

Do the following in order and then  
in reverse to make the sounds of a  
storm passing through.

- Rub hands together
- Snap fingers
- Clap hands
- Slap thighs
- Stomp feet

... then make rainbows

*"This rainbow is the sign of the  
covenant I am confirming with all the  
creatures on earth."* Genesis 9:17

Fill a clear glass with water and  
use it as a prism to refract sunlight  
into a rainbow. Or turn on the  
hose, set the nozzle to mist, and  
run through your own rainbow  
shower.

# Going Deeper

## PRAY A NEW WAY

**Beach ball prayer:** Select someone to start the prayer. Holding the ball, the leader says, “**Dear Lord, You give us so many reasons to praise you. We thank you for this time together. We thank you for sending us your son to guide and walk with us. And we thank you for ...**” The leader tosses the ball to someone in the group, who shouts out the first thing that pops into their head and then tosses the ball to another. Keep tossing the ball until everyone has shared — keep going if the group wants!

**Leader-led prayer:** Select a leader. Each member of the group shares their prayer request with the group. This can be done at the start of the devotion time or the end. The leader takes notes and includes the requests in the closing prayer. (This is a great way to teach kids to be comfortable with making up their own prayers.)

**Praying with posture:** Follow your heart’s lead to pray with mind and body. You can use the prayer below or say your own.

- Kneeling
- Sitting
- Standing
- Bowing
- Lying prostrate (face-down and flat)
- Hands up

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## God’s Wildness

**Psalm 29** describes God like a wild thunderstorm.

**Job 36:26–39:30.** These chapters describe God’s power and invoke images of weather, wild animals and the whole creation.

**Acts 2:1-4,16-21.** The Holy Spirit rushes in like a violent wind and tongues of fire rest on the disciples.

**Deuteronomy 4:34.** An all powerful God uses whatever means necessary to get the Israelites out of Egypt.

“Religious beliefs offer some security, or at least a lofty perspective on life’s circumstances. But the God of the Bible cannot be confined to our systems of belief. He is wild and untamable.”

- *Todd Nelson, Humanities Faculty at Concordia International School Hanoi*

How do you see God’s wildness? Where do you see God’s wildness? Do you relate to God differently when you think of God as a wild, powerful creator? Or as an unpredictable force in the Holy Spirit?

In the week ahead, open your heart and mind to God’s power and the Holy Spirit’s presence. Can you hear God’s message to you?

## ANYTIME ACTIVITIES

- ★ Pray and color
- ★ Gratitude photo hunt
- ★ “I Spy” game
- ★ Finger labyrinth

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