

Pastoral Prayer for May 24, 2020

O God, you came among us and lived among us on here on earth and then were lifted up to heaven in a cloud. Like the disciples we are tempted to keep our gaze heavenward to see you there.

Just as they were reminded to go back into the city, receive the Holy Spirit, and spread the Gospel, remind us to keep our gaze here on earth.

Here, where we feel isolated, help us to remember that we are still the body of Christ.

Here, where we don't know if others can hear our voices, help us to proclaim the Gospel in new ways.

Here, where we feel broken and unsafe, remind us that you have already restored us to wholeness in you.

We are impatient, Lord, to control the outcome of our circumstances. It is hard to admit that it is not for us to know "the times or periods that the Father has set." But it **is** ours to receive.

To receive the power of the Holy Spirit

To receive care from our sisters and brothers when we are in need

To receive your Son in the many faces of the suffering, even faces with masks.

It is our blessing to be witnesses of your love and healing to the ends of the earth even if the only part of the earth we see today is within our own homes.

It is our mission to live out your Love so that it is not hidden in a cloud, because in Christ, Love is present in all of creation.

It is our joy to glorify you when and how and where we can.

The Father of all creation

The ascended Christ who raised us

The Holy Spirit who empowers us

AMEN