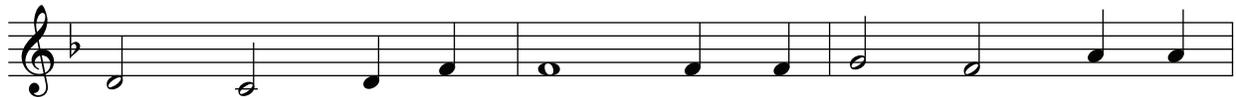


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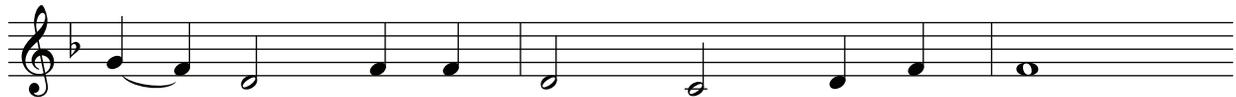
Healing River of the Spirit



1. Heal - ing riv - er of the Spir - it, Bathe the
2. Well-spring of the heal - ing Spir - it, Stream that
3. Liv - ing stream that heals the na - tions, Make us



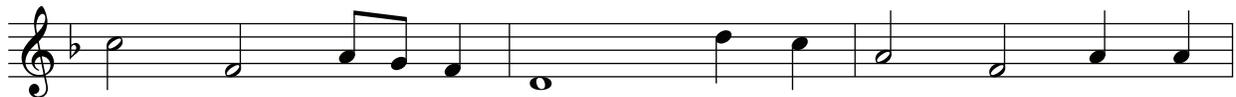
wounds that liv - ing brings. Plunge our pain, our sin, our
flows to bring re - lease, As we gain our selves, our
chan - nels of your pow'r. All the world is torn by



sad - ness Deep be - neath your sa - cred springs.
sens - es, May our lives re - flect your peace.
con - flict; Wars are rag - ing at this hour.



Wea - ry from the rest - less search - ing That has
Grate - ful for the flood that heals us, May your
Sav - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us, Guide our



lured us from your side, We dis - cov - er in your
Church en - act your grace. As we meet both friend and
wind - ing hu - man course, Till we find our way to -



pres - ence Peace the world can - not pro - vide.
stran - ger, May we see our Sav - ior's face.
geth - er, Flow - ing home - ward to our Source.

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1996, The Pilgrim Press
Tune: BEACH SPRING, 8 7 8 7 D; *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. by Ronald A. Nelson, b.1927

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“Everyone is looking for you.” – Mark 1:37b

Whether or not we know it, all of us are looking for Jesus. God has placed a desire to know him in the heart of each person he created. While this desire can be ignored, suppressed, or covered up by earthly baggage, each person possesses this potential. Those of us who gather for the Eucharist every Sunday are fortunate to be in touch with this desire, regardless of where we are on our faith journey.

The Sunday scriptures speak rawly of the human condition. The first reading from Job, a real downer, contains zero shreds of hope. (Luckily, the Responsorial Psalm “Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted” is the hopeful reflection to this passage.) St. Paul speaks in his letter to the Corinthians about the challenges of preaching the gospel; one of our petitions this Sunday echoes this sentiment. In the gospel, Jesus heals many from illness and drives out demons from others. It’s near the end of this passage that we hear Simon say, “Everyone is looking for you.”

The entrance hymn this Sunday, “Healing River of the Spirit,” uses images of water to describe the healing power of the Holy Spirit, which we **look for** every time we come to Mass. The creative analogies used in this text are so clever that it’s possible to lose some of the meaning by just singing through the hymn.

When we enter the church doors, we sign ourselves with holy water as a reminder of our baptism — a gesture that can become

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habitual rather than symbolic. In baptism we are made into “a new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17); through the power of baptism, the Holy Spirit “plunges our pain, sin, and sadness beneath its sacred springs” (stanza 1). The end of stanza 1 brings us hope amid the struggles of earthly life - “We discover **in your presence** peace the world cannot provide.” When we enter the sacred time zone of the Mass, we’re transported to a place of ultimate peace. Through our prayer in the Mass and our daily prayer, our lives change and begin to “reflect God’s peace” (stanza 2). Anyone who’s in a regular pattern of prayer will tell you that their life is different because of God’s peace.

The second stanza turns the “heal me/us” into the mission aspect of the Mass when it says “May your Church enact your grace...” The Mass is about much more than our benefit – it changes our hearts and minds to be more like God’s, so our perspective is totally different when we go out into the world, or the “mission field” as Pope Francis has called it.

As is often the case, the final stanza of the hymn is a turning point. In this stanza, we become “channels” (another water image) of the power of the Holy Spirit – part of our baptismal calling. The final phrase is a loaded statement - “Till we find our way together, flowing homeward to our Source.” Through more water imagery, it evokes the mission of Jesus and the Church to unify the human race. The word “Source” is capitalized since it is referring to God as our source. The other meaning of “Source” is Catechism 1324, which says that “The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life.” The source

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being that **from** which everything flows, and the summit being that **to** which everything flows.

This Sunday and every Sunday, let us rediscover the peace that God offers us by being in his presence. Let us open our hearts to the healing power of the Holy Spirit through the sacraments. And let us share our experience with others. “Everyone is looking for you.”

Stephen Eros

Director of Liturgy & Music