

THE BLESSING OF THE BIKES

Liturgy adapted from The House for All Sinners and Saints, an emerging/Lutheran church in Denver CO.

A Reading from the book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

(1:1, 15b-22)

In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the river Chebar, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

15b I saw a wheel on the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them. ¹⁶As for the appearance of the wheels and their construction: their appearance was like the gleaming of beryl; and the four had the same form, their construction being something like a wheel within a wheel. ¹⁷When they moved, they moved in any of the four directions without veering as they moved. ¹⁸Their rims were tall and awesome, for the rims of all four were full of eyes all round. ¹⁹When the living creatures moved, the wheels moved beside them; and when the living creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose. ²⁰Wherever the spirit would go, they went, and the wheels rose along with them; for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. ²¹When they moved, the others moved; when they stopped, the others stopped; and when they rose from the earth, the wheels rose along with them; for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

Silence.

Let us pray.

Present in a world groaning under the excesses of consumption we acknowledge the inherent goodness of non-motorized human powered transportation and give thanks for the simple beauty of the bicycle.

God of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Present in a community filled with children we pray for those learning to ride. Keep them smart, safe and visible on their neighborhood roads.

God of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Present in a community filled with strife we pray for the victims of road rage, and bike theft. And we ask for the strength to forgive mean people, and to be set free from the prisons of our own anger.

God of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Present in a world of work we pray for those who build, repair and clean our bikes and those who rely on bicycles to earn their living. Bless those who choose to not drive to work and those for whom driving isn't even an option.

God of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Present in a community of beautiful diversity we ask your protection and blessing on all who ride; Pedi cabbies, weekend warriors, athletes, homeless folks, students, children, eco-warriors, bike co-op anarchists, messengers and all the others who take to the streets, bike paths, parks and mountains of our communities.

Keep us safe as we ride.

God of life, **Hear our prayer.**

We now observe a moment of silence for all who have died while riding.

God of life, **Hear our prayer. AMEN**

Silence.

God, bless these our bikes. Let all who ride be like flashes of lightening. Pour out your protection on our helmets. Take our handlebars and steer us ever true. Bless our wheels that move upon your good Creation. Anoint our brakes that we may know our limits. Fix our seat that whenever we roam, we might always return safely. Send down your Spirit with a blessing upon these bikes, that fortified by the might of your heavenly protection, these bikes may be help and aid to all who make use of them. May our wheels rise. We send up glory, both now and ever, and to the ages of ages! Amen.