



# Advent Vespers Devotional 2020

Sunday, December 6  
Exodus 15:1-2, 20-21

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: “Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.”

To sing is to breathe. A song requires air: breath to escape from the throat and wind to carry the sound. Miriam can sing because she can breathe. She has what the Hebrews called “ruah” and the Greeks called “pneuma”: breath, air, wind. And spirit. They included that, too. All packed together in single word.

Miriam can sing because she has ruah. Ruah is also why she sings. God has removed the knee of oppression from the throat of her people. They all now can breathe. Spirit again fills their lungs and escapes in the air to be carried by the wind as song.

Come now, breath of God, to your people who struggle to breathe, whose spirits are oppressed, whose songs remain unsung. And also to your people who breathe freely yet complacently, content with the sound of their own song. May your spirit of justice fill the lungs of all your people and escape into the air as your song of salvation from every oppression, carried by the wind.

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