

# Day of Pentecost

## Memorial Day Weekend

May 24, 2024 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

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### **As We Gather:**

Seven weeks after Jesus' resurrection, there was an important Jewish festival called Pentecost (also called the "Feast of Weeks"). Pentecost fell on the first part of the wheat harvest. On that day the Israelites gave grain offerings and other sacrifices to the Lord. They also celebrated the anniversary of when God gave the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Old Testament commanded that on the day of Pentecost, every Jew who was able to, should gather at the Tabernacle or Temple. (See Leviticus 23:15-21, Numbers 28:26-31, and Deuteronomy 16:9-12.)

On that first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection, Jews from many different nations arrived in Jerusalem to celebrate. On that day, the Holy Spirit came like a mighty wind and tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit gave to courage and the gift of "tongues" to the followers of Jesus. They were able to miraculously speak in different languages, proclaiming salvation through faith in Jesus. As a result, the Holy Spirit awakened faith in 3,000 people (Acts 2:1-21).

The Holy Spirit continues to work today through us who follow Jesus. Through our words and actions, the Holy Spirit wants to touch the hearts of other people to bring them to faith in Jesus. It doesn't matter what language they speak or what culture they come from. On this Day of Pentecost, we pray that our words and our actions may lead others to Jesus!

### **The Symbol of the Dove**

Please note that the Holy Spirit is not actually a dove. When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit appeared in a **form** similar to a dove, and for this reason the dove is often used as a **symbol** of the Holy Spirit. However, the Holy Spirit is God himself, not just a bird.

### **Prelude**

### **Words of Welcome**

Stand

### **Sharing God's Peace with One Another**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "Peace be with you" as a sign of our unity and reconciliation in the Holy Spirit. As we are forgiven by God, so we forgive each other. (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3)

## Hymn: Oh Sing to the Lord

(Lutheran Service Book 808)



1 O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song. O sing to the  
2 For God is the Lord! And God has done won-ders. For God is the  
3 So dance for our God And blow all the trum-pets. So dance for our  
4 O shout to our God, Who gave us the Spir - it. O shout to our  
5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! For Je - sus is



Lord, O sing God a new song. O sing to the Lord, O  
Lord! And God has done won-ders. For God is the Lord! And  
God And blow all the trum-pets. So dance for our God And  
God, Who gave us the Spir - it. O shout to our God, Who  
Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! For Je - sus is Lord! A -



sing God a new song. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.  
God has done won-ders. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.  
blow all the trum - pets. And sing to our God, And sing to our God.  
gave us the Spir - it. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.  
men! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

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### Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

### Prayer of Confession

- P We begin our worship by confessing our sins and failures before the Lord, because he loves us and forgives us!
- A **Heavenly Father, each day your Holy Spirit calls us to live a life dedicated to you, full of faith and love. However, we have often failed to do that. Very often we have grieved the Spirit by the things we have done or said or thought. Forgive us, Father, for Jesus' sake. Fill us anew with your Spirit so that we can live differently and follow you more closely. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

- P The Word of God, which is the “Sword of the Spirit”, assures us that Jesus Christ died for all of our wrongdoing and that he rose from the dead in victory. The Holy Spirit calls us to trust in Jesus, and through him receive forgiveness and strength to change the way we live. Because of this, I can say with full assurance to all of you who have faith in Jesus, that your sins are completely forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Responsive Reading

- P Seven weeks after Jesus rose from the dead,  
C **The disciples were gathered together.**  
P At that moment the Holy Spirit came down with power,  
C **With the sound of a rushing wind and little flames of fire.**  
P The Spirit gave the disciples the ability to speak in different languages.  
C **They spoke to everyone about salvation through faith in Jesus.**  
P Just as you came to the disciples,  
C **Come, Holy Spirit, to us as well.**  
P Lord, you know that we are weak.  
C **Come, Holy Spirit, and strengthen our faith.**  
P Lord, we want to tell of your salvation.  
C **Come, Holy Spirit, and give us the words we need.**  
P Lord, we want to understand more of your Word.  
C **Come, Holy Spirit, and enlighten our minds and hearts.**  
P Lord, we want to do your will.  
C **Come, Holy Spirit, and guide us.**  
P Lord, fill us with your love.  
C **Come, Holy Spirit, and make us one in Jesus’ name.**  
P God has not given us a spirit of fear,  
C **But a Spirit of power, of love, and of self discipline.** (2 Timothy 1:7)

## Hymn of Praise: Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

LSB 805



△ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly



host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Hymn: Holy Spirit, Light Divine

Lutheran Service Book 496



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, light di - vine, Shine up - on this heart of mine;  
2 Let me see my Sav - ior's face, Let me all His beau - ties trace;  
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, Cleanse this guilt - y heart of mine;  
4 Ho - ly Spir - it, joy di - vine, Cheer this sad - dened heart of mine;  
5 Ho - ly Spir - it, all di - vine, Dwell with - in this heart of mine;



Chase the shades of night a - way, Turn the dark - ness in - to day.  
Show those glo - rious truths to me Which are on - ly known to Thee.  
In Thy mer - cy pit - y me, From sin's bond - age set me free.  
Yield a sa - cred, set - tled peace, Let it grow and still in - crease.  
Cast down ev - 'ry i - dol throne, Reign su - preme, and reign a - lone.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

**C Holy Spirit, fill our lives today. Guide our hearts and minds so that we follow your Word. Wherever we go, in whatever part of the world, help us to speak the truth of Jesus and to show his love by the way that we live. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading**

Numbers 11:24-30

*(Moses would like for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on all the people.)*

Moses went out and told the people what the LORD had said. He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the tent. <sup>25</sup> Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but did not do so again.

<sup>26</sup> However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup> A young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."

<sup>28</sup> Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth, spoke up and said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!"

<sup>29</sup> But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"

<sup>30</sup> Then Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp. (NIV)

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**New Testament Reading**

Acts 2:1-21

*(The Holy Spirit enables the disciples to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name in many different languages.)*

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (In different languages, people say: "Christ is risen!")

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **Special Music: Pentecost** (Bryan Perdue)

1. To Jerusalem you sent us, and there we will remain.  
Your Father’s gift blessed in His love filled our hearts again.  
Then a heavenly breath sent from above Came and set our tongues afire.  
We spoke the words God gave us.  
Our flames kept burning higher – on this pyre!

Bridge: Hear the words sent to us as we sing His songs of praise.  
His Spirit lights our fire and shows the way!  
Your sons and your daughters see new visions in the sky.  
Old men will dream their dreams and prophesy.

2. Wonders seen from on high and signs on earth below.  
The sun, now dark, will fill the day, and the moon’s red blood will show.  
His Spirit in our hearts will stay Before my Lord comes down.  
On that great and glorious day,  
All who call upon His Word... will be found. (Bridge)
3. Baptized his heirs, His Spirit freed. In peace His Church began.  
Their hearts were glad and their tongues rejoiced. They live within the Lamb.

And so they go into the world, His witness and His voice.  
Throughout this land to earth's own end,  
Calling all to hear His Word – and they heard! (Bridge)

Stand

**Alleluia** (Melody: Unser Herrscher LSB 901)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior, open now your saving Word.  
Let it burn like fire within us. Speak until our hearts are stirred.  
Alleluia! Lord, we sing, for the good news that you bring.

**Reading from the Holy Gospel**

John 7:37-39

(For those who believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit is like rivers of living water)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup>Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

<sup>39</sup>By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. (NIV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

**Children's Song:** Holy Spirit, I Need You to Fill Me

Holy Spirit, I need you to fill me,  
So that I can let Jesus' light shine.  
Holy Spirit, come fill me with courage,  
Let them see my Lord in all that I do.  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King of Kings!  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King!

**Story Time**

**Hymn: Shine, Jesus, Shine**

Make a Joyful Sound (white booklet) p. 48

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness, shining.  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us.

Set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory.  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze. Set our hearts on fire!  
Glow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
From the darkness into your radiance.  
By the blood I may enter your brightness.  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me. (Refrain)
3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness,  
So our faces display your likeness.  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me. (Refrain)

## Sermon

Stand

## Apostles' Creed

- A **I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**  
**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven And sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

## Memorial Day Remembrance

- P Jesus said: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13, NIV) Last week, on Armed Forces Day, we especially honored those who are presently serving in the military. Today, on Memorial

Day weekend, we remember those members of the armed forces who have passed away, who have sacrificed even their lives to defend us and the freedoms we enjoy. We remember also their families and friends who mourn their loss. We remember that Jesus gave his life in order to free us from our sins. We know that those who have passed away trusting in Jesus are with him, and have eternal life. We pray together:

- A Lord God, today we remember the sacrifices made by those who have paid dearly for the liberty we enjoy. Thank you for their sacrifice! Thank you for our freedom! Help us to follow their example by giving of ourselves to defend and help others. Comfort those who grieve. Heal their broken hearts and give them the hope through Jesus of eternal life. Also, we pray that you would watch over those who are presently serving in the armed forces, especially those who are far from home. Help and heal those who have been wounded in body, mind, or spirit. We pray all this in Jesus name. Amen.**

**Special Music for Memorial Day: Eternal Father, Strong to Save** (Ron Seiders)

- 1 Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in peril on the sea.
- 2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain, O'er which our traffic runs amain  
By mountain pass or valley low; Wherever, Lord, Thy people go,  
Protect them by Thy guarding hand From ev'ry peril on the land.
- 3 O Spirit, whom the Father sent To spread abroad the firmament;  
O Wind of heaven, by Thy might Save all who dare the eagle's flight,  
And keep them by Thy watchful care From ev'ry peril in the air.
- 4 O Trinity of love and pow'r, Our people shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe, Protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

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## Offering

The Bible says, "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income." (1 Corinthians 16:2a, NIV) Our offerings are part of our worship, part of our response to God's love.

## **Choir Anthem during the Offering: Oh Breath of Life** (Pepper Choplin)

1. Oh breath of life, come sweeping through,  
Revive your church with life and power.  
Oh breath of life, come cleanse, renew,  
Prepare our lives to meet this hour.
2. Oh breath of love, come breathe within,  
Renewing mind and will and heart.  
Come, love of Christ, teach us to love.  
Revive your church in every part.
3. Revive! Revive! Revive! Oh wind of God, move through your church,  
Come bend and break us to your will.  
Then by your tenderness remold,  
That as you break us, come remake us, remake us as your own.
4. Oh heart of Christ, broken for us,  
In you we find our strength and rest.  
Receive our hearts, broken and weak,  
And let your waiting church be blest.
5. Revive us, Lord! Why are we still  
While harvest fields are vast and white?  
Revive us, Lord! The world awaits.  
Raise up your church to spread the light!  
Oh breath of life, oh breath of life,  
Oh breath of love, oh breath of love,  
Oh wind of God, breathe within our hearts.

Stand

### **Offering Prayer**

- A **Heavenly Father, fill us anew with your Holy Spirit, and help us to live for you. Bless these offerings and use them to bring others to faith and to help those in need. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **Offertory: We Are One in the Spirit**

1. We are one in the Spirit. We are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit. We are one in the Lord.  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come.  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son.  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one. (Refrain)

## **Prayer of the Church**

- P The Bible declares that the Holy Spirit helps us to pray (Romans 8:26). Even when we don't have the right words, the Spirit knows what is in our hearts. God invites us to lay our concerns before him. For that reason, we pray without fear and without worrying about whether our words are eloquent.
- C **Come, Holy Spirit, and help us to pray.**
- P Lord God, thank you for loving and forgiving us in spite of all the mistakes we make in this life. Strengthen our faith and help us to live for you. Lord, in your mercy:
- C **Come, Holy Spirit, and help us.**
- P Almighty God, thank you for the freedom we enjoy in this country! Please extend peace and justice to every part of the world, particularly where there is conflict, as in Israel and Gaza, in the Ukraine and in Iran. Protect and encourage our Christian brothers and sisters who suffer persecution for their faith. Lord, in your mercy:
- C **Come, Holy Spirit, and bring peace.**
- P Heavenly Father, thank you for our families. We ask for your blessing and guidance in our homes. Help us to show your love to those who are closest to us. Lord, in your mercy:
- C **Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with your love.**
- P Lord Jesus, we ask that you take special care of your church throughout the world. Help us to be faithful and share your salvation with those who do not yet believe in you. Lord, in your mercy:
- C **Come, Holy Spirit, and build up the church.**
- P Holy Spirit, have compassion on us as we struggle in this world full of problems. Heal those who are sick. Comfort those whose hearts are broken or who have had to say goodbye to a loved one. Grant peace and help to those of us who are facing problems at home, at work, at school, or any other place. Help especially our friends and family members on our prayer list. Lord, in your mercy:
- C **Come, Holy Spirit, and grant us your comfort and help.**
- P We thank you, Lord, because we know you hear all of our concerns, even those which are in our hearts which we have not spoken aloud. We thank you and praise you forever! In Jesus' name.
- C **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

- A **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## Closing Prayer

- P Let us pray.  
C **Holy Spirit, thank you for being with me. Strengthen my faith and help me to share Jesus' love in everything I do. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## Benediction

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. (1 Corinthians 13:14)  
C **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn: Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

Lutheran Service Book 650




1 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er dwell - ing In the ho - liest  
2 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er liv - ing As the Church's  
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er work - ing Through the Church's




realms of light; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er brood - ing  
ver - y life; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing  
min - is - try; Quick - 'ning, strength - 'ning, and ab - solv - ing,



O'er a world of gloom and night; Ho - ly Spir - it,  
Through us in a cease - less strife; Ho - ly Spir - it,  
Set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free; Ho - ly Spir - it,



ev - er rais - ing Those of earth to thrones on high; Liv - ing,  
ev - er form - ing In the Church the mind of Christ: You we  
ev - er bind - ing Age to age and soul to soul In com -



life - im - part - ing Spir - it, You we praise and mag - ni - fy.  
praise with end - less wor - ship For Your gifts and fruits un - priced.  
mu - nion nev - er end - ing, You we wor - ship and ex - tol.

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