

The Day of Pentecost

May 19, 2024

Today around the world, the Church is celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, symbolized by the tongues of fire, has been with the Church from its beginning and promises to be with us throughout all eternity.

The liturgical color for this festival is red to remind us of those tongues of fire that rested upon the believers on the first Pentecost Day. It represents the divine zeal displayed on the day of Pentecost by the Apostles and points to the blood of the Martyrs of the Church.

Today, we remember that we have been called, gathered, enlightened, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This same Jesus sends us out with the power of his Spirit to bring peace and forgiveness to the world.

O Holy Spirit, Enter In

Lutheran Service Book 913, Lutheran Worship 160, The Lutheran Hymnal 235

or

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

Lutheran Service Book 497, Lutheran Worship 154, The Lutheran Hymnal 224



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, And in our hearts
2 Give to Your Word im - pres - sive pow'r, That in our hearts
3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, Let Your dear Word,



Your work be - gin, Your dwell - ing place now make us.
from this good hour As fire it may be glow - ing,
in doubt and strife, In us be strong - ly burn - ing



Sun of the soul, O Light di - vine, A - round and in
That in true Chris - tian u - ni - ty We faith - ful wit -
That we be faith - ful un - to death And live in love



us bright - ly shine, To joy and glad - ness wake us
ness - es may be, Your glo - ry ev - er show - ing.
and ho - ly faith, From You true wis - dom learn - ing.



That we may be Tru - ly liv - ing, To You giv - ing
Hear us, cheer us By Your teach - ing; Let our preach - ing
Your grace and peace On us show - er; By Your pow - er



Prayer un - ceas - ing And in love be still in - creas - ing.
And our la - bor Praise You, Lord, and serve our neigh - bor.
Christ con - fess - ing, Let us see our Sav - ior's bless - ing.

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L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

L Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

C Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)

L If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalm 130:3–4*)

L Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

C God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

(*Luke 18:13*)

L Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Introit Psalm 104:24, 27–28, 30; antiphon Liturgical Text

L Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

C O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

L These all look to you,
to give them their food in due season.

C When you give it to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

L When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

- L** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** **Have Mercy on us.**
L O Christ, **C** **Have Mercy on us.**
L O Lord, **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

- L** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
C **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.**
L Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:
C **Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
L Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.
C **For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

- L** Let us pray: O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Ezekiel 37:1–14

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from

your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual Acts 2:17b; Rom. 10:10

- L** I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
- C** and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.
- L** With the heart one believes and is justified,
- C** and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Psalm 139:1–12

- L** ¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
- C** ²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- L** ³You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.
- C** ⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.
- L** ⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
- C** ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.
- L** ⁷Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?
- C** ⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
- L** ⁹If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- C** ¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.
- L** ¹¹If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,”
- C** ¹²even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

Acts 2:1–21

¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

- ¹⁷And 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;
¹⁸even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.
¹⁹And I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;
²⁰the sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.
²¹And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day: Liturgical Text

L Alleluia, Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, Alleluia.

C Alleluia, Alleluia. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

John 15:26—16:15

L The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th & 16th chapters.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

¹“I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ²They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Apostles' Creed

C 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

Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid

Lutheran Service Book 500, Lutheran Worship 167, The Lutheran Hymnal 236



1 Cre - a - tor Spir - it, by whose aid The world's foun - da - tions
2 O Source of un - cre - at - ed light, The bear - er of God's
3 Giv - er of grace, de - scend from high; Your sev'n - fold gifts to
4 Im - mor - tal hon - or, end - less fame At - tend the al - might - y



first were laid, Come, vis - it ev - 'ry hum - ble mind; Come,
gra - cious might, Thrice - ho - ly fount, thrice - ho - ly fire, Our
us sup - ply; Help us e - ter - nal truths re - ceive And
Fa - ther's name; The Sav - ior - Son be glo - ri - fied, Who



pour Your joys on hu - man - kind; From sin and sor - row
hearts with heav'n - ly love in - spire; Your sa - cred, heal - ing
prac - tice all that we be - lieve; Give us Your - self that
for all hu - man - kind has died; To You, O Par - a -



set us free; May we Your liv - ing tem - ples be.
mes - sage bring To sanc - ti - fy us as we sing.
we may see The glo - ry of the Trin - i - ty.
plete, we raise Un - end - ing songs of thanks and praise.

Devotional thoughts:

Wenn aber der Tröster kommen wird, welchen ich euch senden werde vom Vater, der Geist der Wahrheit, der vom Vater ausgeht, der wird zeugen von mir.

Imagine for a moment that you could hear me reading these words. There are a few of my friends and relatives who could understand them. Most of the people I know would have difficulty with them.

Let me set the stage. On the Day of Pentecost, 50 days after the Passover Sabbath, people gathered to celebrate the end of the grain harvest. This was one of the three Old Testament Pilgrimage Festivals called the Feast of Weeks. (The other two are The Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles.) According to Rabbinic tradition, it also commemorated the giving of the Torah, the first five books of the Bible.

Seven weeks before, people from all over flooded Jerusalem to worship at the temple for the Passover. Now, they are again gathered for this great festival. There are 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. Imagine the language barrier! Soon that would all change.

In the middle of this commotion, someplace in Jerusalem, the disciples were gathered in a house, possibly where they had recently selected Matthias to complete the number of the apostles. Unknown to them, God was about to do something grand. He was going to send the Holy Spirit in fulfillment of Jesus' promise recorded in our Gospel lesson for today.

Without warning, the tremendous noise of a mighty wind filled the house. It sounded like the breath of God! Not only that, but tongues of fire rested on each one of them! I am not exactly sure what it looked like, but I am reminded of a time centuries before when Moses saw a bush that burned with fire but was not consumed (Exodus 3:2).

The disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Holy Spirit gave them the words to say. This in itself would be amazing enough but it is just the beginning of a tumultuous day.

At some point, the disciples made their way to the crowds of people. Perhaps they were standing on the top of the massive steps on the north side of the Temple Mount where their voices could be heard by the gathered throng.

Next, the most amazing event happened on that first Day of Pentecost. The people heard them telling the mighty works of God in their own languages! The disciples weren't babbling in unintelligible speech as had happened long before when people sought to build for themselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens and God confused their speech (Exodus 11:1-9). Now they would each hear and understand the most wonderful good news of all!

Peter spoke loudly for all to hear and understand the first Christian sermon. Jesus, whom they had crucified, was raised from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is sitting at the right hand of God. From there, He had sent the Holy Spirit. What they were seeing and hearing was evidence of this.

When the Holy Spirit convicted them of their sin, they were cut to the heart and asked, "Brothers, what shall we do? Peter answered them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

On that day, they learned that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved! The Holy Spirit working through the word of apostles to bring three thousand souls to faith on that day! What began on the Day of Pentecost continues to this day each time God's word is proclaimed, the Holy Spirit is at work bringing people to faith and strengthening them in the faith!

The Holy Spirit has also touched your heart! Sometimes He convicts you of sin and brings you to repentance. Then He comforts you with the forgiveness of sins won by Jesus on the cross and promises you eternal life!

You and I are privileged to continue the work of the disciples begun on that first Day of Pentecost. We bring God's word of salvation to people of every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages (Revelation 7:9).

We begin this work at home when we teach our children about Jesus and His love. We continue this work when we support Christian schools and churches. We are active in this work when we speak to our friends and neighbors about the promises of God in Jesus. To enable the message of salvation to go to all nations in

fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), we support missionaries, Bible translators, the Lutheran Hour, and media ministries.

I suppose you may be wondering about the opening sentence of this little message. It is Luther's German translation of the first verse of the Gospel lesson for today, John 15:26, "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me." Jesus tells us that the work of the Holy Spirit is to teach about Jesus! May His work ever flourish among us.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

L Let us confess together The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed and its explanation.

C **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.**

L What does this mean?

C **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

Prayers

L Lord God, as we celebrate this Day of Pentecost, grant that Your Holy Spirit would bring us the peace and joy of salvation through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

C **Amen.**

L Almighty God, by Your Holy Spirit You have established Your Holy Church. Continue among us the work of Your Church today, that in every tongue the mighty works of God may be heard.

C **Amen.**

L O Holy Spirit, Comforter, and Counselor, give hope to Your people in the midst of this world of despair. Grant to us faith that we would live according to Your promises and commands.

C **Amen.**

L Lord God, be near to those You have set in place to govern our land. Do not let the ruler of this world govern them and their decisions to our harm but give us the benefits of good government.

C **Amen.**

L O God of peace, during this time of war in the ancient land of Jesus' birth and in Ukraine, we pray that You would grant a swift end to the conflict and lasting peace, that right and justice would prevail, and that You would grant Your mighty hand of protection to the innocent and helpless.

C **Amen.**

L Visit us in Your compassion, O Lord. Deliver the sick from their infirmity, the troubled from their afflictions, the grieving from their sorrow, and the dying from their fear. May all who cry to You receive grace according to Your will. Help each of us to bear our crosses with patience and grace.

C **Amen.**

L Lord God, heavenly Father, through Your Son You promised Your Holy Spirit, who would convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. Enlighten our hearts, that we would confess our sins; obtain everlasting righteousness through faith in Christ; and through every trial and temptation, abide in the consolation that Christ is Lord over the devil, death and all things. We ask that You would graciously deliver us from all affliction to make us partakers of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C Amen.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

C 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.

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

Lutheran Service Book 650, Lutheran Worship 164, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a



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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Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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Enhancing Your Worship

Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27
My eyes are awake through the night watches,
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

The Week of The Day of Pentecost May 20 - 25, 2024

Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you mediate on what God has done for you.

Monday

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

Verse of the Day: Liturgical Text

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Introit Psalm 104:24, 27-28, 30; antiphon Liturgical Text

- L** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.
- C** O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- L** These all look to you,
to give them their food in due season.
- C** When you give it to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
- L** When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- L** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

As often is the case, there is much to be found in Psalm 104 that didn't make its way into the introit. One verse that would seem to fit well with the Day of Pentecost is Psalm 104:4, "He makes His messengers winds, His ministers a flaming fire." I cannot help but think of the mighty rushing wind and the tongues of fire from the Day of Pentecost when I read these words.

A key verse from our introit is Psalm 104:30, "When you send forth your Spirit, they are created." It is a common mistake to believe that the Holy Spirit is only mentioned in the New Testament. While it is true that the Holy Spirit and His work are more fully revealed in the New Testament, you will find Him referred to throughout the Old Testament.

We learn of the Holy Spirit already in Genesis 1:2, "The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." A key passage describing the Holy Spirit's omnipresence is Psalm 139:7-10 (NIV),

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

In fact, on Pentecost, Peter describes the events of the day as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophet, Joel. He quotes Joel 2:28 in Acts 2:17, "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh."

The most important thing to remember about the work of the Holy Spirit is His work in our hearts. Without the Holy Spirit, none of us would believe in Jesus. 1 Corinthians 2:14 tells us, "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned." In fact, we learn from 1 Corinthians 12:3 that "no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit."

Pentecost is an opportunity to thank God for the gift of faith granted to us by His Spirit. It is an occasion to thank Him for the gift of salvation that we receive by faith.

Holy Spirit, Light Divine

Lutheran Service Book 496, Lutheran Worship 166, The Lutheran Hymnal 234



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.

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Tuesday

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

Verse of the Day: Liturgical Text

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
- L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

- L** Let us pray: O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

“The Princess Bride” is a film that has fans from all generations. One of the characters in the movie is a villain named Vizzini, played by Wallace Shawn. He credits himself with being astoundingly intelligent. Compared to him, he considers Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates to be morons.

He uses his intelligence to create infallible plans for the demise of the movie’s hero. Each time his diabolical tactics fail. To this, he exclaims the memorable and often quoted word, “Inconceivable!”

Here is a so-called brilliant man whose intelligence has failed him. He is so much like each one of us. Left to our own cleverness, we could never figure out God and His plan of salvation. To the human mind, the fact that God sent His only-begotten Son to die on the cross for the sins of the world seems inconceivable!

That He should rise from the dead is totally inconceivable! That you and I have our sins forgiven and receive the gift of eternal life is absolutely inconceivable!

But the Holy Spirit has called us by the Gospel, enlightened us with His gifts, sanctified, and kept us in the true faith—inconceivable, but true!

Let us pray: O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Wednesday

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

Verse of the Day: Liturgical Text

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Psalm 139:1–12

- L** ¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
C ²**You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**
L ³You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.
C ⁴**Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.**
L ⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
C ⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.**
L ⁷Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?
C ⁸**If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!**
L ⁹If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
C ¹⁰**even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.**
L ¹¹If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,”
C ¹²**even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.**

Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** **Have Mercy on us.**
L O Christ, **C** **Have Mercy on us.**
L O Lord, **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

There is a folk song or children’s rhyme that some sources say may have originated in the 13th Century in the island nation of Tonga. It goes like this:

Nobody likes me, everybody hates me
I think I’ll go eat worms!
Big fat juicy ones
Eensie weensy squeensy ones
See how they wiggle and squirm!

I suppose most of us have shared the feelings of the child reciting this poem. It may have happened when you suffered some severe disappointment in your life or when you felt rejected by someone dear. The Psalm for this week teaches us how amazingly untrue the words of this ditty are.

In Psalm 139, David speaks for all of us. God is so concerned and cares so much about you that He makes sure that He knows everything about you. He is interested in your thoughts. He is interested in where you go and what you do. He is always with you. He holds your hand and leads you. He is with you in the darkness of the night and the bright light of the day.

In the two verses following our Psalm of the Day, David goes on to say:

¹³ For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

David knows God and writes about the wonder that he experiences because of His love. Not a moment passes that God doesn't care for you. There is no need to eat big fat juicy worms! We are never without God's love. Not in time. Not in eternity!

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for Your wonderful concern for me and the love that is mine in Jesus. Grant that I may never become discouraged with life and its trials but rather grant that I may rejoice in the gift of life for time and eternity through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

Thursday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Liturgical Text

L Alleluia, Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, Alleluia.

C Alleluia, Alleluia. **And kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.**

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Ezekiel 37:1–14

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

I am guessing that as you read through this lesson, you were singing in your mind the words to a spiritual song written by the civil rights activist, James Weldon Johnson (who, by the way, also wrote, “Lift ev’ry voice and sing”).

Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones.
Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones.
Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones.
Now hear the word of the Lord.

Of course, dry bones can never come together and live again! (Unless God’s omnipotent word calls them to life.) The first “dry bones” were the house of Israel in exile. They were dried up. Their hope was lost. They were cut off from life itself.

We, too, are “dry bones.” We are captive to sin and death. When we depend on ourselves, our hope is lost!

There is only one way back to life. The Holy Spirit brings us back to life through the Word of the Lord when we hear the Gospel and believe in Jesus as our savior. He turns the cross to the resurrection. He turns death to life. Through the Gospel, the Holy Spirit has breathed into us the breath of life.

Prayer: Almighty God, thank You for giving us life. Grant that our dry bones of despair would be brought again to a life of joy and peace in Christ, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday

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

Verse of the Day: Liturgical Text

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

John 15:26—16:15

²⁶“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

¹“I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ²They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning

judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

This is another one of those few weeks where the main lesson of the day is not the Gospel lesson. Rather, our main reading is the second reading from Acts 2 and the account of the Day of Pentecost.

However, the Gospel lesson for today is a key to understanding the Day of Pentecost and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus sends the Holy Spirit from the Father. He is the Spirit of Truth. There never says anything false about God!

The work of the Holy Spirit is teaching us about Jesus. He did this by inspiring Holy Scripture so we would learn of Jesus and His work of salvation. He does this when the message of the cross and forgiveness touches our ears. He does this when He brings us to faith and keeps us in the faith.

In this translation of John, Jesus calls the Holy Spirit, the Helper. Other translations say Advocate or Comforter. The Greek word is Paraclete. There is no exact English match for this word. All of the translations touch on one aspect of it or another. The Greek word paraclete means someone who is “called to your side.” It is a technical term for the attorney who represents you in court hence the use of the word advocate. It has the idea of intercession, that is, someone speaking for you, or intervening for you, or acting on your behalf.

It also means someone who comes to your side to bring help or comfort. Hence, all of these translations give us a glimpse into the work of the Holy Spirit who comes to our aid in every circumstance.

Jesus did not leave us or His disciples without help, comfort, and aid. The Holy Spirit is always there with us, binding up our hurts, and taking up our cause.

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit who comes to us through the means of Grace. Grant that we would never neglect Your word and sacraments and so deprive ourselves of the comfort and help that the Holy Spirit brings through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Saturday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Liturgical Text

L Alleluia, Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, Alleluia.

C Alleluia, Alleluia. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Gradual Acts 2:17b; Romans 10:10

L I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,

C and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.

L With the heart one believes and is justified,

C and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

The gradual for the Day of Pentecost makes the great connection between the Holy Spirit and faith. Without the Holy Spirit, we are dead in our trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1). However, God has poured out His Spirit on people of every nation, regardless of age, gender, or race. All are able to believe by the working of the Spirit.

It is only through the Spirit that our hearts are changed from unbelief. Our human spirits reject God and His plan of salvation. However, just as on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit works in us the miracle of faith and we are justified, that is, declared not guilty of all sin and moral failings. With great joy, we confess this wonderful faith and the salvation that is ours in Jesus Christ.

Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid

Lutheran Service Book 500, Lutheran Worship 167, The Lutheran Hymnal 236



1 Cre - a - tor Spir - it, by whose aid The world's foun - da - tions
2 O Source of un - cre - at - ed light, The bear - er of God's
3 Giv - er of grace, de - scend from high; Your sev'n - fold gifts to
4 Im - mor - tal hon - or, end - less fame At - tend the al - might - y



first were laid, Come, vis - it ev - 'ry hum - ble mind; Come,
gra - cious might, Thrice - ho - ly fount, thrice - ho - ly fire, Our
us sup - ply; Help us e - ter - nal truths re - ceive And
Fa - ther's name; The Sav - ior - Son be glo - ri - fied, Who



pour Your joys on hu - man - kind; From sin and sor - row
hearts with heav'n - ly love in - spire; Your sa - cred, heal - ing
prac - tice all that we be - lieve; Give us Your - self that
for all hu - man - kind has died; To You, O Par - a -



set us free; May we Your liv - ing tem - ples be.
mes - sage bring To sanc - ti - fy us as we sing.
we may see The glo - ry of the Trin - i - ty.
clete, we raise Un - end - ing songs of thanks and praise.

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