

Pentecost

May 28, 2023

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 divine zeal displayed on the day of Pentecost 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,



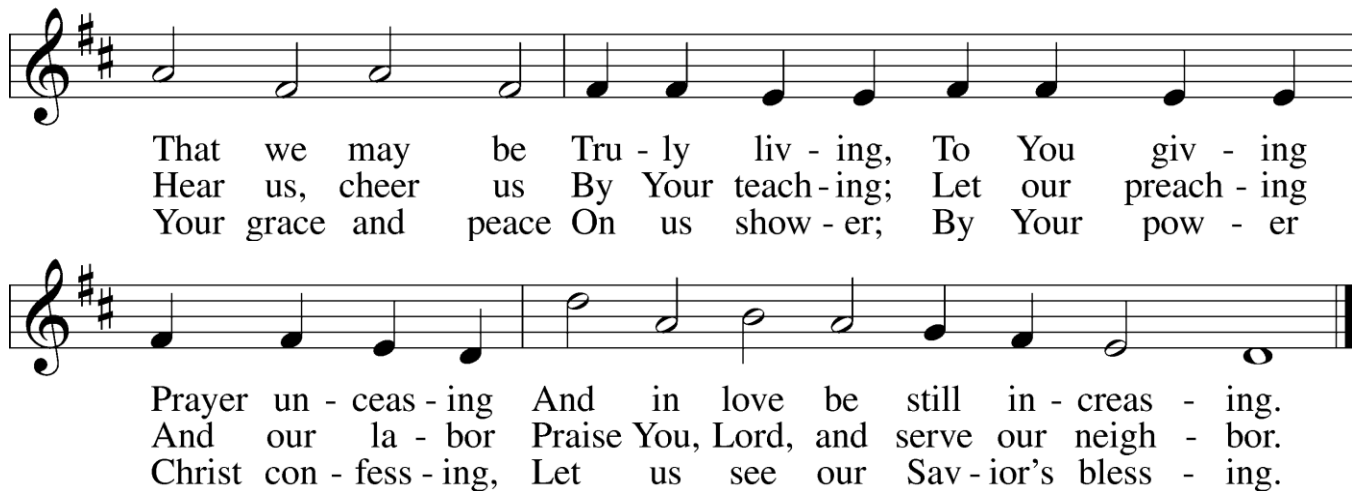
Your work be - gin, Your dwell - ing place now make us.
from this good hour As fire it may be glow - ing,
in doubt and strife, In us be strong - ly burn - ing



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.



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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.**

Numbers 11:24–30

²⁴So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. ²⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

²⁶Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” ²⁸And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, “My lord Moses, stop them.” ²⁹But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!” ³⁰And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

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

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.**

Psalm 25:1–15

- L** ¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
C ²**O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.**
L ³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
C ⁴**Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**
L ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.
C ⁶**Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**
L ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!
C ⁸**Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**
L ⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.
C ¹⁰**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**
L ¹¹For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.
C ¹²**Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.**
L ¹³His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land.
C ¹⁴**The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.**
L ¹⁵My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
C **for he will pluck my feet out of the net.**

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:

- ¹⁷"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;
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 for The Day of Pentecost

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

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

John 7:37–39

L The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 7th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁷On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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.
clete, we raise Un - end - ing songs of thanks and praise.

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Devotional thoughts:

This may not be

“The most wonderful time of the year
With the kids jingle belling
And everyone telling you be of good cheer”

But it certainly must run a close second.

Twice this week, I had the pleasure of eating freshly picked asparagus. I love seeing the blossoms in the spring and then watching everything come back to life after the long cold winter months. Soon, sprouting up all over southwestern Michigan, there will be an abundance of “U-Pick” signs!

For most of my life, the beginning of summer was marked by a front-page story in the newspaper about the sale of the first crate of strawberries at the Benton Harbor fruit market. Unfortunately, times change. The last article that I could find on the first crate of strawberries was May 31, 2012, and it wasn't on the front page but in the second section of the newspaper. Nevertheless, I will always think about summer in terms of picking berries. First, strawberries, then raspberries, cherries, and blueberries. Of course, let's not forget peaches, pears, and plums. Wild blackberries grew along the fence rows near our house. Mulberries were everywhere for the taking. Finally came apples and grapes and soon there would be frost on the pumpkins. God is good.

Nowadays, city folk flock to the U-Pick farms. I'm happy for them and the few farmers we still have.

If you grew up in southwestern Michigan, you know that there are more than four seasons of the year. In addition to spring, winter, and fall, there also is strawberry season, raspberry season, blueberry season, and all the rest. Society may tell us to mark our calendars with this observance or that. Every group wants its own special month. However, in reality, time is marked by planting and growing and harvesting.

Today, we celebrate Pentecost. For us, it is a very special day in the Church Year when we remember the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples just as Jesus had promised. But Pentecost was a special day for God's people long before the sound of the mighty rushing wind, the tongues of fire, the speaking in tongues, and Peter's powerful sermon. It began in Old Testament times as a time of thanksgiving to God for the harvest.

The Hebrew name for Pentecost is *Shavuot*. We know it as the Feast of Weeks. It was one of the three great pilgrimage festivals of the Old Testament along with Passover (*Pesach*) and the Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*). It was celebrated 50 days after Passover hence the name Pentecost which comes from the Greek word for "fiftieth."

Leviticus 23 spells out the required Feasts of Old Testament times. They began with Passover which was immediately followed by Feast of First Fruits. This was the beginning of the grain harvest. Leviticus 23:10-11 tells us: "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest, and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, so that you may be accepted. On the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it."

This was followed by the Feast of Weeks. Leviticus 23:15-16 informs us: "You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering. You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the Lord." Hence, today is the 50th day after the Passover Sabbath or, to put it another way, Pentecost.

The First Fruits celebration was associated with the barley harvest. Pentecost was associated with the wheat harvest. This was similar to the progression of our fruit harvests in southwest Michigan. [As a footnote, *Shavuot* (Pentecost) eventually became identified as with the giving of the Torah to Moses and this is central to the Jewish celebrations today. By the way, this year, Jewish Shavuot began Thursday at sunset and ended on Saturday at sunset.]

In our modern world, dominated by city dwellers, we often miss the rhythm of planting and harvest and their importance. Yet, although Jesus' father was a carpenter, He was well aware of this natural order of things.

He taught His disciples the Parable of the Sower, The Parable of the Weeds, The Parable of the Mustard Seed, and many more (Matthew 13). He told His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38).

Let's pause and bring this all together. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20). Now remember that the First Fruits Festival happened at the time of Jesus' resurrection from the dead on the first Easter. If Jesus is the first fruit of the resurrection then the rest will surely follow!

Next, remember that Pentecost was originally a harvest festival of thanksgiving to God for providing so abundantly for His people. At that first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection, the harvest was bountiful indeed! On that day, Peter delivered the first Christian sermon and "there were added that day about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41).

Pentecost is still a harvest festival. It is a festival about harvesting souls for eternal life in heaven. After the fall into sin, God put forth a plan of salvation. It required sending Jesus, His only-begotten Son to live, die, and rise again for us and for our salvation so that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Jesus came and fulfilled God, the Father's plan. But even that was not enough. One more thing had

to happen for souls to be harvested for heaven. The Holy Spirit had to be poured out so that hard and unbelieving hearts would come to repentance and faith.

The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of 3,000 people on that first Day of Pentecost the same way He works today. He worked through the preaching of the word! He worked through the preaching of Law and Gospel.

Peter ended his Pentecost sermon with these powerful words, “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified” (Acts 2:36). As you might expect, they had a powerful impact upon his hearers. The Bible says, “When they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’”(Acts 2:37).

Peter’s response to them still rings true in our ears today. He said, “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” (Acts 2:38-39).

Peter’s Pentecost words have been reaping a harvest from then until now. They apply to every one of us. We continue to thank God that the Holy Spirit has moved us to repentance and baptism. God’s promise of the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit has been fulfilled in each and every one of us. We look forward to joining Jesus in the resurrection of the dead and the Pentecost harvest continues.

It continues every time you share the message of salvation with the people around you. It continues every time a faithful pastor walks in Peter’s footsteps by proclaiming God’s Law and Gospel.

It must have been wonderful for Peter to know that God used him to save 3,000 souls on that day. God may not use you or me to save 3,000 souls in one day. But He may be using you to save one soul. It may be your husband or wife. It may be your son or daughter. It may be a friend or someone you work with. It may be someone that you haven’t even met yet.

The Pentecost harvest continues.

God’s richest blessings to you in Christ.

L Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, on the Day of Pentecost, You filled the disciples with the Holy Spirit. 3,000 souls were called, gathered, enlightened and sanctified. Likewise, fill Your people with the Holy Spirit through word and sacrament that we will continue to be enlightened with Your gifts, sanctified and kept in the true faith.

C Amen.

L Almighty God, You delivered Your Word through Moses and the prophets and fulfilled Your Word in Jesus. He died for our sins and was raised for our justification. Give us pastors and teachers who will follow faithfully in the footsteps of Moses and the prophets by proclaiming Your saving word of truth.

C Amen.

L Almighty God, You have promised that all who drink from Your living water will well up to eternal life. Help us to show forth in our lives the fruit of the Spirit and live with love toward one another and the people around us. Let us never hinder the cause of the Gospel through sinful things that we may do or say.

C Amen.

L Lord of hosts, we remember those who gave their lives for us and the cause of freedom. We thank You for the blessings we have received because of their sacrifice. We also give thanks for those who have served our nation through military service. Help us to honor their sacrifice and service by using our liberty responsibly. Keep safe all who travel, bless our nation, and help us to protect and increase the privileges we have for those who follow us, looking always to You, from whom these gifts come

C Amen.

L God of compassion and Light in this world of darkness, You sent the Holy Spirit to Your Church as the comforter. Soothe the wounds of Your people. According to Your will, bring restoration to broken families, heal the sick, uplift the depressed, provide for the poor, uphold the forgotten and answer the

prayers of all who call out to You for aid. Let Your blessings rest upon all medical personnel and first responders who come to our aid in time of need.

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

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is a simple, flowing line. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, with the first column starting on the first staff and the second and third columns starting on the second staff. The lyrics are: 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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Pentecost and the Church Year

The curious may ask, “How did the Church Year come into existence?” While we may not possess all of the details, the answer to this question is not too difficult. The Church Year grew out of the events of Jesus’ life and ministry on earth.

The central and most important part of the Church Year is The Resurrection of our Lord. Every other part of the Church Year relates to this day and the salvation that Jesus won for us on the cross.

The Bible is quite clear about the events surrounding Easter. The actual days on which they occurred are recorded, therefore from earliest times, these days were observed annually: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension Day, and Pentecost. The accounts of these events were read in the churches. Sermons were preached explaining them. People rejoiced to learn again about these undeniably important actions of Jesus for the salvation of the world.

Eventually, the observance of Jesus’ birth was added to the Church Year as well as the seasons preceding Christmas and Easter (Advent and Lent) as a result the first half of the Church Year was dedicated to the life and work of Jesus.

Pentecost is the day on which Jesus fulfilled His promise to send the Holy Spirit to His Apostles. It was an Old Testament feast day that comes 50 days after Passover. Pentecost means fiftieth. It is sometimes called the birthday of the Church because by the end of the day, after Peter’s sermon, 3,000 were baptized and added to the Church.

It is the Holy Spirit who brings us into the faith and keeps us in the faith. He continues to work through the Church today by the means of grace (Word and Sacraments). The second half of the Church Year is dedicated to the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the Christian people. Since it is the Holy Spirit who causes the Church to grow in numbers and faith, green (the color of growth) is chosen for the Sundays after Pentecost.

With next Sunday (Trinity Sunday) the festival half of the Church Year comes to a conclusion. The observances of the great events in the life of Christ have passed until we again approach Christmas. Nevertheless, God is still doing great things in our lives every day. During the Pentecost season, we seek to focus more clearly on how Christ touches our lives by His Spirit and how we respond.

Pastor Quardokus

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 Pentecost May 29 –June 4, 2023

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 meditate on what God has done for you.

Monday – Memorial Day

Navy Hymn: Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Verse 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;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

Verse 2: O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy word,
Who walked'st on the foaming deep,
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

Verse 3: Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

Verse 4: O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren 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 hymns of praise from land and sea.

L Christ is Risen!

C He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

C Amen.

L Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.

C Alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Alleluia.

Lord, guard and guide the men who fly
Through the great spaces in the sky.
Be with them always in the air,
In darkening storms or sunlight fair;
Oh, hear us when we lift our prayer,
For those in peril in the air!

Mary C. D. Hamilton (1915)

Introit Psalm 100:1–5; antiphon: Psalm 101:1

L I will sing of steadfast love and justice;
to you, O Lord, I will make music.

C **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!**

Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

L Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

C **Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!**

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

L For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

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 I will sing of steadfast love and justice;
to you, O Lord, I will make music.

Eternal Father, grant, we pray,
To all Marines, both night and day,
The courage, honor, strength, and skill
Their land to serve, thy law fulfill;
Be thou the shield forevermore
From every peril to the Corps.

J. E. Seim (1966)

Psalm 101:1 is the antiphon for the introit this week. It speaks of God's steadfast love and justice. This is an appropriate verse to consider as we pause on Memorial Day to remember those who have given their lives in the cause of preserving justice through service in our armed forces.

Psalm 101 goes on to speak of integrity and blamelessness. How marvelous it would be to live in a world where everyone lives with integrity and blamelessness. But this is not the case. We are surrounded by arrogance and evil, wickedness and deceit. We must lock our doors at night and guard our borders because of sin.

God establishes government to protect us from evil. Sometimes this evil comes from within our nation's borders and we are protected by police and law enforcement. Sometimes this evil comes from outside our nation's borders and we are protected by the men and women of our armed forces.

War is a terrible thing. But it is more terrible to allow evil to run its course unchecked.

Psalm 101 ends with these verses:

⁶ I will look with favor on the faithful in the land,
that they may dwell with me;
he who walks in the way that is blameless
shall minister to me.

⁷ No one who practices deceit
shall dwell in my house;
no one who utters lies
shall continue before my eyes.
⁸ Morning by morning I will destroy
all the wicked in the land,
cutting off all the evildoers
from the city of the Lord.

We thank God today for the faithful in our land who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to God and country to protect us from evil.

On this day as we ponder self-sacrifice, it is impossible to not think of Jesus whose sacrifice on the cross was the ultimate defeat of evil. You may have seen national cemeteries with row upon row of crosses. How extremely appropriate this is. We know that because of Jesus' cross, we will join in eternity with those who have given their lives in service to their nation.

O God, protect the women who,
In service, faith in thee renew;
O guide devoted hands of skill
And bless their work within thy will;
Inspire their lives that they may be
Examples fair on land and sea.
*Lines 1-4, Merle E. Strickland (1972) and
adapted by James D. Shannon (1973)*
Lines 5-6, Beatrice M. Truitt (1948)

Responsive Prayer for Memorial Day

- [L]** Lord God, You have sustained our nation in the past and continue to bless us. We recall how so many have given their lives for the cause of freedom. Men and women continue to sacrifice and serve in the armed forces. Today, we pause to reflect and honor those who gave or who continue to sacrifice so much in the defense of our freedom to be faithful.
- [C]** **We remember the great courage and selfless service of so many throughout history who have answered the call to serve. We remember their honorable sacrifice for the freedom of others. Comfort the families who mourn the loss of loved ones. Comfort also those who suffer permanent injuries as a result of serving our nation in the military.**
- [L]** We remember with thankfulness the millions of Americans who give so generously of their life and labor in times of national conflict, particularly the family members of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.
- [C]** **We are grateful for the devotion and sacrifices of military families. Grant us the resources and willing hearts to support them.**
- [L]** Lord, You prayed earnestly for Your disciples, that they would be kept in Your name, filled with joy and sanctified in Your Word of truth.
- [C]** **Keep our chaplains in Your name. Fill them with the joy that comes from knowing You have defeated sin and death. Sanctify their ministry in Your Word of truth.**
- [L]** Gracious Lord, we ask for Your strength for our chaplains who serve in the wounded-warrior wards and in our military hospitals as they provide pastoral care to hurting and wounded veterans and their families.
- [C]** **Lord, mend the wounds of all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Grant their physicians knowledge and wisdom as they seek the best treatments for patients' suffering.**
- [L]** God of mercy, grant patience and insight to our chaplains who serve in all branches of our armed forces. Only through Your sustaining love can they move out daily with confidence and joy. These and all things we ask through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and fore ver. Amen.

Defend those Lord who fight for right
And work to build our Nation's might.
The Army that goes rolling on
With righteous pride in all they've done,
Protect them by your forceful hand
From every peril on the land.
Philip Quardokus (2020)

Tuesday

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

Verse for The Day of Pentecost

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

Prayer: 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 for The Day of Pentecost

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

Psalm 25:1–15

- L** ¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
- C** ²**O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.**
- L** ³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- C** ⁴**Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**
- L** ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.
- C** ⁶**Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**
- L** ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!
- C** ⁸**Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**
- L** ⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.
- C** ¹⁰**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**
- L** ¹¹For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.
- C** ¹²**Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.**
- L** ¹³His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land.
- C** ¹⁴**The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.**
- L** ¹⁵My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
- C** **for he will pluck my feet out of the net.**

I remember a TV commercial with the tag phrase, “Now the hard part, wait 5 minutes.” With the internet at my fingertips, I thought that it would be easy to find so I could make an accurate reference to it. After a few minutes of searching, I gave up. I’m not convinced that the commercial doesn’t exist. Rather, there were so many references to waiting being the hard part that I couldn’t sort through them all!

Pentecost marked the end of a long period of waiting for the disciples. In a sense, their waiting began with their first encounter with Jesus. Jesus already knew His plan for the disciples. He would send them out to be His witnesses but they needed to wait until they were fully ready.

First, they experienced three years with Jesus. They witnessed His miracles and they were taught many things by Him.

When they experienced the devastation of Jesus’ crucifixion on Good Friday, they had to wait for Easter morning to learn of His resurrection. During His ministry, Jesus had promised that He would give them the Holy Spirit but they had to wait for 10 days after His ascension to receive the gift.

Finally, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them and they began the task that they were destined to fulfill. Their waiting was over. They proclaimed Jesus Christ and the salvation that He won for us on the cross. Each one of them would spend the rest of their lives in this noble endeavor.

Psalm 25 reminds us that like the disciples, all of God’s people must experience a time of waiting. However, in our waiting, we should never conclude that God has abandoned us. Psalm 25:3 tells us, “None who wait for you shall be put to shame.”

Waiting calls for faith. Ultimately, our faithful waiting is rewarded. In the end, God reveals to us the truth of His steadfast love. With David we pray, “Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long” (Psalm 25:5).

Prayer: Lord, You are faithful in blessing us with everything we need for time and eternity. Grant us faithfulness in our waiting through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday

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

Verse for The Day of Pentecost

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

Numbers 11:24–30

²⁴So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. ²⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

²⁶Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” ²⁸And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, “My lord Moses, stop them.” ²⁹But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!” ³⁰And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

This reading from Numbers was chosen as the Old Testament Lesson for Pentecost because it records the time when God placed His Spirit on the seventy elders of the people. It also records Moses’ longing for God’s Spirit to be placed on all the people.

Peter, in his Pentecost sermon, recalled the prophecy of Joel 2:28-32:

“And it shall come to pass afterward,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.
Even on the male and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

On Pentecost, Moses’ longing and Joel’s prophecy were fulfilled. The Holy Spirit was poured out in such a powerful way that 3000 people came to faith. This is the great miracle of Pentecost.

While it is common for people to believe that speaking in tongues and seeing visions is the main work of the Holy Spirit, His main work really is bringing people to faith and keeping people in the faith. He continues to do this today through God’s word and the sacraments.

Through word and sacrament, God’s Spirit is available to all people. He was poured out on you when you came to faith. His work continues in you day to day as He keeps you in the faith.

For the Holy Spirit to remain active in your life, you must continue in His word. Isaiah 55:10-11 tells us:

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,
 giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
 it shall not return to me empty,
 but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
 and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

By the working of the Holy Spirit, God's word will always accomplish His purpose and succeed in doing what God intends to be done.

Holy Spirit, Light Divine

Lutheran Service Book 496, Lutheran Worship 168, 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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Friday

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

C Amen.

Verse for The Day of Pentecost

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

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

John 7:37–39

37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

This is an interesting week. I'm not sure that I can think of another week where the Gospel lesson takes a backseat to the second reading.

Pentecost happened seven weeks after Jesus' resurrection. Sunday was the day for us to celebrate it. Although the Gospels (particularly John) record Jesus' promises to send the Holy Spirit, the fulfillment of those promises is recorded only in Acts.

Our Gospel lesson from John this week is one of those pre-Pentecost promises. John 7:39 is very specific about it. While the sound of a mighty rushing wind, divided tongues of fire, and speaking in tongues receive the most notice on the day of Pentecost, something much more important is happening. As promised by Jesus, out of the hearts of the Apostles "flow rivers of living water."

This living water is the living and active word of God that brings life to dead and unbelieving hearts. The Holy Spirit was active in a powerful way on Pentecost. He worked on that day just as He does today. He works through the word of God. The word of God is the living water that flowed from the hearts of the Apostles as they proclaimed salvation through repentance and faith in Jesus.

For the last few decades many churches have focused on the "church growth" movement. Yet it seems that most churches are shrinking. The church growth movement focuses on social factors and marketing plans to bring about growth in the church. What we have forgotten is that real growth comes from living water not slickly packaged retail religion.

Just as in Jesus' day, people are longing to hear God's word of sin and grace. Deep down inside, everyone knows that they need a savior. We are called upon to bring this living water to people in our sinful and dying world. May the Holy Spirit work in us His will so that people will hear and believe the word of salvation.

Prayer: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that by the working of the Holy Spirit, You have brought us to faith in Jesus Christ. Grant that we would learn to share the word of life with people around us so that living water would well up in their hearts through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday

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

Verse for The Day of Pentecost

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

Gradual Acts 2:17b; Romans 10:10

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

The connection between Jesus and the Christian people is so all-encompassing that the Bible uses many different pictures to explain it to us. We are united with Him in His death and resurrection through Baptism. He is the head and we are the Body of Christ. He is the Husband and the Church is the Bride of Christ. We are adopted into His family so that we are of the same household with God, children of the same heavenly Father. We are fellow citizens with Him in the Kingdom of Heaven. The list goes on.

Pentecost gives us the opportunity to recall yet another way that our lives are meshed together with Jesus' life. At the beginning of His earthly ministry at His baptism, the Holy Spirit descended on Him in the form of a

dove. After the conclusion of His earthly ministry when He had ascended into heaven, He sent the same Holy Spirit upon His Church. At the end of his Pentecost sermon, Peter confirmed that the gift of the Holy Spirit is for all believers of all time. He said, “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” (Acts 2:38-39).

Today, we continue to receive that gift of the Holy Spirit through word and sacrament. He calls, gathers, and enlightens us with His gifts.

Prayer: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, thank You for connecting us to Jesus by the working of the Holy Spirit. Grant that we would ever be faithful children in Your family until we come to live with You in the eternal mansions of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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