

Home worship service during time of isolation and social distancing.

# The Day of Pentecost

## May 31, 2020

Around the world, the Church is celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has been with the Church from its beginning and promises to be with us throughout all eternity. Today, we are reminded that we have been called and 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 nations.

**Come, Holy Spirit, God and Lord** Lutheran Service Book 497, Lutheran Worship 154, The Lutheran Hymnal 224

1 Come, Holy Spirit, God and Lord!  
Let all your graces be outpoured  
On each believer's mind and heart;  
Your fervent love to us impart.

2 Lord, by the brightness of your light,  
You in the faith do men unite  
Of every land and every tongue;  
This to your praise, O Lord, be sung.

3 From every error keep us free;  
Let none but Christ our Master be,  
That we in living faith abide,  
In him with all our might confide.

4 Lord, by your power prepare each heart  
And to our weakness strength impart,  
That bravely here we may contend,  
Through life and death to you ascend.

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[https://hymnary.org/text/come\\_holy\\_spirit\\_god\\_and\\_lord\\_winkworth](https://hymnary.org/text/come_holy_spirit_god_and_lord_winkworth)

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

**C** Amen.

**L** O Lord, open my lips,

**C** and my mouth will declare your praise.

**L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

**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

**C** Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

## 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

<sup>24</sup>So 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. <sup>25</sup>Then 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.

<sup>26</sup>Now 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. <sup>27</sup>And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” <sup>28</sup>And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, “My lord Moses, stop them.” <sup>29</sup>But 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!” <sup>30</sup>And 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.

## Acts 2:1–21

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

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

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. <sup>15</sup>For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup>But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>‘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;

<sup>18</sup>even on my male servants and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,

blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

<sup>20</sup>the sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,

before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

<sup>21</sup>And 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 seventh chapter.

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

<sup>37</sup>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. <sup>38</sup>Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” <sup>39</sup>Now 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

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

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.



1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest, And make  
 2 To You, the Coun - sel - or, we cry, To You,  
 3 In You, with grac - es sev - en - fold, We God's  
 4 Your light to ev - 'ry thought im - part, And shed  
 5 Drive far a - way our wi - ly foe, And Your



our hearts Your place of rest; Come with Your grace and  
 the gift of God Most High; The fount of life, the  
 al - might - y hand be - hold While You with tongues of  
 Your love in ev - 'ry heart; The weak - ness of our  
 a - bid - ing peace be - stow; With You as our pro -



heav'n-ly aid, And fill the hearts which You have made.  
 fire of love, The soul's a - noint - ing from a - bove.  
 fire pro - claim To all the world His ho - ly name.  
 mor - tal state With death - less might in - vig - or - ate.  
 tect - ing guide, No e - vil can with us a - bide.

6 Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
 And You, from both, as Three in One  
 That we Your name may ever bless  
 And in our lives the truth confess.

7 Praise we the Father and the Son  
 And Holy Spirit, with them One,  
 And may the Son on us bestow  
 The gifts that from the Spirit flow! Amen.

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### Devotional thoughts:

Over the last few days, we have witnessed delightfully creative graduations, ranging from drive-by diplomas to ceremonies on racetracks. Graduations from preschools through universities are joyous events to celebrate with enthusiasm and zest. This year should be no different.

We celebrate because graduates have completed tasks and challenges. We celebrate because a page has been turned and new adventures lie ahead. We celebrate because graduates have met their potential and fulfilled many dreams. Their dedication to a long and arduous mission is complete.

In some ways, we might consider Pentecost to be a graduation ceremony. For three years the disciples have been students of the Master. From the Sermon on the Mount to His words from the cross, Peter, James, and John have learned of Jesus' mission to save sinners. They have witnessed water turned to wine, Lazarus raised from the dead, and thousands of hungry people fed. They have seen the lame walk, the blind see, the deaf hear, and Good News preached to the poor. On Pentecost, a page turns for the disciples and new adventures lie ahead. They will now take up the task of making disciples of all nations. They will not go alone on their assignment. Jesus has honored His promise and given His Holy Spirit to them.

From the beginning of Jesus' ministry, this day was anticipated. John the Baptist spoke these prophetic words about Jesus, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11). Now both have happened. Announced by the sound of a mighty rushing wind, the Holy Spirit and tongues of fire were bestowed on Jesus' disciples.

Empowered and emboldened by the Holy Spirit, they were ready for the task at hand. To begin, Peter fearlessly preached the first Christian sermon to the assembled multitude. Language was no barrier to this sermon of salvation. "Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians" —all hear the disciples in their own tongues! Peter's message could be no clearer: The day has come! "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21).

God's plan of salvation has been accomplished. Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested by God with mighty works and wonders and signs was crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised him up and loosed the pangs of death.

Now, in our time, Peter's message is still true. "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." You may have been calling on the name of the Lord for many years. Or you may have called on the Lord for salvation yesterday. Whenever this happened for you, the same Holy Spirit that filled the disciples, came and brought you to faith. He called you by the Gospel. He enlightened you with His gifts. He sanctified and kept you in the true faith. He does this for the whole Christian church on earth. In this Church, He daily and richly forgives us all our sins.

Graduates have plans but they cannot fully comprehend what will happen in the future. We, too, cannot know what the future holds for us. Whether you are young or old, whether you are near the beginning of your journey through life or near the end, we know this is true; Jesus' has given us His Holy Spirit. This Comforter will bring us and all believers through whatever trials and tribulations may lie ahead to the joys of life with God in the eternal mansions.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

**L** Let us pray. Almighty God, You have promised the thirsty will drink and from the empty will flow forth rivers of living water. Help us to show forth in holy lives the fruits of the Spirit and to live with love toward our neighbor. Give us a servant's heart that doesn't seek our own way but walks on the path of eternal life.

**C** Amen.

**L** Lord, You are the source of all wisdom and knowledge. Bless those who teach, those who learn and especially those who graduate this year. Be the hope of those whose plans have been disappointed, and grant that all graduates would find good employment. Guide them in the pursuit of Your Word and truth, to live honorable lives in worthy vocations, that in all things You may be glorified.

**C** Amen.

**L** Almighty God, give our leaders wisdom for the challenges of our times. Send Your holy angels to watch over all of our loved ones, especially those who live in distant places. Protect all who attend to our needs during this time of national emergency and pandemic for You live and reign with the Father 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.

**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

#### June 1 - 6

#### 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.

**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.

Today is the first day of June. So much has changed since the first day of March. We all are fervently praying that the emergency measures required to combat this pandemic will soon end and summer will again be normal.

As it stands right now, stay at home orders in Michigan will remain in effect until June 12. The state of emergency continues until June 19. I remember when I thought we would be back in church on Easter but it didn't turn out that way. I'm not confident that much will be different on the first day of July.



Nevertheless, the summer months will present an excellent opportunity to go outside and explore nature. The wonder and beauty of God’s creation is a delightful gift to help us endure the monotony of our “new normal.”


Our introit for the week of Pentecost comes from Psalm 104. Psalm 104 speaks of the majestic grandeur of nature as a testimony to the greatness of God. It is an excellent Psalm to read before, during, and after exploring the great outdoors. Read it slowly, picturing in your mind each image described. Then you will exclaim with the psalmist, “Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty” (Psalm 104:1).

Our introit highlights one verse near the end of Psalm 104, “When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground” (verse 30). Here we are reminded of the Holy Spirit’s role in creation. This is not a new concept in the Bible. Already in the second verse of Genesis, we learn of the Spirit’s participation in calling forth all that there is.

However, on Pentecost, we pause to look beyond nature. Our thoughts turn to the working of the Holy Spirit and His activity of creating and sustaining faith in the hearts of believers. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to see God at work in nature while unbelievers are blinded to this fact. We learn this from 1 Corinthians 2:14, “The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit” (NIV). In fact, we learn that without the Holy Spirit, the human mind is hostile to God! (Romans 8:7)

Pentecost is a time to rejoice that the Holy Spirit has created faith in our hearts for without the Holy Spirit it is impossible to believe in Jesus (1 Corinthians 12:3). God, the Father, sent His only-begotten Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Still, without the Holy Spirit, no one would believe and be saved! During a moment of reflection this summer as you gaze out at the splendor of creation, pause and bless God for the faith which the Holy Spirit has created in your heart.

**Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest** Lutheran Service Book 498, Lutheran Worship 157, The Lutheran Hymnal 233



1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest, And make  
our hearts Your place of rest; Come with Your grace and  
heav'n-ly aid, And fill the hearts which You have made.

## Tuesday

**Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest** Lutheran Service Book 498, Lutheran Worship 157, The Lutheran Hymnal 233

2 To You, the Counselor, we cry,  
To You, the gift of God Most High;  
The fount of life, the fire of love,  
The soul's anointing from above.

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

**C** Amen.

**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

Ignorance and darkness are often associated. Imagine the danger of driving on an overcast moonless night without headlights on a winding mountain road. Not knowing what lies ahead in the darkness would be the height of foolishness.

Yet this is how we are all condemned to live without God's Spirit guiding us with His holy word. Isaiah writes, "Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God" (Isaiah 50:10). This week of Pentecost we thank God that Holy Spirit has opened our eyes to the light of God's word. The Apostle Paul tells Timothy that all of God's word comes by the working of the Holy Spirit when he writes, "All scripture is given by inspiration" (2 Timothy 3:16 KJV).

The most breathtaking and amazing light is this: "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Prayer: Almighty God, You have blessed us in love with the Savior to whom the nations cry and in whom is forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Grant to us Your Holy Spirit, the Comforter whom You have promised, that we and all who call upon His name shall be saved. Help us to treasure in our hearts Your mercy and to give ourselves fully to Your service. Amen.

## Wednesday

**Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest** Lutheran Service Book 498, Lutheran Worship 157, The Lutheran Hymnal 233

3 In You, with graces sevenfold,  
We God's almighty hand behold  
While You with tongues of fire proclaim  
To all the world His holy name.

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

**C** Amen.

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

Jesus ascended into heaven 40 days after Easter. Ten days later, the Holy Spirit was given on Pentecost. Those ten days of waiting must have been difficult. Waiting always is.

We are waiting for illnesses to subside. We are waiting for restrictions to be lifted. We are waiting for life to return to normal. I don't like it. Still sometimes waiting is necessary and beneficial.

In childhood, we wait with great anticipation for our birthdays or Christmas. We wait for vacations and parties. We wait with excitement for loved ones to return. Waiting enhances the enjoyment of these long-expected happy occasions.

Even so, patience is a gift shared by few. We remember the old humorous prayer, "Lord, give me patience and I want it right now!"

Sometimes waiting leads to disappointment. Party plans fall apart. Vacations are canceled. Illness interrupts. I am sure that in some way this has happened to all of us, especially as a result of this pandemic.

Still, the psalmist declares, "none who wait for you shall be put to shame." God always keeps His promises. He never fails us. He is the God of our salvation. His steadfast love endures forever.

During this seemingly endless waiting, let us turn our eyes ever toward the Lord. He will not disappoint us.

Prayer: Almighty God, throughout the years of the Old Testament, Your people waited for the coming of a savior. Thank You that those days of waiting are over and we know the love that is ours in Christ Jesus. Grant that during this time of disruption that we would have the patience to trust in your promises. Amen.

## Thursday

**Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest** Lutheran Service Book 498, Lutheran Worship 157, The Lutheran Hymnal 233

4 Your light to ev'ry thought impart,  
And shed Your love in ev'ry heart;  
The weakness of our mortal state  
With deathless might invigorate.

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

**C** Amen.

**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

<sup>37</sup>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. <sup>38</sup>Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” <sup>39</sup>Now 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.

Pentecost is one of the few Sundays where the main lesson is not the Gospel reading. The account of the giving of the Holy Spirit is recorded in Acts 2. The Gospel lesson takes up a supporting role.

If you are like me, on Sunday when this lesson was read, curiosity caused you to ask yourself, “I wonder which feast this is?” It is the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles. In the Jewish community, it is known simply as Sukkot. It is one of the three pilgrimage festivals together with Passover and Pentecost when the Jewish people would travel to Jerusalem.

The Feast of Booths happens in early fall. Because of the difference between our calendar and a lunar calendar, it is observed sometime between late September and late October. This year it begins the evening of Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. It ends the evening of Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. If you were to travel to Israel or a Jewish community during this time, you would discover people engaged in joyful activities.

Unfortunately for Jesus, the feast would not be carefree. The people began to recognize Jesus as the Christ, the long-promised savior. This meant that His enemies were already seeking to kill Him. Only a few verses before our reading, we discover that the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest Jesus.

It is in this context that Jesus declares, “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” The Apostle John explains that this is the Holy Spirit who came on Pentecost and has been with the Church ever since.

During this time of the pandemic, a deadly virus is spread from one person to the next. How different it is in the Church. Jesus declares that life (living waters) flows from the hearts of believers from one person to the next.

We may be stuck in our homes. We may not have the interaction with people we crave. But still, in this time of isolation, God is providing opportunities for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of people. It happens when you share the message of forgiveness and salvation with people. When you tell people of Jesus’ love, rivers of living water flow from your heart.

Prayer: Almighty God, You have promised the thirsty will drink and from the empty will flow forth rivers of living water. Help us to show forth in holy lives the fruits of the Spirit and to live with love toward our neighbor. Give us a servant’s heart that doesn’t seek our own way but walks on the path of eternal life. Amen.

## Friday

**Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest** Lutheran Service Book 498, Lutheran Worship 157, The Lutheran Hymnal 233

5 Drive far away our wily foe,  
And Your abiding peace bestow;  
With You as our protecting guide,  
No evil can with us abide.

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

**G** Amen.

**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

<sup>24</sup>So 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. <sup>25</sup>Then 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.

<sup>26</sup>Now 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. <sup>27</sup>And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” <sup>28</sup>And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, “My lord Moses, stop them.” <sup>29</sup>But 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!” <sup>30</sup>And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

My wife and I are eating well. By this I mean we are eating a much healthier diet than normal. I like to eat out at restaurants and fast food places. Now that we are cooking more at home, I am convinced that what we are eating is better for us. Still, I could name about a dozen menu items that I crave.

If your experience is anything like mine, you can appreciate the situation that Moses is facing in Numbers 11. For some time now, the people have been wondering in the wilderness and eating manna from heaven. They began to complain to Moses about the blandness of their diet. We read in Numbers 11: 4-6, “Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, “Oh that we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.”

Can you relate? Moses is not a happy camper either. He is tired of hearing all the cranky and cantankerous complaints. He passes the problem up the chain of command to the throne of God.

God decides to give Moses help in the person of seventy-elders. Each of them will receive a portion of the Spirit placed upon Moses and they will share the burden of the people. It is in this context that we find our reading for Pentecost.

Key to this passage is Moses’ desire that “the Lord would put his Spirit on” all of the Lord’s people. Pentecost brings to fruition Moses longing. Jesus has given the gift of the Holy Spirit to all believers. In fact, it is impossible to believe in Jesus without the gift Spirit.

Beyond a doubt, we are living in a difficult time. It may seem like we are wandering in a wilderness. Now is not the time to increase our complaining and to burden our leaders. Now is a time to pray for them to have wisdom and strength.

Now is the time to allow God’s Spirit to strengthen your faith by drinking deeply from the well of Scripture. Now is the time to thank God for the gift of faith and salvation.

Prayer: Almighty God, You breath hope into the weary and renew Your Church by Your grace grant us faithful and thankful hearts for all of Your gifts through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Saturday

**Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest** Lutheran Service Book 498, Lutheran Worship 157, The Lutheran Hymnal 233

6 Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
And You, from both, as Three in One  
That we Your name may ever bless  
And in our lives the truth confess.

7 Praise we the Father and the Son  
And Holy Spirit, with them One,  
And may the Son on us bestow  
The gifts that from the Spirit flow! Amen.

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

**C** Amen.

**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.

**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.

The day of Pentecost and the working of the Holy Spirit are matters of great importance and magnitude. They are much more than anyone could tackle in a week.

However, our gradual for this week distills the essential oils of Pentecost into two great truths. First, the gift of the Holy Spirit is not limited to any age, race, sex, or nationality. He is available to all.

Second, His work is one that is accomplished in the heart of believers. Majestic mountains are important. Vast vistas are crucial. But none of them compare to the salvation that is ours in Christ Jesus. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring us to faith and keep us in the faith through word and sacrament.

Martin Luther puts it this way in the Large Catechism:

Neither you nor I could ever know anything about Christ, or believe on Him, and have Him for our Lord, unless it were offered to us and granted to our hearts by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Gospel [1 Corinthians 12:3; Galatians 4:6]. The work of redemption is done and accomplished [John 19:30]. Christ has acquired and gained the treasure for us by His suffering, death, resurrection, and so on [Colossians 2:3]. But if the work remained concealed so that no one knew about it, then it would be useless and lost. So that this treasure might not stay buried, but be received and enjoyed, God has caused the Word to go forth and be proclaimed. In the Word He has the Holy Spirit bring this treasure home and make it our own. Therefore,

sanctifying is just bringing us to Christ so we receive this good, which we could not get ourselves [1 Peter 3:18].<sup>1</sup>

Or in a form more familiar to many, Luther's words from the Small Catechism:

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.

*What does this mean?* 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.

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.<sup>2</sup>

**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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<sup>1</sup>*Concordia : The Lutheran Confessions*, Edited by Paul Timothy McCain, 403 (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2005).

<sup>2</sup>Martin Luther, *Luther's Small Catechism With Explanation*, Contains the basic principles of the Lutheran religion with some explanation.; Translation of: *Kleine Katechismus - English.*, electronic ed., 3 (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1997, c1986).