



## THE DAY OF PENTECOST

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
31 May 2020

*Pentecost is a day of promises fulfilled. The promised Spirit of God is poured out. By the power of the Spirit we have seen the face of the Father in His only begotten Son and been saved by Him. The Spirit is the power of the resurrected Jesus in our midst, claiming us in baptism, feeding us at the eucharist, and sending us into the world to be bearers of that divine word that can raise the dead to new life.*

### ✠ GATHERING ✠

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.*

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

P. Rejoicing in the resurrection, let us seek God's forgiveness, that dying to sin, we may walk in newness of life.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

P. Loving God,

C. we fear, we doubt, we do not trust You; we do not love our neighbors as ourselves; we have failed to recognize You in the poor and needy; we sin against You in thought, word, and deed. We pray for Your mercy, forgiveness, and grace. We hope in the gift of Your Spirit and we rejoice in the resurrection promise of Jesus Christ, our living Savior. Amen.

P. God, Who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. May you be strengthened daily with the power to walk in God's light and love.

C. Amen.

#### LITANY FOR PENTECOST

P. Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord fills the world.

C. Let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God. Alleluia!

P. With tongues of fire, the Spirit kindles the apostle's zeal.

C. They declare in new tongues the wonderful works of God.

P. Blessed be God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C. And blessed be His kingdom now and forever.

P. Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit!

C. Fill the hearts of Your faithful people with Your love. Alleluia!

P. The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

*Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling*

1 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er dwell-ing in the ho-liest realms of light;  
2 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er liv-ing as the church's ver-y life;  
3 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er work-ing through the church's min-is-try;

Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er brood-ing o'er a world of gloom and night;  
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er striv-ing through us in a cease-less strife;  
quick-'ning, strength-'ning, and ab-solv-ing, set-ting cap-tive sin-ners free;

Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er rais-ing those of earth to thrones on high;  
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er form-ing in the church the mind of Christ;  
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er bind-ing age to age and soul to soul

liv-ing, life-im-part-ing Spir-it, you we praise and mag-ni-fy.  
you we praise with end-less wor-ship for your gifts and fruits un-priced.  
in com-mu-nion nev-er end-ing, you we wor-ship and ex-tol.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, as You sent upon the disciples the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, look upon Your Church and open our hearts to the power of the Spirit. Kindle in us the fire of Your love, and strengthen our lives for service in Your kingdom; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Acts 2.1-21

*Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples they would be filled with the Holy Spirit and become witnesses for him to the ends of the earth. Now, surrounded by signs of fire, wind, and a variety of languages in their midst, the people were amazed and astonished at Jesus' promise coming true.*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, 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, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel.

<sup>17</sup>In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out My Spirit upon 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 upon My slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out My Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104.25-35, 37

O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

<sup>26</sup>Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number,  
creatures both small and great.

<sup>27</sup>There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan  
which you have made for the sport of it.

<sup>28</sup>All of them look to you  
to give them their food in due season.

<sup>29</sup>You give it to them; they gather it;  
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

<sup>30</sup>You hide your face, and they are terrified;  
you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.

<sup>31</sup>You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;  
and so you renew the face of the earth.

<sup>32</sup>May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD rejoice in all his works.

<sup>33</sup>He looks at the earth and it trembles;  
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

<sup>34</sup>I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
I will praise my God while I have my being.

<sup>35</sup>May these words of mine please him;  
I will rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>37</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul.  
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13

*Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts, because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.*

<sup>3b</sup>No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. <sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C. (*sung*) O Spirit of the Living God, in all the fullness of Your grace. Give tongues of fire and hearts of love to preach the reconciling Word.

## HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:19–23

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

C. (*spoken*) Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

## GOSPEL RESPONSE

C. (*sung*) Proclaim the Gospel far and wide the triumphs of the cross record  
The name of Christ be glorified let ev'ry people call Him Lord!

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

1. Praise the Spirit in creation,  
breath of God, life's origin:  
Spirit, moving on the waters,  
quick'ning worlds to life within,  
source of breath to all things breathing,  
life in whom all lives begin.
2. Praise the Spirit, Who enlightened  
priests and prophets with the Word;  
holy truth behind the wisdoms  
which as yet know not our Lord;  
by Whose love and pow'r in Jesus,  
God by us was seen and heard.
3. Tell how the ascended Jesus  
armed a people for His own;  
how a hundred men and women  
turned the known world upside down,  
to its dark and furthest corners  
by the wind of heaven blown.
4. Pray we then, O Lord the Spirit,  
on our lives descend in might;  
let Your flame break out within us,  
fire our hearts and clear our sight,  
till, white-hot in Your possession,  
we, too, set the world alight.

## THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
He came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit

He became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the  
right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the  
living and the dead,  
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son He is  
worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and  
apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

## ✠ PRAYER ✠

### OFFERING

*If you have not signed up for electronic giving, you can mail your offering in to Bethel (P.O. Box 126, Porter, 56280), you may drop it in the offering box at the church, or you may make your offering online at our website ([www.bethelofporter.com](http://www.bethelofporter.com)).*

### OFFERTORY



1 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.  
2 God, bless us by Your grace; re - mind us of Your care



We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - raise.  
Re - new - ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. God of blessing and glory,

C. With people of every language and nation we bring the first fruits of our labor. Let the sharing of these gifts proclaim our joyful hope in Jesus Christ, the First Fruit of the resurrection. Thanksgiving and honor be to You, O God, forever and ever. Amen

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every time and every place, praying for the world that God so loves.

*A brief silence.*

Lord of life, You baptize Your people with the fire of the Spirit. We pray for the church around the world: the Eastern Orthodox church, the Roman Catholic church, the Protestant and Anglican churches, the Pentecostal churches, the evangelicals and independents, and our own congregation. Grace Your church everywhere with Your visions and dreams, so that as we testify, all will hear the gospel and call upon Your saving name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

Your creating Spirit renews the face of the earth. Bring to birth new life in the earth's land forms and waters. Awaken us from the slumber of neglect to show tender care for our home. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

Your Spirit swept over the waters and You created the human family. Send Your Spirit on the leaders of nations, on legislators, and on judges, that the people of the world will benefit from Your justice and Your peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

Your Spirit sighs with every need. Visit all who are suffering, all who feel hopeless, and all who face death. Send healing to those we name here before You, especially Merv, Emily, Angie, Shirley, Lynette, Bruce, and Les. Restore to health those who have contracted the virus. Uphold health-care workers, grant jobs to those who are unemployed, and assist researchers in discovering a vaccine. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

Your Spirit has called and gathered this congregation into life in Christ. Help us in our weakness, teach us to pray, search our hearts, and intercede for us, Your beloved saints, according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

By Your Holy Spirit You have called and gathered people from every nation under heaven. Gather us with all the saints (*especially*) at the heavenly banquet that has no end. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

By the sure guidance of Your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## ✠ SENDING ✠

### BLESSING

P. May the Holy Spirit fill you with the fire of faith so that you can be a light for others as you reflect God's love. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
C. Amen.

### CLOSING HYMN *God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind*



1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl-wind, as on Pen - te -  
2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your  
3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from  
4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's



cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;  
pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,  
leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,  
rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,



past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,  
let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,  
for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;  
may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;



there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!  
kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!  
make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!  
claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

## DISMISSAL

- P. Rejoicing in the power of the Spirit,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
C. Thanks be to God.

*The bulletin cover is "Pentecost" by Jennifer Allison*

### Those who Serve:

**Ministers:** All the People of God      **Presider:** Pastor Ellen Munter  
**Organist:** Terry Dybsetter              **Reader:** Tracy Wentz

### How to reach us:

Church Office: 507-296-4658  
Pastor's House: 507-296-4558  
Pastor's Cell: 507-828-1000(call or text)  
Pastor's email: [pastormunter@gmail.com](mailto:pastormunter@gmail.com)  
Bethel email: [bethel@bethelofporter.com](mailto:bethel@bethelofporter.com)  
Bethel web page: [www.bethelofporter.com](http://www.bethelofporter.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Offering:** During this period of suspended in-person worship services, Bethel and Hemnes continue to have recurring expenses. Please remember to give financially to support the ministry of our congregations. For Bethel, you may mail your offering to the church office or give online at <http://bit.ly/givebethel>



Merv Anderson   Emily Morton      Les Kraft  
Dick Anderson   Angie Denelsbeck Anderson  
Shirlee Gabbert   Lynette Christie      Bruce Jeremiason

### Acknowledgements

From Sundays and Seasons © 2019 and © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling” Text & Tune in the public domain..

“O Spirit of the Living God” Text & Tune in the public domain.

“Praise the Spirit in Creation” Text: Michael Hewlett, b. 1916; Tune in the public domain.

“Remember and Rejoice” Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947; Music: in the public domain. Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

“God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind” Text. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr, b. 1923. Music: in the public domain. Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.

Hymns reprinted using OneLicense #A-718771

Permission has been granted for churches to use liturgical and musical material without licensing during this time of pandemic.

Prayers of Intercession: Sundays and Seasons, lightly edited by Pastor Munter.

## Fire and Wind

We can imagine the scene in the upper room: a diverse group of one hundred twenty followers of Jesus are gathered together. Some are of the twelve who followed Jesus from the beginning. Others are more recent believers. We can also imagine a wide range of feelings: from steadfast confidence in the promises of Jesus to uncertainty over the happenings of the last fifty days. But when the Spirit blew into the room on Pentecost like tongues of flame, the gathering was transformed, galvanized into a new community with an urgent message—and with new language to share that message.

The portrayal of the coming of the Holy Spirit in fire and wind makes a fearful image. A fire fanned by wind is uncontrollable, sometimes uncontainable. When Jesus likens the Spirit to the wind he does so to remind us of this freelance power from God: “The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes” (John 3:8). And while flames borne by wind create destruction, this fire-like presence of God brings radical transformation—from the first believers gathered in the upper room to present-day believers.

At Pentecost there is no going back. There is a saying that once you show people a picture of the earth taken from the moon, there are then certain land-bounded myths (for example, “the world is flat”) that simply cannot be sustained. So it is with Pentecost. We are no longer captive to the old myths that tell of a divided humanity of insiders and outsiders, or that speak of God’s distance or indifference. We cannot go back, because God has changed us from within, and has changed our world from the inside out.

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2008 Augsburg Fortress.  
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress