



The Day of Pentecost

Affirmation of Baptism: Confirmation

Bethel Lutheran Church
23 May 2021

On the fiftieth day of Easter we celebrate the Spirit, through Whom and in Whom the people of God are created and re-created. Pentecost is sometimes called the church's birthday; but might more appropriately be called its baptism day, since the gift of the Spirit is the fullness of baptism. Romans makes it clear that God is in the process of re-creating the entire cosmos; yet the Spirit is also at work in the most intimate and personal way, praying in us "with sighs too deep for words" when we do not know how to pray.

Welcome to all our visitors! Today, two young women will stand before God's people and affirm their faith and make the baptismal promises their own. Please join us as we surround them with prayer and blessing.

✠ GATHERING ✠

OPENING HYMN

O Day Full of Grace



1 O day full of grace that now we see ap - pear - ing on
3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own, when he on the
4 God came to us then at Pen - te - cost, his Spir - it new
5 When we on that fi - nal jour - ney go that Christ is for



earth's ho - ri - zon, bring light from our God that we may
cross was hang - ing; and then he a - rose and moved the
life re - veal - ing, that we might no more from him be
us pre - par - ing, we'll gath - er in song, our hearts a -



be re - plete in his joy this sea - son. God, shine for us
stone, that we, un - to him be - long - ing, might join with an -
lost, all dark - ness for us dis - pel - ling. His flame will the
glow, all joy of the heav - ens shar - ing, and walk in the



now in this dark place; your name on our hearts em - bla - zon.
gel - ic hosts to raise our voic - es in end - less sing - ing.
mark of sin ef - face and bring to us all his heal - ing.
light of God's own place, with an - gels his name a - dor - ing.

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 ... 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 ... 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.

Reading not printed, due to length.

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.

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

²⁷There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan which You have made for the sport of it.

²⁸All of them look to You
to give them their food in due season.

²⁹You give it to them; they gather it;
You open Your hand, and they are filled with good things.

³⁰You hide Your face, and they are terrified;
You take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.

³¹You send forth Your Spirit, and they are created;
and so You renew the face of the earth.

³²May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in all His works.

³³He looks at the earth and it trembles;
He touches the mountains and they smoke.

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

³⁵May these words of mine please Him;
I will rejoice in the LORD.

³⁷Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Romans 8:22-27

By pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts, God gives us the promised first fruit of eternal life so that we await God's future in hope. In the meantime, the Spirit also intercedes for us by carrying the prayers of our human hearts to God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL: St. John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15

When speaking to His disciples before His death, Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as “the Helper” and described the difference the Spirit would make in their lives and in the world.

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] “When the Advocate comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth Who comes from the Father, He will testify on My behalf. ²⁷ You also are to testify because you have been with Me from the beginning.

^{16:4b} “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to Him who sent Me; yet none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He comes, He will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see Me no longer; ¹¹ about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

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

P. The Gospel of the Lord. C. Glory to You, O Lord.

SERMON

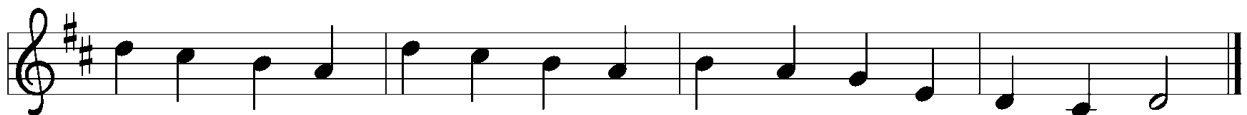
HYMN OF THE DAY *Praise the Spirit in Creation*



1. Praise the Spir - it in cre - a - tion, breath of God life's or - i - gen
2. Praise the Spir - it, Who en - light - ened priests and proph - ets with the Word;
3. Tell how the as - cend - ed Je - sus armed a peo - ple for His own;
4. Pray we then, O Lord the Spir - it, on our lives de - scend in might;



Spir - it, mov - ing on the wat - ers, quick-ning worlds to life with - in,
Ho - ly truth be - hind the wis - doms which as yet know not our Lord;
how a hun - dred men and wo - men turned the known world up - side down,
let Your flame break out with - in us, fire our hearts and clear our sight,



source of breath to all things breath-ing, life in whom all lives be - gin.
by Whose love and pow'r in Je - sus, God by us was seen and heard.
to its dark and furth - est corn - ers by the wind of heav - en blown.
till, white-hot in Your pos - ses - sion, we, too, set the world a - light.

✝ RITE OF AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM ✝

Presentation of the Candidates: **Lacie DeVos and Amber Moeller**

Address to the Candidates and Prayer

The Rejection of the Devil and the Profession of Faith (*confirmands*)

* The Prayers of the People (*congregation responds "hear our prayer."*)

The Affirmation of Baptismal Covenant

Prayer for the Stirring up of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Laying on of Hands and Confirmation (*family and sponsors come forward*)

Address to the Parents, Sponsors and Congregation

Acclamation of the Confirmed and Presentation of the Certificates

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING / 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


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. Holy, living and loving God ... gave His life for the world.

C. Amen.

P. In the night in ... the Lord's death until He comes.

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. Breathe Your Spirit ... both now and forever.

C. Amen.

P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P. The body and blood of our Lord ... and keep you in His grace.

C. Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P. Life-giving God . . . Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

C. 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 *We All Are One in Mission*



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

DISMISSAL

P. Rejoicing in the power of the Spirit, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

