

DAY OF PENTECOST

SUNDAY, 9:00 A.M., MAY 23, 2021



Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God’s mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ’s love with the world.

Welcome to guests and visitors! *This pamphlet will guide your worship today. The assembly’s parts are indicated by **C** and bold font. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when the assembly stands as each is able.*

About Holy Communion with Saint John Lutheran Church

“It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord’s Supper and are distributed and received there” (Augsburg Confession, Article X)· “A person who has faith in these words, ‘given for you’ and ‘shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,’ is really worthy and well prepared.” “Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament” (The Small Catechism, Part VI)· “This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion” (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50)·

PENTECOST GREETING

Following the introductory verses:

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

C and kindle in us the fire of your love. Alleluia.

GATHERING PSALM (68)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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¹Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered;

☩ let those who hate him flee before him.

²Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away;

**☩ as the wax melts at the fire,
so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;

☩ let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
exalt him who rides upon the heavens;

☩ The Lord is his name, rejoice before him!

⁵Father of orphans, defender of widows,

☩ God in his holy habitation!

⁶God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into
freedom;

☩ but the rebels shall live in dry places.

Glory 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.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☩ And also with you.

LITANY TO THE HOLY SPRIT

Lord, have mercy.

☩ Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

☩ Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

☩ Lord, have mercy.

O God, the Father in Heaven

☩ Have mercy upon us!

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

☩ Have mercy upon us!

O God the Holy Spirit, true Comforter,

☩ Have mercy upon us!

Lord God the Holy Ghost, You are the Spirit of wisdom . . . You are the Spirit of the knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

☩ Have mercy upon us!

Lord God the Holy Spirit, You are the Spirit of Love . . . You are the Spirit of faith, humility and chastity,

☩ Have mercy upon us!

O Holy Spirit, You are the One who tests the hearts of mankind and reins, and You are the Dispenser of heavenly grace,

☩ Have mercy upon us!

Lord God, the Holy Spirit, You are the joy of the angels . . . You are the Wisdom of the Apostles,

☩ Have mercy upon us!

O Holy Spirit, You are the Victory of the holy martyrs, and You are the Anointing of the saints,

☩ Have mercy upon us!

Be gracious unto us,

☩ Spare us, Good Lord!

Be gracious unto us,

☩ Help us, Good Lord!

From the crafts and assaults of the Devil, From heresy and deceitful teaching . . . And from all evil spirits,

☩ Deliver us, Good Lord!

Lord God, the Holy Spirit: . . . And You Who dwell in us through Your Word and Sacrament,

☩ Help us, Good Lord!

O Holy Spirit, You intercede for us in groanings that cannot be uttered,

☩ Hear us, Good Lord!

Lord God, the Holy Spirit, We poor sinners beseech You,

☩ Hear us, Good Lord!

And to cleanse and sanctify all the members of Your holy Church . . . To keep us in Your grace, And to bring us to everlasting life,

☩ We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord!

Lord God, the Holy Spirit,

Have mercy upon us!

Lord God, the Son of the Father,

☩ Have mercy upon us!

O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:

☩ Have mercy upon us!

O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:

☩ Have mercy upon us!

O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:

☩ Grant us Your peace!

O Christ, hear us!

☩ O Christ, hear us!

Lord, have mercy.

☞ Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

☞ Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

☞ Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

☞ And also with you.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING: *180 Group video.*

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and

residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”¹³ But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷‘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.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

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

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

The word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 104:25-35, 37

²⁵O 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

²²We 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION AND SEQUENCE HYMN

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

☩ and kindle in us the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Holy Spirit, Lord of light, From Your clear celestial height

☩ Your pure beaming radiance give.

Come, O Father of the poor, Come with treasures which endure,

☩ Come, O Light of all that live.

You, of all consolers best, You, the soul's delightful Guest,

☩ Does refreshing peace bestow.

You in toil are comfort sweet, Pleasant coolness in the heat,

☩ Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, Light divine, Visit You these hearts of Thine,

☩ And our inmost being fill.

If You take Your grace away, Nothing pure in us will stay;

☩ All our good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds; our strength renew;

On our dryness pour Your dew;

☩ Wash the stains of guilt away.

Bend the stubborn heart and will; Melt the frozen, warm the chill;

☩ Guide the steps that go astray.

You, on those who evermore You confess and You adore,

☩ In Your sevenfold gifts descend:

Give them comfort when they die, Give them life with You on high;

☩ Give them joys that never end.

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

GOSPEL: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

The holy gospel according to John.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, ²⁶“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. ²⁷You 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. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless 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. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about 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. ¹³When 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. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Megan Rebout*

PENTECOST GREETING

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

☩ and kindle in us the fire of your love. Alleluia.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

☩ And also with you.

The assembly remains in place, as the service continues.

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**☩ 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.

☩ Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you . . . through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☩ Amen.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

Offerings are received at the door as one enters. The offering is presented for the work of Christ's Church, here and throughout the world.

OFFERTORY

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

☩ and kindle in us the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Be careful how you live,

☩ not as unwise people but as wise.

Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery;

☩ Be filled with the Spirit.

Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves.

☩ Let us sing and make melody to the Lord in our hearts.

Give thanks to God the Father at all times,

☩ For everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia.

☞ Alleluia.

OFFERING PRAYER

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☞ Amen.

The table is set.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

☞ And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

☞ We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☞ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The minister continues, concluding: ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

**☞ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. . . .

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life . . .
Grace our table with your presence.

☩ Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. . . .
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

☩ Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places . . .
we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**☩ 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to receive from this table.
Eat and be satisfied.

☩ Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG (AGNUS DEI)

**☩ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Please remain seated where you are. The communion elements will be brought to you. The host is received in your open hand. The wine will be taken by you from an individual glass. Carefully place your empty glass on the pew until end of worship.

BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION PSALM (68)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☩ Amen.

¹Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.

**☩ ³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.**

⁴Sing to God, sing praises to his name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens; The Lord is his name, rejoice before him!

**☩ ⁵Father of orphans, defender of widows,
God in his holy habitation!**

⁷O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

**☩ ⁸the earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

¹⁹Blessed be the Lord day by day,
the God of our salvation, who bears our burdens.

**☩ ²⁰He is our God, the God of our salvation;
God is the Lord, by whom we escape death.**

²⁸Send forth your strength, O God;
establish, O God, what you have wrought for us.

**☩ ³⁵Ascribe power to God;
his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.**

³⁶How wonderful is God in his holy places, the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people! Blessed be God!

☩ Glory 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☩ Amen.

BLESSING

Response after the blessing:

☩ Amen.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check web-sites and printed materials for further information.

DISMISSAL

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

☩ and kindle in us the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

☩ Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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This Changes Everything

On Pentecost, we celebrate the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and guide us, bringing understanding and unity. However, for those present for the events described in the reading from Acts, in which the Holy Spirit descended and rested upon them, celebration wasn't exactly what those gathered were thinking about. *Terror* might be a more appropriate word. *Shock*, perhaps. *Mystery*. It felt like anything but a celebration; it was disruptive and frightening! After such an experience, your life is changed forever. Once you have lived through something so monumental, you are never the same.

And that is the point. That is why we celebrate. Because on this day, the church was born. On this day the apostles—students of an itinerant rabbi who had taught his followers for only a few years—were filled with the Holy Spirit, turned upside down and inside out, changed utterly. On this day, not only the apostles but also three thousand others (Acts 2:41) were filled with the Spirit that transforms us and enables us to see others as our siblings in Christ. Often, the aftermath of crisis makes strangers into friends.

Several thousand people who had been turned inward, thinking of themselves, their needs, and their concerns, were made a community, turned outward, thinking of their relationships, their neighbors, and the needs and concerns of others. "When the Spirit of truth comes," Jesus had said, "he will guide you into all the truth" (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit, blowing through a diverse group, signals a formation of community, a binding together to make a new way of living. And this is what God showed the apostles, the others gathered in that room, and the several thousand who were baptized: when the Holy Spirit blows into your life, nothing is ever the same. And that's a cause for celebration.

