



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Day of Pentecost

May 19, 2024

10:30 Holy Communion

Pentecost is an ancient Jewish festival celebrating the first of the year's harvest. Indeed even in our northern climate we are just beginning to get fresh food from our gardens. It was during the Pentecost celebration that the Holy Spirit dramatically came upon the disciples of Jesus; empowering them to begin the work of spreading the gospel throughout the world. So, Pentecost was the first of the harvest of the Spirit's work in the church. Though centuries later, we too depend upon the work of the Spirit to nourish the church and bring about the harvest of God's kingdom.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is shown on a screen in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Closing of the 2023-24 Sunday School Year

P: All things come to an end,
but the teaching of the Lord has no bounds.

C: Lead us in your truth, O God.

P: Everyone will stand in awe and declare God's works;
they will ponder what God has done.

C: Lead us in your truth, O God.

P: Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

C: Lead us in your truth, O God.

P: Let us pray. O God, you have called your servants to ventures of
which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through
perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing
where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love
supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: We close this academic year in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Spirit Song

(For music turn to Hymn 51 in the Songbook binder)

**1. Oh let the Son of God enfold you
with his Spirit and his love.
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
O let him have the things that hold you,
and his Spirit like a dove
will descend upon your life and make you whole. Refrain**

**Refrain: Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.**

**2. O come and sing this song with gladness
as your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.
O give him all your tears and sadness;**

**give him all your years of pain,
and you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. Refrain**

Text and music: John Wimber, copyright 1979 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing; CCLI #27824

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O God, every day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Acts 2:1-21

B: When the day of Pentecost had come, they 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, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But 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.'

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (*read responsively*)

D: God, how fertile your genius!

You shape each thing,
you fill the world
with what you do.

**C: I watch the sea, wide and deep,
filled with fish, large and small,
with ships that ply their trade,
and your own toy, Leviathan.**

D: All look to you for food
when they hunger;

**C: you provide it and they feed.
your open your hand, they feast;
you turn away, they fear.**

D: You steal their breath,
they drop back into dust.

**C: breathe into them, they rise;
the face of the earth comes alive!**

D: Let God's glory endure
and the Lord delight in creating.

**C: One look from God, earth quivers;
one touch, and mountains erupt.**

D: I will sing to my God,

make music for the Lord
as long a live.

**C: Let my song give joy to God
who is a joy to me.
I will bless you, Lord!
Hallelujah!**

Second Reading Romans 8:22-27

E: 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.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel Reading John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 15th and 16th chapters.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples] "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.

"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.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon – Blessing of the Garden Seeds

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind
(For music see Hymn 400 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **God of tempest, God of whirlwind,
As on Pentecost descend!
Drive us out from sheltered comfort,
past these walls your people send!
Sweep us into costly service,
there with Christ to bear the cross,
there with Christ to bear the cross.**

2. **God of blazing, God of burning,
all that block your purpose, purge!
Through your church, Christ's living Body,
let your flaming Spirit surge!
Where deceit conceals injustice,
kindle us to speak your truth,
kindle us to speak your truth.**

3. **God of earthquake, God of thunder,
shake us loose from lethargy!
Break the chains of sin asunder,
for earth's healing set us free!
Crumble walls that still divide us;
make us one in Christ our Lord,
make us one in Christ our Lord.**

4. **God of passion, God unsleeping,
stir in us love's restlessness!
Where the people cry in anguish,
may we share your heart's distress.
Rouse us from content with evil;
claim us for your kingdom's work,
claim us for your kingdom's work!**

Nicene Creed

P: Let us confirm our faith with the Nicene Creed

C: 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 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 the Church

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,

The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.**

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

† MEAL †

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord
For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Risen One,

C: you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also 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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has embodied the promise of eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

**C: 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.

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available pre-filled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

396 Spirit of Gentleness (Red Hymnal)

403 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song (Red Hymnal)

Communion Blessing After all have communed the pastor will say:

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

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray:

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn God of the Sparrow
(For music turn to Hymn 740 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **God of the sparrow God of the whale**
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise
2. **God of the earthquake God of the storm**
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save
3. **God of the rainbow God of the cross**
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks
4. **God of the hungry God of the sick**
God of the prodigal

How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

5. God of the neighbor God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

6. God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919; Music: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929,
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Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.
C: **God's Work. Our Hands.**

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Janice Lockwood
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Mary Zuege
Communion Assistants	Christine Campbell
Counters	Helen Crown and Michele Myers
Coffee Hour	Sunday School Celebration

Worship assistants for next Sunday, May 26

Greeters and Ushers	Rob Stroup
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	

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