

**MAY 23, 2021 - PENTECOST**  
**Worship with Holy Communion**

**Preparing for worship:**

*We will have Holy Communion together - separately this worship time.  
You will need either wine or grape juice and bread of some kind.  
You may use what cups & plates you have – do not go out & purchase.  
Here is a list: a white cloth, large cup or individual ones, a large  
paten(plate) for bread or small, depending on the size of your family. A  
cross and a candle.*

**Welcome to worship,**

This Liturgy is from the Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship and the modified prayers this morning are based on those from Sundays & Seasons. Shut off all the distractions in your home. Sit in the quiet for a bit – take some deep breaths. Light the candle.

**GATHERING**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus**

**Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen**

### **GREETING**

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

**Hymn: ELW 526 - God is Here**

**The Prayer of the day:** 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.

### **THE WORD**

The first reading is from **Acts 2:1-21**

**Psalms 104:24-34,35** found on page 265

The second reading is from **Romans 8:22-27**

***Holy, Holy, Holy, our hearts adore you. Our hearts are glad to say the words: you are Holy God.***

The Gospel is from **John 15: 26-27, 16:4-15**

This Sunday is about turning God's spirit loose in your life. It is Pentecost Sunday! The anniversary of the beginning of the world wide church! A birthday celebration!

Wind and fire are the elements used to describe the action of the Spirit. The reading from Acts likens the Spirit to a violent surprising windstorm that blows through the house, where the disciples are meeting. Fire is a

symbol of the passion and energy given to the disciples to witness to Christ's resurrection. The spirit brings a lasting relationship with God based on adoption and love rather than fear.

The people gathered together, knew the Old Testament like the back of their hands. They would remember the stories of God's Spirit from their histories. If we are to understand those stories, it is helpful to know the Hebrew word for Spirit. It is *ruah*, which means *spirit or breath or wind*. When they heard the ancient word *ruah*, it meant all three features to them. They would remember the story of God sweeping over the face of the waters at creation. They would remember the Spirit aiding the 70 elders that Moses gathered around him to help him deal with the complaining Israelites.

To these images of the Holy Spirit, the gospel of John adds one more that is not always highlighted. Jesus calls the spirit Truth, an advocate to be with you forever. The spirit is the dynamic, life enhancing connection between Jesus and his followers. The truth-full advocate comes to form and reform the whole church bestowing peace where there is fear, reminding us of Christ's dying and rising. This kind of spirit filled truth is incarnational. By that I mean that the spirit of truth lives with us and in us. As we confess our failings, the spirit brings us forgiveness and renewal.

Christina Rossetti, a Christian poet writes these words: "Who has seen the wind? Neither I nor you? But when the leaves hang trembling, the wind is passing through. Who has seen the wind? Neither you nor I. But when the leaves bow down their heads, the Wind is passing by."

What does all this have to do with you and me, with your life and mine? We all know, you cannot have life without air, without wind.

The first purpose of the Spirit is to make God alive in you and me. You and I come to believe and know that there is a God here in this

universe. Invisible, mysterious, powerful, whom you can't control any more than you can control the wind. This God, this Wind, gives life. Physical life and spiritual life. The best human analogy there is for both the ancient and modern world is that God is like the wind, invisible, mysterious and powerful and gives life. This God is all around you, in you, above you, below you, beside you, invisibly present.

Sometimes spirit, breath, wind, starts out as a faint whisper. It can eventually whip itself up to a full wind, that is now moving the furniture about out on your deck. It moves it around and into places where it has never been before. That is how the spirit of God works on us too. Nudging us to think about things.

The Danish philosopher and author Soren Kierkegaard tells a parable about a King who had some horses. He had a coachman to train the horses and drive them regularly, but in an economic move the King decided to dismiss the coachmen and drive the horses himself. However because the King rarely used his coach, the horses soon became sadly out of condition. The coachman had kept them in tiptop shape. Now they could not make even the shortest trip without becoming winded. The King decided to give the horses back to the coachman that he might drive them regularly. Kierkegaard observed that this is what God does with His people. They are just ordinary people but they are driven by the Spirit of God.

We all need God to keep after us each day as is our need and to use the strength that is given to us. Come Holy Spirit and fill us with the truth of your loving will and presence in our lives. Amen.

**Hymn: ELW 807 / LBW 499 - Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

### **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - BY ENID BLACKWELL**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you give the Holy Spirit to your church, filling it with many and varied gifts. In the church throughout the world, strengthen us in our visioning and dreaming, that it may discover anew the Spirit's creative work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, your mighty works are too numerous to count. The earth is full of your creatures, living things both great and small. Open your hand and give them the necessities of this life. Send your fresh Spirit over the face of the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, at the sound of the rushing wind, people speaking different languages proclaimed and heard together your deeds of power. Fill the leaders of nations with your Holy Spirit, so that they exercise your gracious will in the lives of people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of faithfulness, you tend to the needs of your people, even the sighs of our hearts. Hear those who cry out to you in distress. Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, fill all faith communities with gratitude for the gifts we have received from you. Renew our ministries, heal our divisions, and open us to the needs of our neighbors. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of hope, those who have died in you raise their eternal song of praise. We give you thanks for the many gifts of your people and rejoice in the witness of your saints. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**The Peace of Christ be with you always - and also with you.**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

#### **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**

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Please take time now to have your Communion at home.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**HYMN: ELW 800 / LBW 486 - Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart**

**BLESSING**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father,  Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**