

his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship. May 16 & 19, 2024 The Festival of Pentecost



Christ Has Not Left Us Alone

Jesus told his disciples that, though he was going to ascend into heaven, he wasn't going to leave them alone. He was going to send "the Advocate," a title for the Holy Spirit. But Jesus wasn't sending the Spirit just to keep us company. Jesus would have the Advocate give us spiritual power so that we might participate in Christ's saving work. Here is the final resurrection reality. The Spirit gives us the ability to raise the spiritually dead to life.

We see this happen on Pentecost. The festival of Pentecost was held fifty days after the Passover. (Pentecost is Greek for "fifty.") It was a time to thank God for the harvest. But on that day, through the Church at work, the Holy Spirit gathered another harvest, a harvest of souls. Therefore, Pentecost is the third great festival of the Church, along with the Nativity and the Resurrection. With the Festival of Pentecost, the festival half of the Church Year comes to a close.

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) and warns there are dangers in taking communion in an improper way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please speak to pastor or an usher.

Call to Worship - Choir (10:30 am)

In this warm, familiar place, and the quiet of this moment, We are gathered now today within the light of God's love. As we join with friends and fam'lies in this fellowship we share, Let us come with grateful hearts and turn our thoughts to God in prayer.

Oh hear us. Now we come, O gracious Lord, to praise and worship and adore You, As we gather here before You, be among us this day. Help us feel You here beside us, help us listen as You guide us. Send Your Spirit, Lord, we pray. We will sing our "alleluias" and our hymns of grateful praise. As we come in faith and dedication, filled with joyful celebration, Grant us, Lord, Your loving grace.

Now may our hearts and minds be open as You speak to us this day. Help us know, O Lord, that You are with us, always ready to forgive us. Bless us now in worship, we pray.

By Nancy Price and Don Besig Copyright 2003 Harold Flammer Music

Gathering Rite (Thursday and 8:00 am)

(sing) From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator's praise arise.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung Through ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PENTECOST DIALOGUE

Stand

M: O God, you sent your Holy Spirit to kindle faith and ignite the continuous proclamation of the Gospel for all people, spanning the breadth of time and space.

C: Pour out your Spirit upon us, we pray.

- M: By your Holy Spirit increase our commitment to be faith-filled followers of the risen Christ,
- C: Pour out your Spirit upon us, we pray.
- M: Shape the Church's speech and song, that she may continually bear witness to the truth.
- C: Pour out your Spirit upon us, we pray.

- M: Heavenly Father, through Baptism, you engraft us into the Body of Christ, beginning, nourishing, and sustaining our God-given faith.
- C: Pour out your Spirit upon us, we pray.
- M: May the witness of our lips and our lives give you, Lord, all glory, laud, and praise. Bring us to everlasting life, where with all the saints, angels, martyrs, and apostles, we will join the heavenly host, magnifying your holy name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- (sing) All praise to God the Father be, All praise, eternal Son, to Thee; Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Whom with Spirit we adore Forever and forevermore. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: We come into the very presence of God, taking spiritual inventory, silently confessing our sins before God.

Silence for personal reflection

Through St. Paul, God exhorts us to "confess our sins to one another, forgiving one another, as God, in Christ, has forgiven us."

- C: I confess to Almighty God, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own grievous fault, therefore I pray Almighty God to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.
- M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

- M: The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and peace, and will bring us to life everlasting.
- C: Pour out your Spirit upon us, we pray.

(sing) Eternal are your mercies, Lord; Eternal is your glorious Word. Alleluia! Alleluia! Your praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no more. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Holy Spirit, God and Lord, come to us this joyful day with your sevenfold gift of grace. Rekindle in our hearts the holy fire of your love that in a true and living faith we may tell abroad the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

Pentecost Anthem – Choir (10:30 am)

Spirt of God, Spirit of God, come live within our hearts; And help us to feel the joy and the peace that only you can give. Spirit of God, Spirit of God, come touch us with your love. Help us to show to all the world the way you teach us to live.

Holy Spirit, Love divine, let your light upon us shine. Chase the shades of night away, turn our darkness into day. Spirit of God, Spirit of God, come dwell among us now, And help us to share the truth of your Word through all we say and do. Spirit of God, Spirit of God, come fill us with your fire. Help us to use the strength you give to all who trust in you. Spirit of God.

By Nancy Price and Don Besig Copyright 1990 Harold Flammer Music Spirit of

THE WORD

First Lesson

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Lord allows Ezekiel to see that the Spirit would give that prophet's words the power to raise the dead to life.

¹ The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

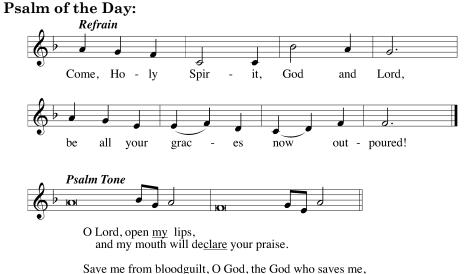
I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! ⁵ This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath^[a] enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord."

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹ Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord." (NIV)



Psalm 51b

and my tongue will sing of your <u>right</u>eousness.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would <u>bring</u> it; you do not take pleasure in burnt <u>of</u>ferings.

The sacrifices of God are a broken <u>spir</u>it; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will <u>not</u> despise.

Refrain

Create in me a pure <u>heart</u>, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit with<u>in</u> me.

Do not cast me from your <u>presence</u> or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Then I will teach transgressors <u>your</u> ways, and sinners will turn <u>back</u> to you.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it,

as it was in the be<u>gin</u>ning, is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.

Refrain

Second Lesson

The Day of Pentecost was the fulfillment of God's promise to pour out his Spirit.

¹When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

- your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.
- ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.
- ¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'^[Joel 2:28-32] (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia. (From the antiphon: Come, Holy Spirit)

Stand

Gospel

John 15:26-27,16:4b-11

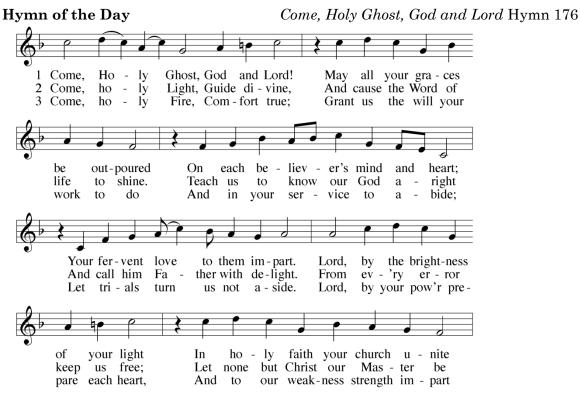
Jesus promised he would not leave us alone but would send us the Spirit of truth to give us the courage and power to testify to the world.

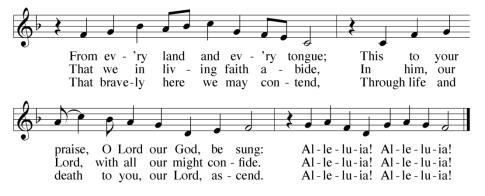
²⁶ "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

⁴ I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, ⁵ but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. ⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!





Text: German hymn, 15th century, st. 1; Martin Luther, 1483–1546, st. 2-3; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt. Tune: KOMM, HEILIGER GEIST, HERRE GOTT (78 88 88 8 10 8) *Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein*, Erfurt, 1524.

Sermon

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Stand

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Prayer of the Church

M: Praise to you, Holy Spirit. We worship and glorify you as the Lord and the giver of life. As you were present at the beginning of the world to shed life on all created things, as you gave a new life of understanding to the disciples in your Pentecost baptism of fire, so by the baptism of water with the Word, you have made the light of faith shine in our hearts to know Jesus as our Lord.

In thanksgiving for your gifts to us, we confess:

C: I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

M: Holy Spirit, all-seeing Counselor and fountain of all spiritual gifts, stand by us in the weakness of our sinful flesh. Grant us a right understanding of the truths that Jesus taught. Give us strength to endure with patience whatever afflictions God may send into our lives. Help us, intercede for us, train us that we may pray to the Father with boldness and confidence. Preserve us by the power of your Word in our most holy faith as members of the Church, the body of Jesus, where there is forgiveness for all.

C: In this Christian Church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

- M: Holy Spirit, highest comfort in every need, in these gray and last days of the world, strengthen our feeble hands, steady our weak knees, encourage our fearful hearts. Remind us of your Word and promises: "Be strong; do not fear. Your Lord will come again. He will come to save you." And in your final, mighty, creative act, O Holy Spirit, raise up our bodies so that we, together with all the saints, may lift up our heads and with glorified eyes see our Savior drawing near.
- C: On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true. Amen.

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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.

THE SACRAMENT

- M: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- M: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them up to the Lord.
- M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
- C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, he empowered his Church to be witnesses of Christ to the ends of the earth. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

Holy, Holy, Holy



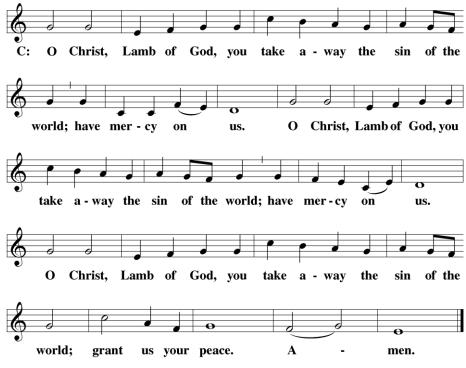
Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

- M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God



Be Seated

Distribution



Text: African-American spiritual, abr. **Distribution Hymn***There Is a Balm in Gilead* CW 564^{Tune:} BALM IN GILEAD (Irregular) African-American spiritual.

Stand

Thank The Lord



- M: Hear the prayers of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son, may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

Benediction (Thursday and 8:00 am)

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Benediction - Choir (10:30 am)

May The Peace Of God Be With Us

As we leave this quiet place, the light of Christ will guide us.

As we share His truth and grace, our Lord will walk beside us. May the peace of God be with us as we live and serve in faith. May the love of Christ within us show in all we do and say.

Amen.

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Closing Hymn

God Has Spoken by His Prophets CW 281



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 Tune: REX GLORIAE (87 87 D) Henry T. Smart, 1813–79.

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Sahaal Faanken Hillam Caidal Duunda Kushanhaalan Mishaala Haannan Katis Mushla, Jaash Caidal

