



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The Day of Pentecost*

*May 28, 2023      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.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness  
(for music see Hymn 396 in the Red Hymnal)

**Refrain Spirit, spirit of gentleness,  
blow through the wilderness  
calling and free;  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness,  
wind, wind on the sea.**

- 1. You moved on the waters,  
you called to the deep,  
then you coaxed up the mountains  
from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons you called to each thing;  
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”** *Refrain*
- 2. You swept through the desert,  
you stung with the sand  
and you goaded your people  
with a law and a land;  
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,  
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.** *Refrain*
- 3. You sang in the stable,  
you cried from a hill,  
then you whispered in silence  
when the whole world was still;  
and down in the city you called once again,  
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.** *Refrain*
- 4. You call from tomorrow,  
you break ancient schemes,  
From the bondage of sorrow  
all the captives dream dreams;  
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,  
With bold new decisions, your people arise.** *Refrain*

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,  
by whose hand we are given new birth,  
by whose speaking we are given new life.

**C: Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**C: Holy God,  
holy and merciful,  
holy and mighty,  
you are the river of life,  
you are the everlasting wellspring.**

In mercy and might you have freed us from death  
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.  
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,  
and in them we are born anew.

*The worship leader stands by the baptismal font. Water may be poured into it.*

P: Glory to you for oceans and lakes,  
for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,  
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.  
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,  
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**C: Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.  
Empower our witness to your resurrection.  
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

P: Satisfy the world's needs through this living water.

Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.

Where despair prevails, grant hope.

Where chaos reigns, bring peace.

We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

**C: Amen.**

Hymn of Praise Kyrie Eleison

*"Kyrie Eleison" is Greek for "Lord have mercy." (For music turn to Hymn 19  
in the Songbook binder)*

*Refrain*

**Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way.**

**Kyrie Eleison ev'ry day**

- 1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church,  
for the unity of all.  
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
- 2. That we may live out your impassioned response to the  
hungry and the poor.  
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
- 3. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,  
for friends and family.  
For life and for love, for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
- 4. For your spirit to guide, that you center our lives  
in the water and the Word  
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***

Text and music: Larry Olson, copyright 1989, Dakota Road Music, CCLI #1765776

*Prayer of the Day*

A: Let us pray...

God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of the earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 (*Please read as indicated*)

**B:** When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

<sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

*(a brief pause)*

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked,

**Men:** “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”

**Women:** <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

**Band:** Parthians,

**Left Side:** Medes,

**Right Side:** Elamites,

**Women:** and residents of Mesopotamia,

**Band:** Judea and Cappadocia,

**B:** Pontus and Asia,

**Women:** Phrygia and Pamphylia,

**B:** Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene,

**Men:** and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

**Left Side:** Cretans and Arabs

**All:** in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”

**B:** All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another,

**All:** “What does this mean?” “What does this mean?” “What does this mean?”

**B:** But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,

**Band:** “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

**Right Side and Band:** ‘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,

**Left Side and Band:** and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

**Men and Band:** <sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

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

**Band:** The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

**All:** Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

**B:** Word of God, word of life.

**All:** 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!**

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 Matthew 7:13-28

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

[Jesus continued preaching] <sup>13</sup>“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. <sup>14</sup>For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

<sup>15</sup>“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup>You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup>In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Thus you will know them by their fruits.

<sup>21</sup>“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup>On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?’ <sup>23</sup>Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.’ <sup>24</sup>“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. <sup>25</sup>The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. <sup>26</sup>And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup>The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!” <sup>28</sup>Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching,

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

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!**



## † CONFIRMATION †

*Creed White and Owen Young have accomplished the requirements of the confirmation program and become adult members by making public affirmation of their baptisms. Please turn to the Affirmation of Baptism service on page 234 in the front of the Red Hymnal.*

## † 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: Generous God,  
**C: in this meal you offer your very self.  
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.  
In the breaking of this bread  
reveal to us the Risen one.  
In the pouring of this wine  
pour us out in service to the world;  
through Christ our Lord.  
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, through our Savior Jesus the Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. 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.**

### 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)*

**75** *Feed Us Now (Songbook Binder)*

**496** *One Bread, One Body (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: Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: The God of all,  
who raised Jesus from the dead,  
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit  
to live in the new creation.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn Sent Forth by God's Blessing  
(For music see Hymn 547 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended,  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom  
and answer your call.
2. With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,

**the tasks of our ev'ry day life we will face –  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ  
and his name that we bear.**

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt. Text copyright 1964 World Library Publications Music: Welsh folk tune

### Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

### Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Mary and Greg Zuege
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistant	Greg Zuege
Counters	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Coffee Hour	Confirmation Reception

### Worship assistants for next Sunday, June 4, 2023

Greeters and Ushers	John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte	
Altar Care	Mary Zuege
Communion Assistant	Gary Boisseau
Counters	
Coffee Hour	

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