

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



I will
put my
spirit
within
you,
and you
shall live...

Ezekiel 37:14, NRSV

THE EMPTY TOMB FILLS OUR LIVES
WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PRESENCE

The Festival of Pentecost

May 19, 2024



Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

Service Notes For This Service

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.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 9 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Organist Destinee Fiecko, Offering Music by Chris Williams & Kristi Perry

Acknowledgements

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The Service: Setting Four

Welcome

Hymn

479 God's Holy Spirit Came

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Dialogue

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Now the earth was formless and empty,

and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2

The Spirit of God has made me;

the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Job 33:4

The Lord said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever."

Genesis 6:3

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger

or discipline me in your wrath.

Psalm 6:1

Jesus said to his disciples, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven;

if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

John 20:22-23

No one can enter the kingdom of God

unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

John 3:5-6

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,

because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

Isaiah 61:1

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life

set me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2

Now the Lord is the Spirit,

and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Come, Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of your faithful people,

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

Liturgical Statement

Song of Praise

590 O Holy Spirit, Enter In st. 1

O Holy Spirit, enter in and in our hearts your work begin,
your dwelling place now make us.
Sun of the soul, O Light divine, around and in us brightly shine,
to joy and gladness wake us
that we may be truly living, to you giving
prayer unceasing and in love be still increasing.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Michael Schirmer, 1606–1673, abr., adapt. Text: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1–14

The Holy Spirit makes his presence known by providing life to what was once dead.

¹The hand of the Lord was upon me. He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley, which was full of bones. ²He had me pass through them and go all over among them. There were very many on the valley floor, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Son of man, can these dry bones live?” I answered, “Lord God, you know.”

⁴Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.’” ⁵This is what the Lord God says to these bones. I am about to make breath enter you so that you will live. ⁶I will attach tendons to you. I will put flesh back on you. I will cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you will live. Then you will know that I am the Lord.

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I was prophesying there was a noise, a rattling, as the bones came together, one bone connecting to another. ⁸As I watched, tendons were attached to them, then flesh grew over them, and skin covered them. But there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the wind. Prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind that this is what the Lord God says. From the four winds, come, O wind, and breathe into these slain so that they may live.”

¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me. Breath entered them, and they came back to life. They stood on their feet, a very, very large army. ¹¹ Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They are saying, ‘Our bones are dried up. Our hope is lost. We have been completely cut off.’

¹² “Therefore, prophesy and say to them that this is what the Lord God says. My people, I am going to open your graves and raise you up from your graves and bring you back to the soil of Israel. ¹³ Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live. I will settle you on your own land, and you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.” (EHV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

104A Lord, Send Out Your Spirit
Spoken responsively.

Refrain – LORD, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all.

All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.

When you give it to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. Refrain

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works—

he makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants.

I will sing to the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

**Glory be 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. Refrain**

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Second Reading

Acts 2:1-21

The Holy Spirit makes his presence known as the wonderful works of God are proclaimed.

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the rushing of a violent wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw divided tongues that were like fire resting on each one of them. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, since the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak fluently.

⁵ Now there were godly Jewish men from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ When this sound was heard, a crowd came together and was confused, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

7 They were completely baffled and said to each other, “Look, are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them speaking in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, and of Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt, and the parts of Libya around Cyrene; visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring in our own languages the wonderful works of God.” 12 They were all amazed and perplexed. They kept saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13 But others mocked them and said, “They are full of new wine.”

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: “Men of Judea, and all you residents of Jerusalem, understand this, and listen closely to my words. 15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day.

16 On the contrary, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 This is what God says will happen in the last days:

I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.

Your sons and your 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 sky above, and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and a rising cloud 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 this will happen: Everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved. (EHV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Antiphon for Pentecost



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful / people,
and kindle in us the fire / of your love. **Refrain**

Gospel

John 15:26–27; 16:4b-11

The Holy Spirit makes his presence known as he works through the truth of God’s Word.

²⁶“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷And you also are going to testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.”

^{16:4b} “I did not tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going away to him who sent me, and not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶Yet because I have told you these things, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth: It is good for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.” (EHV)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

585 *Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord*

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church and Confession of Faith

This prayer utilizes Luther’s explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed.

Praise to you, Holy Spirit! We worship you as Lord and adore you as the giver of life. As you were present at the beginning of the world to give life to all created things; as you equipped the apostles on the Day of Pentecost by the baptism of fire; so by the baptism of water with the Word you made the light of faith shine in our hearts to know Jesus as our Lord. We confess:

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.

Spirit of truth and source of all spiritual gifts, stand by us in the weakness of our sinful nature. Grant us a right understanding of the truths Jesus taught. Give us strength to endure with patience whatever afflictions you may send into our lives. Help us, intercede for us, and 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.

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

Holy Spirit, you comfort and counsel us in every need. In dark and difficult days strengthen our feeble hands, steady our weak knees, and encourage our fearful hearts. Support us with the promise that in your final creative act you will raise up our bodies so that together with all believers we may see and enjoy the glorious return of Jesus Christ.

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.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, renew our hearts
And kindle in us the fire of your love. Amen.

Be seated

Special Prayers This Week

† For Marla Mueller whose sister, Dawn Weaver, passed away on Monday.

† For our youth

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Connect Card and Offering

Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card. After a few moments, the ushers will come forward to collect the offering. You may place your Connect Card and any offering you brought in the plate as it is passed. Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



Questions for Examination

- † Do I believe that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness?
- † Do I believe that Jesus died on the cross to win forgiveness for me?
- † Do I believe that Jesus offers his true body and blood with the bread and wine in this sacrament?
- † Do I believe this sacrament strengthens my faith and strengthens me to live a God-pleasing life?
- † Am I a member of a church that belongs to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)?
- † If you answered “no” to any of these questions, please hold off on communing with us today. Following worship, one of the pastors would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface



The Lord be with you.



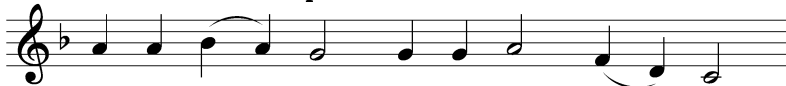
And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who on this day kept his promise and poured out the Holy Spirit to empower his Church to proclaim the gospel in all the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might.
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
 na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
 na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
 By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
 By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
 By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

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 T 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 T 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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

The musical score is written on five staves. The first staff is a short melodic phrase. The second and third staves contain the lyrics: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us." The fourth and fifth staves repeat the same lyrics. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us your peace.
 A - men. A - men.

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Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

663 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

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 T give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

592 Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

Take Home Questions

1. What did Ezekiel see in our reading for today? How did he describe it?
 - a. The transformation that takes place is remarkable. How was this accomplished?
 - b. Describe the transformation that takes place in us. How can such a transformation be possible?
 - c. At what times in life would this section of Scripture be especially comforting?

2. Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival of thanksgiving for the early wheat crop. Considering Jesus' regular comparison of people coming to faith to a grain harvest, for what reasons was this festival significant in the year of Jesus' death and resurrection from our reading in Acts 2?
 - a. For what reasons is this church festival significant for us today?

3. In our reading from John 15 and 16 Jesus calls the Holy Spirit a "Counselor." As you are able, check what name is used in other translations. (Try using www.biblegateway.com to check dozens of translations at once.) Compare and contrast these different names.
 - a. A literal translation of the Greek word is "one who calls alongside." In what ways is that seen in the names used from various translations?
 - b. In what ways is that seen in the work of the Holy Spirit in the disciples?
 - c. In what ways is that seen in the work of the Holy Spirit in us?

News & Announcements



Sunday's Bible Study:

As God's Chosen People ~ 1 Peter

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

It Is the Last Day of Sunday School

After today, our Sunday School will be on summer break. We encourage our parents to continue to share God's Word with their children throughout the summer. See the display in the Welcome Center for some ideas on family devotions.

Sign Up for the Farewell Luncheon

June 9 | 12:00 PM

On Sunday, June 9, we will have a farewell luncheon for Pastor Proeber and his family. The church will provide the entrée with the congregation providing the salads and desserts. The choice of entrées are chicken, hamburger, brat, and hotdog. Please sign up at the Ministry Table, so we know how much of each time to prepare.

School Entertainment Night

May 23 | 6:30 PM

Enjoy a fun evening of skits and music this Thursday, May 23 at 6:30 pm in the gym. The school children will perform TV commercial comedy sketches and "Wackadoo Zoo". The congregation is invited.

Groceries Still Needed

Thank you to those who have given to our food shelf. However, the pickings are still slim. We need grocery items of all types. Next time you are at the store, please consider grabbing a couple of items for our food shelf.

Service Opportunities

Technology – Serve during the worship service you normally attend. Stop in the balcony after worship or contact Chris Williams at 507-279-0167.

Before- or After-School Care for Fall – Paid or volunteer. Contact Mrs. Melso at 715-421-3634 ext. 1119 or littlelambs@stpaulswr.org.

Dime & Dollar Thrift Store – Receive donations, sort & price items, or help with checkout. Contact the thrift store at 715-421-2030.

Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for grades 3K-6th
	10:30 AM	Worship
	6:30 PM	Connect Group A at the home of Fred & Joyce Camacho
Monday	4:30 PM	Choir Practice
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	1:30 PM	Connect Group C at Wisc. Rapids Health Service
	6:30 PM	Leadership Council in the Resource Center
Wednesday	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	5:30 PM	Handbell Practice in the balcony
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	6:30 PM	School Entertainment Night
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	10:30 AM	Worship

Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 223

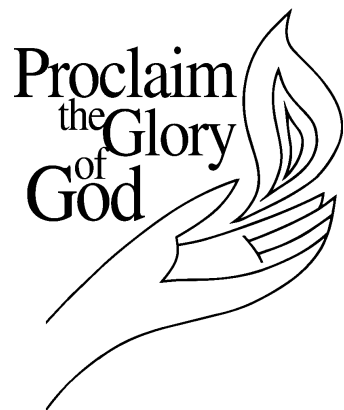
Next Sunday

Theme: A Top-Down Faith Believes in a Triune God

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

Upcoming Events

May 23	School Entertainment Night
May 30	School Closing Service & Graduation
May 31	Last Day of School
June 3	Evening Worship Service
June 9	Called Workers Farewell





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