

# *The Day of Pentecost*

The background features five black ovals arranged in a pentagonal pattern. Each oval contains a stylized flame in shades of orange and yellow. The background itself is a gradient from light grey at the top to bright red at the bottom.

*May 23, 2021*



# Ascension Lutheran Church

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*All are welcome!*

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 50 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community, communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

## *Introduction*

*Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.*

# *Welcome to Worship*

## *Call to Worship*

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*P* The Day of Pentecost is here!

God's children have gathered in this place:

***All*** we are transformed into God's family by God's Spirit joining with ours.

*P* Come, Spirit of adoption, and open our hearts to our sisters and brothers:

***All*** Come, Holy Spirit!

*P* Come, Spirit of peace, and calm our trembling hearts:

***All*** Come, Holy Spirit!

*P* Come, Breath of God, and overturn our conventional lives:

***All*** Come, Holy Spirit!

## *Confession and Forgiveness*

*P* Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy.

***All*** Amen

*P* Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our provider,

***All*** help us.

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**All** We question your ways when they differ from the ways  
of the world in which we live.  
We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.  
We take offense at your teachings and your ways.  
Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?  
Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

**P** Beloved people of God:  
in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.  
By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.  
Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:  
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**All** Amen.

## *Opening Song*

### **Kyrie Eleison**

#### *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.
- 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.
- 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.

## *The Greeting*

P The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

## *Prayer of the Day*

P Let us pray,

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones,  
and your Spirit brings truth to the world.

**All 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.**

[You may be Seated](#)

## *A Reading from Acts, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter*

*Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community bears witness to God's activity in multiple languages.*

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] 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.

<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, "Are not all these who are speaking

Galileans? <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup> 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, “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:

<sup>17</sup> ‘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.

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

<sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ ”

*Acts 2:1-21*

*L* The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God!**

## *A Reading from Romans the 8th chapter*

*By pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts, God gives us the promised first fruit of eternal life so that we await God's future in hope. In the meantime, the Spirit also intercedes for us by carrying the prayers of our weak human hearts to God.*

<sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and 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. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup>Likewise 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. <sup>27</sup>And 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.

*Romans 8:22-27*

*L* The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God!**

### *Gospel Acclamation*

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

♪ ♪ Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. ♪ ♪  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

## *Gospel Reading*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, beginning in the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*While speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “the Helper” and describes the difference the Spirit will make in their lives and in the world.*

[Jesus said,] <sup>26</sup>“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. <sup>27</sup>You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

<sup>16:4b</sup>“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup>But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup>But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. <sup>7</sup>Nevertheless 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. <sup>8</sup>And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup>about sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

<sup>12</sup>“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When 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. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

*John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15*

**P** The Gospel of our Lord.

**All** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

[You may be Seated](#)



*Hymn of the Day*

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## **Spirit of Gentleness**

*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*
  
- 3 You sang in a 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*

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940

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## *Apostles' Creed*

*P* Let us join together with one voice confessing our faith with the words of 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 catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## *Prayers of Intercession*

*L* Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

♪ ♪ The Spirit intercedes for us  
with sign too deep for words to express. Oh, oh. ♪ ♪

*(each prayer petition ends with)*

*L:* Hear us, O God.

*All:* Your mercy is great.

## *Sharing the Peace*

*In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the peace of our risen Lord by “speaking” that peace through sign language.*

**P** Christ become peace with you.

**All** And also with you.

## *Offering*

[You may be Seated](#)

*While we still will not physically pass the offering plates we will continue to have the plates available at the entrance to receive your offerings and will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.*

♪ ♪ Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, ♪ ♪  
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say, “I am rich,”  
because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith

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## *Offertory Prayer*

**P** Jesus, Bread of life,  
you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.

**All** Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal.  
Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the  
world. Amen.

## *The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution*

*P* The Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

*P* Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

*P* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*P* 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*

*P* Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:

**All 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;**

**All** 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 Invitation*

*P* Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come!

### *Sharing the Meal*

♪ ♪ Oh Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God.  
I love the holy Lamb of God.  
O wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. ♪ ♪

### *Post Communion Blessing*

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

**All** Amen

## *Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements*

## *Benediction*

*Please stand as you are able.*

*P* The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever.

*All* Amen.

## *Sending Song*

### Send Down the Fire

#### *Refrain*

**Send down the fire of your justice, send down the rains of your love;  
come, send down the Spirit, breathe life in your people,  
and we shall be people of God.**

1 Call us to be your compassion, teach us the song of your love;  
give us hearts that sing, give us deeds that ring,  
make us ring with the song of your love.

4 Call us to witness your kingdom, give us the presence of Christ;  
may your holy light keep us shining bright,  
ever shine with the presence of Christ. *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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## *Dismissal*

*P* You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.  
Go in peace. Share the good news.

*All* Thanks be to God.

Readings for next Sunday,  
**May 30**  
The Holy Trinity

<b>First Reading:</b>	Isaiah 6:1-8
<b>Psalm:</b>	Psalm 29
<b>Second Reading:</b>	Romans 8:12-17
<b>Gospel:</b>	John 3:1-17

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