

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Called and Gathered

The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

May 23, 2021



AS WE GATHER

A familiar sight along highways and roadways in summer is the posting of work-zone signs as repairs are made to streets and bridges during the season of good weather. These signs bring a special level of care and concentration for drivers. For Christian people, the Church is the “work zone” of the Holy Spirit. In his hymn paraphrasing the Apostles’ Creed, Martin Luther writes of the Holy Spirit at work: “Who the Church, His own creation, Keeps in unity of spirit. Here forgiveness and salvation Daily come through Jesus’ merit” (*LSB* 954:3). As we are called and gathered, we are assured that we are in the most vital of work zones—the one to which we can give our greatest care and concentration. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit reaches to all who belong to Christ, granting a renewed and eternal life. In his Letter to Titus, Paul writes of the salvation of God our Savior and the renewal of the Holy Spirit that is for all God’s people. Assuring us that we are God’s children, the Spirit enables us to address God as our Father with all boldness and confidence—as Martin Luther affirms in his explanation of the Lord’s Prayer. When we are directed by the Spirit, our daily lives are ordered in such a way that we continually walk in a heavenly direction. The Spirit shapes our lives of prayer and of worship, interceding for us—and with us—as we worship in spirit and truth.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

TODAY IS PENTECOST SUNDAY - *the third great festival of the church. We are vested in red to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to encourage and enlighten the lives of Christ’s people, the church. It’s a celebration! Happy Birthday, Church!*

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

Come, Holy Spirit of God, Fall fresh on us, and all of your people. Blow opens the waters of this congregation. Lead us forward this day. Spirit of God, without Your presence our worship is in vain. May each one of us feel You near, May we be uplifted, May our worship be true Jesus, pioneer and perfectas of our faith. Plant us on your holy ground, O God of the burning bush, such that we cannot help but take off our shoes. We have come to worship you, in Jesus' name. May we go from this place with Your presence in our hearts. Amen.

WELCOME:

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE: WELCOME TO BETHEL! We extend a warm welcome in Jesus' name to all worshipping with us today on this Pentecostal Sunday as we celebrate the Birthday of the Church. We gather in the Spirit's arms to be nurtured as we worship. The Spirit is here to strengthen us bringing courage, bringing conviction. The Spirit is here to move us, making us sing and praise. May we feel the Spirit as we gather. May we be fed by her fiery strength. May we be emboldened by her powerful wind. And may our worship fill us with the Spirit as we go back out into our daily lives. May God bless our worship!

**SELECTION
INVOCATION**

Minister Terry Dale

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:3, 5b; 66:4*

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful,

People: and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Alleluia.

Pastor: Send out Your light and Your truth; let them lead me;

People: let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling!

Pastor: Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him,

People: my salvation and my God.

Pastor: All the earth worships You and sings praises to You;
People: they sing praises to Your name.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 38:18, 22; 140:6; 145:8*

Pastor: With confidence I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

People: for the LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Pastor: I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.

People: Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Pastor: I say to the LORD, You are my God;

People: give ear to the voice of my pleas for mercy, O LORD!

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open and all desires are 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, Your Son, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: In repentance, let us now confess our sins unto our gracious God.

People: Almighty God, merciful Father, we acknowledge our sinful nature and repent of our sins in thought and in word and in deed. For the sake of Jesus, our Lord, grant us Your divine absolution so that, as Your redeemed people, we be fit places for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and serve You in time and for eternity. Have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to life everlasting.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of

the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit. To them that believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “ There Is A Sweet Sweet Spirit In This Place” TFBF 102 St. 1

There's a sweet, sweet, spirit In this place and I know that it's the spirit of The Lord. There are sweet expressions on each face and I know that it's the Spirit of The Lord.

Refrain

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love; And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; Without out a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Holy Spirit, You call people to faith and faithfulness and gather them in the Church. Breathe Your life into us that we may ever rejoice in the power of Your presence among us and share Your outpoured blessings as You direct us from generation to generation. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Father, ever one God, world without end.

People: **Amen.**

✂ WORD ✂

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 37:1–14* (The prophet Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SELECTION

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SECOND READING *Acts 2:1–21* (The Holy Spirit comes on the Day of Pentecost.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Acts 2:17b; Romans 10:10*

People: I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. With the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15* (Jesus promises to send the Spirit.)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapters fifteen and sixteen.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SELECTION**Minister Terry Dale****SERMON****SELECTION****Minister Terry Dale****(We Bring Our Tithes & Offering To The Lord)****APOSTLE CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Grant Your blessing, O Lord, on the Church here and in all places, that You will confirm it in the Gospel, inspire it with unity and concord, and extend and prosper it throughout the world. Grant that the Holy Spirit continually call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify the Church and keep it in the one true faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Confident of Your care, we pray for our families, those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship, and for all who are part of the household of faith. Also we pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized, those who are grieving, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill and shut-in, and all those in need, [*especially . . .*]. Grant that the Holy Spirit move us to be those who live out our Gospel calling in deeds of love. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Bless, we pray You, the nations of the world that there be times of peace and security. Remember in Your grace our schools, hospitals, homes for the aged, and all charitable institutions. Bless those who minister to human need, whether of body, mind, or spirit, and grant them wisdom, strength, and love for You and those in their care. Let Your blessing rest upon the seedtime and harvest, commerce and industry, leisure and the arts, and culture of our people. Take under Your special protection those whose toil is difficult or dangerous and be with all who contribute to the well-being of our society. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Merciful God, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those no longer with us on earth who now share in Your eternal presence. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to walk Your servant way throughout our lives until that day when we share in the marriage supper of the Lamb and in Your glorious presence in heaven.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The blessing of almighty God—the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and be with you all.

People: Amen.

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

