

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

May 23, 2021

Pentecost: The Power of God's Word and Spirit

AS WE GATHER

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 +

OPENING HYMN: [O Holy Spirit, Enter In](#)

INVOCATION

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.

INTROIT *Psalm 104:24, 27–28, 30; antiphon: Liturgical Text*

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

and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

These all look to you,

to give them their food in due season.

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

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

When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,

and you renew the face of the ground.

**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.**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 37:1–14*

(The prophet Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones)

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come

from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 139:1–12; antiphon v. 17*

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

**²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.**

⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

**⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.**

⁷Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

**⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!**

⁹If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

**¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.**

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"

**¹²even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.**

¹³For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

**¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.**

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

**¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there were none of them.**

SECOND READING Acts 2:1–21

(The Holy Spirit comes on the Day of Pentecost.)

¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to

my words. ¹⁵For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷“And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;

¹⁸even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

²⁰the sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,

before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

²¹And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Lector: 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.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus said:] “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. . . .

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do

not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹²"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: [*Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord*](#)

SERMON

NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

Pastor: ... Lord, in Your mercy:

People: hear our prayer.

At conclusion:

Pastor: ... one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.**

CLOSING PRAYER

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.**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: [*Holy Spirit, Light Divine*](#)

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