

The Festival of Pentecost

May 24, 2026



*In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit
on all people.*

Fifty days after the Passover, God's Old Testament people celebrated Pentecost (Greek for "fiftieth"). The festival marked the Israelites' grain harvest and commemorated the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai.

Once he had ascended to take up rule over all things, Christ made Pentecost the birthday of his New Testament Church. By pouring out his Holy Spirit, he empowered her to gather the harvest of souls the Son had died to win.

Hymn #585

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

Please stand for the last verse.



1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, God and Lord! May all your grac - es
2 Come, ho - ly Light, guide di - vine, and cause the Word of



be out-poured on each be - liev - er's mind and heart;
life to shine. Teach us to know our God a - right



your fer - vent love to them im - part. Lord, by the bright-ness
and call him Fa - ther with de - light. From ev - 'ry er - ror



of your light you gath - er and in faith u - nite
keep us free; let none but Christ our mas - ter be



your Church from ev - 'ry land and tongue: this to your
that we in liv - ing faith a - bide, in him, our



praise, O Lord our God, be sung. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Lord, with all our might con - fide. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 15th cent.; (st. 2): Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Tune: Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein, Erfurt, 1524

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In the name of the Father and ✚ of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Dialogue for Pentecost

The Holy Spirit did not suddenly appear fifty days after Jesus' ascension. The following Pentecost dialogue illustrates the Spirit's integral role in God's plan of salvation from the beginning, a plan that continues to unfold as we gather around and share the good news of Jesus, empowered by the Spirit within us today.

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

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

Psalms 139:7-8

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.

Psalms 38:1

Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are in agony.

Turn, O Lord, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.

Psalms 6:2,4

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

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

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!

3 Come, ho - ly Fire, com - fort true, grant us the will your
work to do and in your ser - vice to a - bid;
let tri - als turn us not a - side. Lord, by your pow'r pre -
pare each heart, and to our weak - ness strength im - part
that brave - ly here we may con - tend, through life and
death to you, our Lord, as - cend. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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.

Please be seated

First Reading

Acts 2:1–21

God poured out his Spirit onto his Old Testament prophets so they could reveal his will. On Pentecost, Jesus poured his Spirit onto the Church so they could proclaim his gospel to the world.

¹When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹²Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

¹³Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

“Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵These people are not drunk, as you

suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

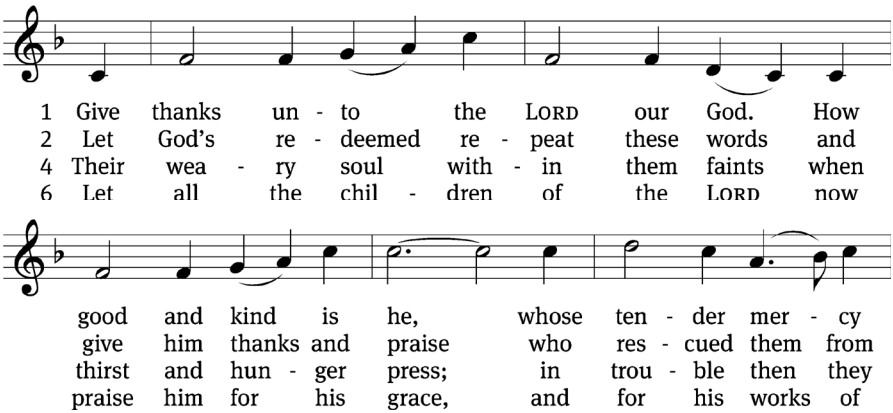
- ¹⁷“In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
¹⁹I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
²¹And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

The Word of the Lord.

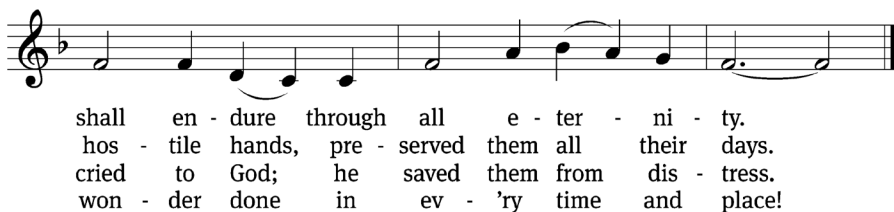
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107C

Give Thanks Unto the Lord Our God



1 Give thanks un - to the LORD our God. How
2 Let God's re - deemed re - peat these words and
4 Their wea - ry soul with - in them faints when
6 Let all the chil - dren of the LORD now
good and kind is he, whose ten - der mer - cy
give him thanks and praise who res - cued them from
thirst and hun - ger press; in trou - ble then they
praise him for his grace, and for his works of



Text: Scottish Psalter, 1929, alt.
Tune: American

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:3–11

When God pours out his Spirit, it is not only for the benefit of the individual believer. God gives his Spirit to us so that we might be of benefit to the entire Church.

³Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Antiphon for Pentecost

Refrain



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

Refrain

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Gospel

John 7:37–39

Jesus promised that those who were spiritually thirsty would be filled with living water. Jesus kept this promise when he poured out his Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

³⁷On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” ³⁹By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn #592

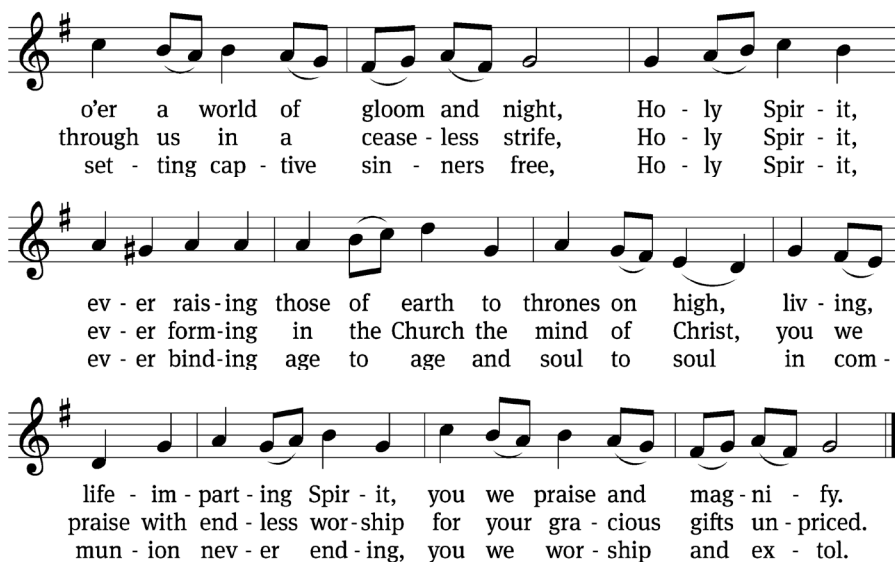
Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling



2 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er liv - ing as the Church's
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er work - ing through the Church's



ver - y life, Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing
min - is - try, teach - ing, strength - 'ning, and ab - solv - ing,



o'er a world of gloom and night, Ho - ly Spir - it,
 through us in a cease - less strife, Ho - ly Spir - it,
 set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free, Ho - ly Spir - it,

ev - er rais - ing those of earth to thrones on high, liv - ing,
 ev - er form - ing in the Church the mind of Christ, you we
 ev - er bind - ing age to age and soul to soul in com -

life - im - part - ing Spir - it, you we praise and mag - ni - fy.
 praise with end - less wor - ship for your gra - cious gifts un - priced.
 mun - ion nev - er end - ing, you we wor - ship and ex - tol.

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874–1939, alt.
 Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse . . . Contradanseu, Amsterdam, c. 1710

Sermon

John 7:37–39

After the sermon, please stand for the confession of faith and prayer.

Prayer of the Church

This responsive prayer for Pentecost is built around Luther's explanation of the Third Article — the words by which we teach our children what the Holy Spirit does in us.

This is the true Christian faith:

**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.**

Praise to you, Holy Spirit! We worship you as the 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 and as you enlightened and equipped the disciples 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.

Holy Spirit, 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 that Jesus taught. Give us strength to endure with patience whatever afflictions God 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. *[special petitions may be included]*. 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.

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.

Offering

Offerings may also be given online at easytithe.com/livinghope or mailed to Living Hope at 3903 Old Hundred Rd S, Midlothian, VA 23112.

Offerings are one way that our members support our gospel ministry. Visitors should feel no obligation to contribute.

While the offering is being collected, we also bring the musical gifts of the congregation to the beauty and glory of God's name.

Rita McDonald and Kathryn Haddon *All is Well (CW802)*

Offering Prayer

Holy Spirit, our Comforter, guard and keep us by your saving Word so that we remain in our faith of the truth in Christ. Fill us with your power that we are uplifted in doing good works to the glory of God the Father. Move us to be active in spreading the good news of Jesus to people everywhere so that you may work saving faith in their hearts also.

Amen.

Hymn #595

Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, may we rip - en
 2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing gifts the Giv - er
 3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
 4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, may we grow till



and in - crease, fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
 loves to bless; here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
 and our goal, teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
 har - vests cease; till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



rich in love and joy and peace.
 pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
 good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
 heav - en's love and joy and peace.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932

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Please stand

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, by our baptisms into the death and resurrection of Jesus, you have redeemed us from spiritual blindness, coldness, and all dead works. By the gift of your Spirit, raise us up in the daily grace of our baptisms so that we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, through Christ our Savior, who makes all things new.

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 give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn #571

O God, O Lord, of Heav'n and Earth



1 O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth, your liv - ing
3 You came in - to our hall of death, O Christ, to
4 O Spir - it, who did once re - store the church that



fin - ger nev - er wrote that life should be an aim - less
breathe our poi - soned air, to drink for us the deep de -
it might yet re - call the one who brings good news to



mote, a death - ward drift from fu - tile birth.
spair that stran - gled our re - luc - tant breath.
all: breathe on your clo - ven church once more



Your Word meant life tri - um - phant hurled in splen - dor
How beau - ti - ful the feet that trod the road to
that in these gray and lat - ter days there may be



through your bro - ken world; ere light a - woke and life be -
bring good news from God! How beau - ti - ful the feet that
those whose life is praise, each life a high dox - ol - o -



gan, you made for us a ho - ly plan.
bring good ti - dings of our sav - ing King!
gy un - to the ho - ly Trin - i - ty.

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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CW571 O God, O Lord, of Heav'n and Earth

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976, alt.

Tune: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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Serving in worship today & next Sunday

Musicians

Morris Hayes
Alex Rathje

Ushers

Jon Krueger & Rob Neeley
Howard Lewis & Wyatt Saur

Acolyte

Tishann Charles
Cora Lacey

Church Cleaning

Harrison
still needed

After-worship Snacks

Harrison
Confirmation reception

Livestream

Saur
Seifert

Offering Caretakers

Donna Bosma & Morris Hayes
Beverley Henley & Barbara Byrd

Mowing

Pastor Seifert & Dave MacDonald
Brian Lacey & Alex Rathje

Assisted-living Leader

Livestreamed
Phil Nawrocki

Please join us for refreshments after the service. We would love to get to know you better!

To our guests: Thank you for worshiping with us! We would appreciate the opportunity to connect with you. Please share your contact information with us by scanning the code with your phone or speaking with an usher in the back.



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Midlothian, Virginia
LivingHopeWELS.com

God has given us new birth into a *Living Hope*.
- 1 Peter 1:3

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