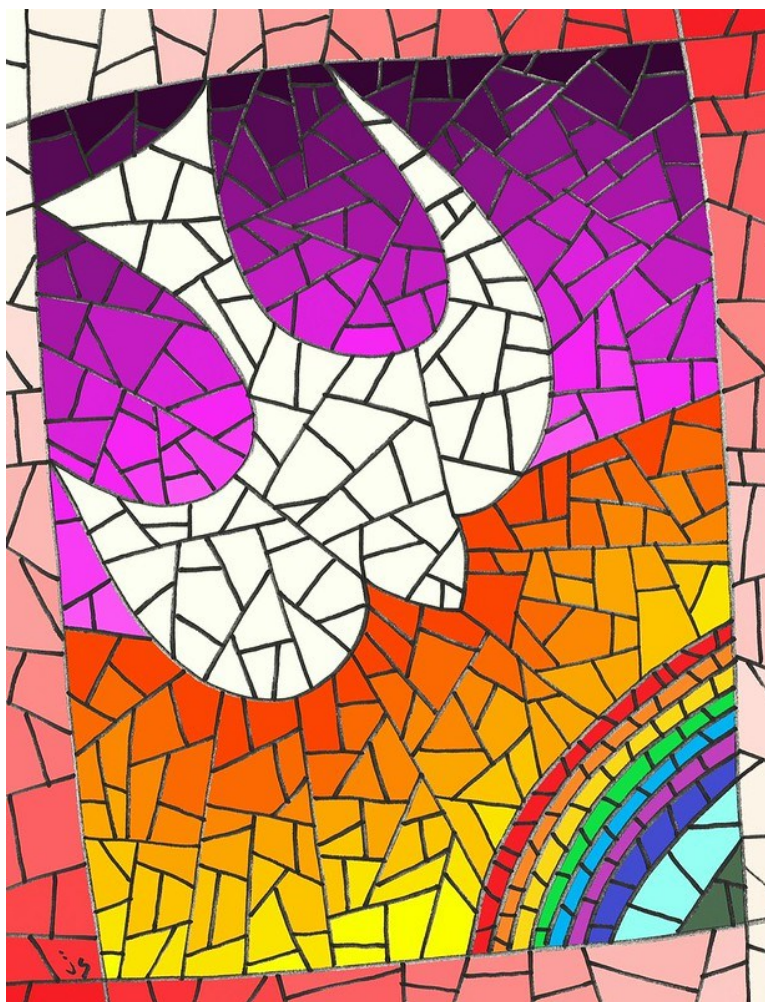




**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385
(219) 462-6660 • clcvalpo.org



**Day of Pentecost
May 24, 2026**

We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure* of faith, grace, and love.

* *The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

ABOUT WORSHIP

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

RESTROOMS

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Fantasia on 'Come Holy Ghost, God & Lord'

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.



***Prayer requests** can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*

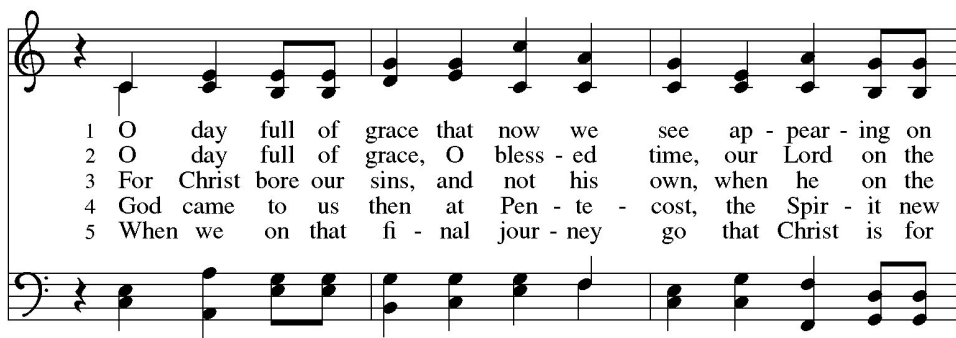
GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.



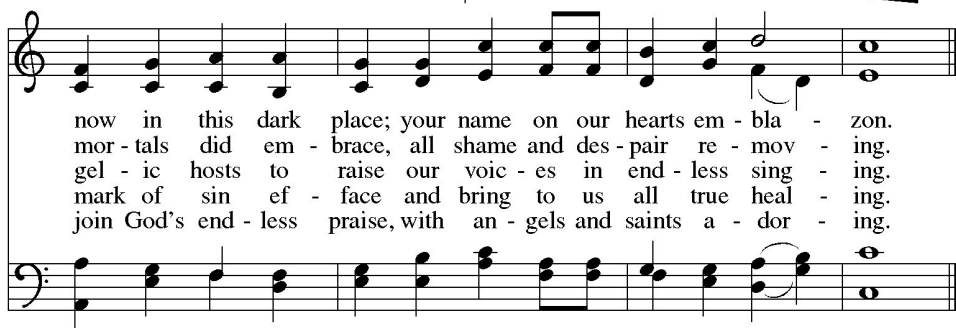
1 O day full of grace that now we see ap - pear - ing on
 2 O day full of grace, O bless - ed time, our Lord on the
 3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own, when he on the
 4 God came to us then at Pen - te - cost, the Spir - it new
 5 When we on that fi - nal jour - ney go that Christ is for



earth's ho - ri - zon, bring light from our God that we may
 earth ar - riv - ing; then came to the world that light sub -
 cross was hang - ing; and then he a - rose and moved the
 life re - veal - ing, that we might no more in death be
 us pre - par - ing, we'll gath - er in song, our hearts a -



be a - bun - dant in joy this sea - son. God, shine for us
 lime, great joy for us all re - triev - ing; for Je - sus all
 stone, that we, un - to him be - long - ing, might join with an -
 lost, its pow'r o - ver us dis - pel - ling. This flame will the
 glow, all joy of the heav - ens shar - ing, and there we will



now in this dark place; your name on our hearts em - bla - zon.
 mor - tals did em - brace, all shame and des - pair re - mov - ing.
 gel - ic hosts to raise our voic - es in end - less sing - ing.
 mark of sin ef - face and bring to us all true heal - ing.
 join God's end - less praise, with an - gels and saints a - dor - ing.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A silence is kept before the prayer.

Unlocked Spirit,
you are the breath of peace;
no doors keep you out:
invade our warring confusion,
disarm our defenses
and shape us to live
as a people of forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ, the word of reconciliation.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGERS

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are invited for a time together.

READING: Numbers 11:24-30

The Spirit comes upon the elders of Israel

²⁴ Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD, and he gathered seventy of the elders of the people and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders, and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

²⁶ Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷ And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸ And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" ²⁹ But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!" ³⁰ And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

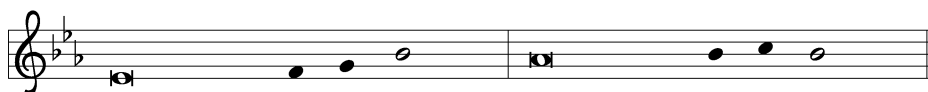
PSALM 104:24-34, 35b

The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.

Refrain



Psalm Tone



²⁴ How manifold are your | works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full | of your creatures.

²⁵ **Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too man- | y to number,
living things both | small and great.**

²⁶ There go the ships | to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the | sport of it.

²⁷ **All of them | look to you
to give them their food | in due season. R**

²⁸ You give it to them; they | gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled | with good things.

²⁹ **When you hide your face, | they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return | to their dust.**

³⁰ You send forth your Spirit, and they | are created;
and so you renew the face | of the earth.

³¹ **May the glory of the LORD en- | dure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in | all your works. R**

³² You look at the earth | and it trembles;
you touch the mountains | and they smoke.

³³ **I will sing to the LORD as long | as I live;
I will praise my God while I | have my being.**

³⁴ May these words of | mine please God.

I will rejoice | in the LORD.

^{35b} **Bless the LORD, | O my soul.**

Hal- | lelujah! R

READING: Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ² 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. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ '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.

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

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

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' ”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-23

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you O Lord.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #804

Come Down, O Love Divine

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine
2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn
3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,
4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—
shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,
no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.
where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

PRAYERS

Our prayers draw on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the Church's calendar of Commemorations—further information is found each week at the end of the bulletin.

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

O God, you send the Holy Spirit to gather your church into one. Inspire all ministers of the gospel to speak prophetic and hope-filled words to all whom they encounter. Bless the work of interreligious dialogue. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You send the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. Protect all living things, bring forth clean water and abundant food, and grant us wonder as we contemplate all you have made. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You send the Holy Spirit to break down the barriers of communication among nations. Bestow peace in war-torn areas, guide all in government and society to work for justice, and guard those serving in the armed forces, especially this weekend as we remember those who died in service to their country. We pray also for the people and churches of the Indian Ocean Islands. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You send the Holy Spirit to accompany those who feel abandoned. Provide food for those who hunger and drink for those who thirst, soothe those who are anxious or bereaved, comfort those who are sick or suffering, and answer all who call upon your name. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You send the Holy Spirit through the gift of baptism. Bless both those preparing for or affirming their baptism. May they be encouraged by this community of faith as they live out their baptismal promises. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You send the Holy Spirit to console us in our grief. We give you thanks for our ancestors in the faith: scientists Nicolaus Copernicus and Leonard Euler, theologian John Calvin, and hymnwriter Jiri Tranovský, whose witness to your mighty works continues to inspire our lives. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We invite those worshiping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the offerings of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with **Reconciling in Christ** www.reconcilingworks.org/ric and **LGBTQ Outreach of Porter County** www.lgbtqofpc.org*

If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code or browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind* Jennings

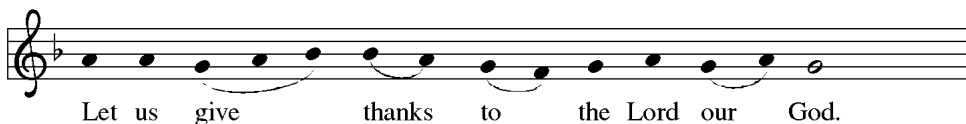
God of tempest, God of whirlwind, as on Pentecost descend! Drive us out from sheltered comfort; past these walls your people stand! Sweep us into costly service, there to bear with Christ the cross! God of blazing, God of burning, all that blocks your purpose, purge! Through your church, Christ's living body, let your flaming spirit surge! Where deceit conceals injustice, kindle up to speak your truth! God of earthquake, God of thunder, shake us loose from lethargy! Break the chains of sin asunder, for earth's healing set us free! Crumble walls that divide us; make us one in Christ our Lord! God of passion, God unsleeping, stir in us love's restlessness! Where the people cry in anguish, may we share your heart's distress. Rouse us from content with evil; claim us for your holy work!

OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

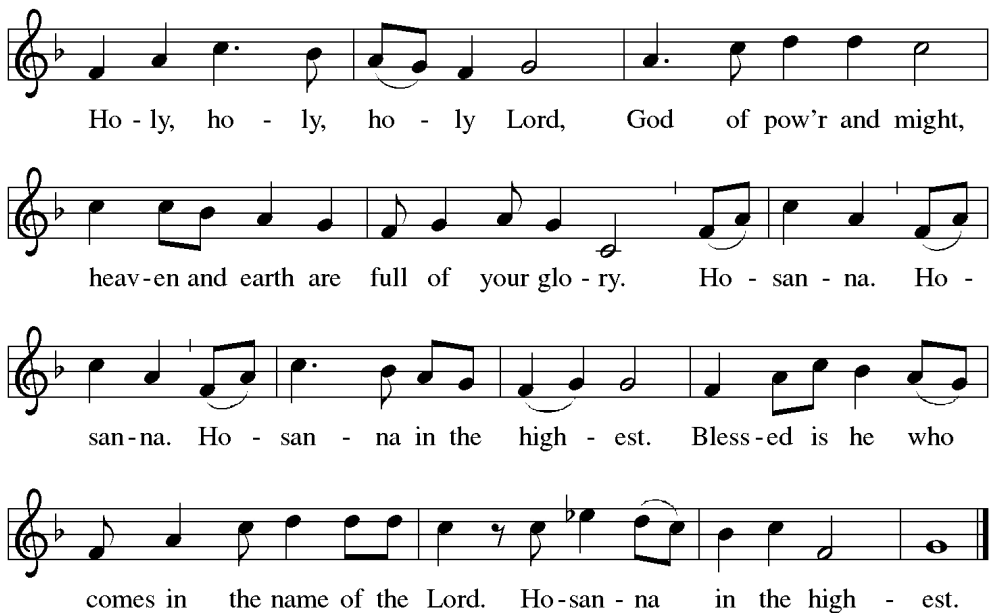
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The pastor begins the prayer and all join in singing:

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life.

Receive the risen Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION

*The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

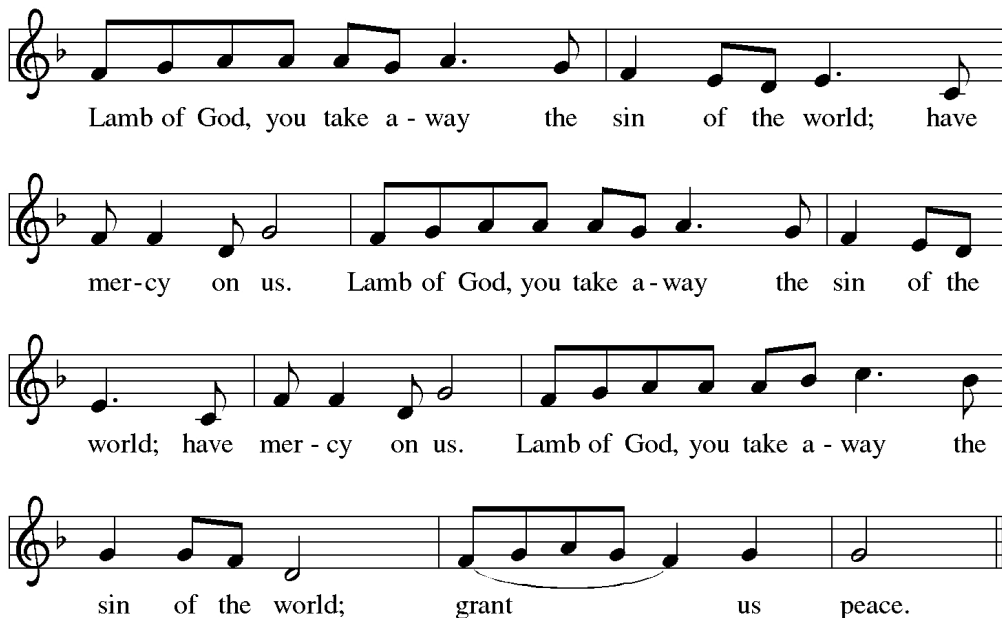
Amen (*receive the bread*)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen (*receive the cup*)

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored and GRAPE JUICE is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. USED GLASSES are placed in the basket located near the ramp. GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE, please indicate to the server that you require this.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW #396

Spirit of Gentleness



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

ELW # 398 *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*

1 Ho - ly Spir - it, truth di - vine, dawn up - on this soul of mine;
2 Ho - ly Spir - it, love di - vine, glow with - in this heart of mine;
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, for - ti - fy this will of mine;
4 Ho - ly Spir - it, peace di - vine, still this rest - less heart of mine;
5 Ho - ly Spir - it, right di - vine, king with - in my con - science reign;

The first system of music consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a bass clef staff. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are numbered 1 through 5, corresponding to the five lines of the melody.

breath of God and in - ward light, wake my spir - it, clear my sight.
kin - dle ev - 'ry high de - sire; purge me with your ho - ly fire.
by your will I strong - ly live, brave - ly bear, and no - bly strive.
speak to calm this toss - ing sea, stayed in your tran - quil - i - ty.
be my guide, and I shall be firm - ly bound, for - ev - er free.

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It features the same treble and bass clef staves with a key signature of two sharps. The lyrics are written in five lines, corresponding to the musical phrases.

O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, root of life, cre -
 2 E - ter - nal vig - or, Sav - ing One, you
 3 O ho - ly Wis - dom, soar - ing pow'r, en -

a - tor, cleans - er of all things: a - noint our wounds, a -
 free us by your liv - ing Word, be - com - ing flesh to
 com - pass us with wings un - furled, and car - ry us, en -

wak - en us with lus - trous move - ment of your wings.
 wear our pain, and all cre - a - tion is re - stored.
 cir - cling all a - bove, be - low, and through the world.

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

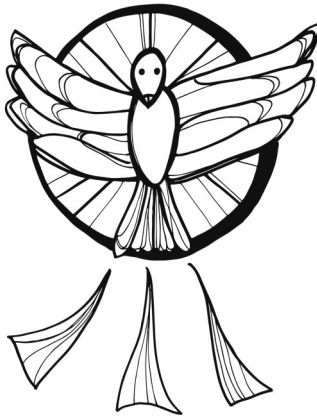
Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS

The assembly is seated as brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.





1 O Spir - it all-em-brac-ing and coun-sel - or all - wise,
 2 O Beau - ty ev - er blaz-ing in flow - er, field, and face,
 3 Come, pas - sion's pow - er ho - ly, your in - sight here im - part,



un - bound - ed splen-dor grac-ing a shore-less sea of skies:
 you show your-self a - maz-ing in un - ex - pect - ed place.
 and give your ser - vants low - ly an un - der-stand-ing heart



un - fail - ing is your trea-sure, un - fad - ing your re - ward;
 We see you and re - mem - ber what once our dreams had been;
 to know your care more clear - ly when faith and love are tried,



sur - pass - ing world - ly plea-sure, the rich-es you af - ford.
 you fan the glow-ing em - ber and kin-dle hope with - in.
 to seek you more sin - cere - ly when false i - deals have died:



Come, stream of end-less flow - ing, and res - cue us from death;
 Come, fire of glo - ry gra - cious, bless all who trust in you;
 for vi - sion we im - plore you, for wis-dom's pure de - light;



come, wind of spring-time blow - ing, and warm us by your breath.
 un - dy - ing flame te - na - cious, burn in your church a - new.
 in prayer we come be - fore you to wait up - on your light.

Children join the pastors to send us in mission.

DISMISSAL

Children: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

CHORAL BENEDICTION:

The Lord Bless You & Keep You

Lutkin

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you; and give you peace, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Finale Jubilante

Willan

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Indian Ocean Islands: Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles.**

We are thankful for:

- the spectacular scenery, exotic plants, rare animals and abundant sea life that flourish in the region
- how people who are ethnically and religiously diverse have long lived together
- the economic developments that have lifted some out of poverty
- the vital evangelism, social and public witness of churches, and how the churches relate to people of other faiths.

We pray for:

- the fragile environment and the unique plants, animals and lands, that they will be protected, especially as the sea rises
- tourism and other economic developments, that they will not threaten, but enhance life for all the people in these countries
- churches, that they will grow through evangelistic efforts and in their work with those of other faiths
- Christians to be bolder in their public witness for justice and reconciliation, especially in times of political turmoil.

Worship Leaders

9:30 a.m.

Acolyte

Lector

Kathy Sutherland

Prayer Assistant

Linda Mapes

Communion Assistants

Bob Luckett
Betty Luckett
Sara Long

Ushers

Kathy Sutherland
Braden Longacre

Sound/Light

Video/Livestream

Pastors

Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr
Rev. Erica Gibson-Even

Director of Music Ministries

Brian Bartusch

Worship Participants

Luke Venstrom, cantor
Sanctuary Choir

Communion Baker

Marilyn McGawn

Deep Breath

In the world of the Bible, the word *breath* is synonymous with “life.” Breath is necessary for a creature to be considered alive; where there isn’t breath, there isn’t life. Breath from God animates—brings to life—the creature formed from dust, the first human. When Jesus dies on the cross, three of the four gospels describe the moment using the phrase “breathed his last.”

In today’s gospel reading, Jesus appears to the disciples after the resurrection and offers his body to them for inspection. His scarred hands and side reveal that he is, in fact, Jesus, who was crucified. He is not an impostor. The disciples rejoice at the recognition. Next, Jesus breathes on them, a clear physical and symbolic assurance that he is not just a body but a *living* body. The breath that was once spent and gone has returned. He is not reanimated; he is *resurrected*. He has life in him again!

When Jesus breathes on his disciples, he also invites them to receive the Holy Spirit. This moment is extraordinary. Jesus animates the disciples in the same way God animated Adam: by bestowing divine breath, which brings not only physical life but spiritual life as well. Moreover, Jesus reveals that the Holy Spirit he promised to the disciples is, in fact, his own animating Spirit.

The earth-shaking wind of the Spirit at Pentecost is also an intimate breath of life. Through this divine exhale, there is the gift of life—body *and* spirit—and the enduring promise of resurrection.

Spend a few moments today doing some deep breathing as you give thanks for God’s gift of breath and for the Holy Spirit.

COMMEMORATIONS

Week of May 24, 2026

May 24 ~ Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists

These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God’s universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.

May 27 ~ John Calvin, renewer of the church, died 1564

Gifted both as a systematic theologian and as an interpreter of scriptures, Calvin embraced the Reformation, and as a preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, brought a theocratic government to it. He is regarded as the father of the Reformed churches.

May 29 ~ Jiri Tranovský, hymnwriter, died 1637

Tranovský is considered to be the father of Slovak hymnody as well as an important reformer of the Slavic church. He translated the Augsburg Confession (the basis of Lutheran teachings) and published a collection of Slovak hymns.

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