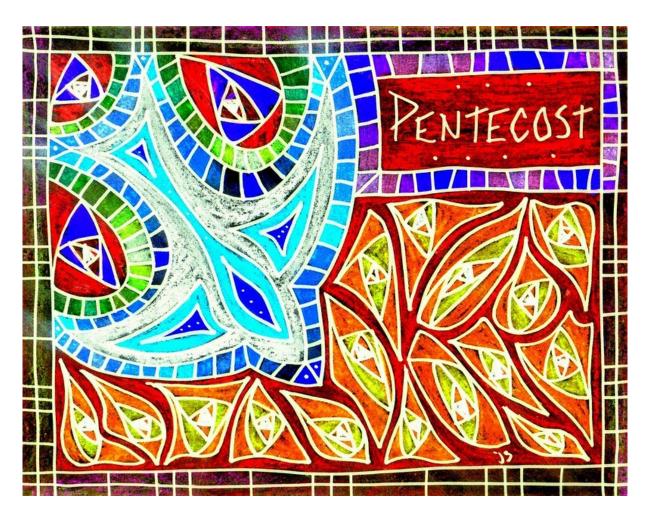


2610 Campbell Street • Valparaiso, Indiana 46385 • (219) 462-6660 clcvalpo.org • office@clcvalpo.org



YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

At Christ Lutheran people of all backgrounds and experiences gather to worship because we all share a common 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. If you have a prayer request, the yellow cards in the seatback holders have a place for them; 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.

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. The **Common Cup** is available for anyone who wishes. **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. Also, if you unable to come up to the altar, let the usher know so that pastor can bring communion to you.

COVID Procedure Update

Masks are encouraged but optional during worship. Naturally if you prefer to stay masked throughout the service, you are of course welcome to do so. Masks are not required for singing but suggested.

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 <u>filling out a Connection Card online</u> (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 (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).

GATHERING HYMN ELW #627

O Day Full of Grace



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief 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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR DAWSON EDWARD FERRY (10:30 a.m.)

The assembly is seated. Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidate:

We present Dawson Edward for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parents:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Dawson baptized into Christ?

We do.

The presiding minister continues:

As you bring Dawson to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people,

bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures,

and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Dawson grow in the Christian faith and life? **We do.**

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to continue to accompany Dawson in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

We do.

The assembly stands.

People of God, will you promise to support Dawson and pray for him in his new life in Christ? Will you grow with him, learn with him, serve with him, and together give praise to God?

We will.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father? I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

The assembly is seated. The presiding minister baptizes the candidate. Dawson Edward, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

^{*}Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain Dawson with the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,

the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. Dawson Edward, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized. Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song. When children read, they may read a version that is appropriate to their reading level and voice, which may vary from the printed texts.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are invited forward for a time together.

ANTHEM (10:30 am): I Will Sing With the Spirit Rutter

I will sing with the Spirit, Alleluia. And I will sing with the understanding also. Alleluia.

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.

When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

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

¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, 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. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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



How manifold are your | works, O LORD!

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

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

²⁶There go the ships to and fro,

and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

²⁷All of them | look to you

to give them their food in due season. R

²⁸You give it to them; they | gather it;

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

²⁹When you hide your face, they are terrified;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;

and so you renew the face of the earth.

31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

O LORD, rejoice in all your works. R

³²You look at the earth | and it trembles;

you touch the mountains | and they smoke.

³³I will sing to the LORD as long | as I live;

I will praise my God while I have my being.

³⁴May these words of mine please God.

I will rejoice in the LORD.

35bBless the LORD, O my soul.

Hal- lelujah! R

READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good

^{3b}No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

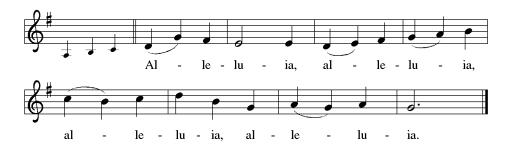
¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.



HOLY 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.

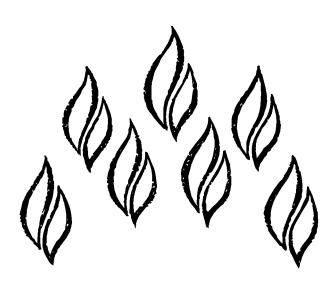
The Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If 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 #401 Gracious Spirit, Head Our Pleading

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



- 4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment, nor rootless liberty; turn disquiet to contentment, doubt into certainty.
- 5 Keep us fervent in our witness, unswayed by earth's allure. Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure.

APOSTLES' CREED (8:00 a.m. only)

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

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Passionate God, you sent your Spirit through the gifts of fire, wind, and word. As you equipped the disciples for their work, equip us to bring the good news to all those who long for you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restoring God, wind and flame bring life and destruction throughout the world. We pray for those who work with wind energy, for migratory birds, for protection for lands facing destructive fire, for forestry managers and firefighters. Renew the face of the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ever-present God, your spirit embraces all. Send your spirit of understanding to immigrants, refugees, and any experiencing language barriers. Bless the work of translators, ESL teachers, ambassadors, and international peace organizations. Safely guide those fleeing war and danger. In Angola and Mozambique, be a source of healing, strength, and restoration. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

^{*}Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

Merciful God, you anoint us with your spirit. Bless nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for all who seek your comfort. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Generous God, you impart a variety of gifts. Set aflame the desire to learn from one another, especially those who differ from us. Make your presence known through missionaries, peace workers, and through the outreach ministries of our synod and community, especially the Mara Evangelical Church in Indianapolis, So Much More food truck ministry in Fort Wayne, and Christ Lutheran Chapel in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Life-giving God, we give thanks for those who have died to new life in you, especially Jiri Tranovský, Justin, John, and the Martyrs of Uganda. As we observe Memorial Day, we remember those who died in military service. Comfort all who mourn, and usher in a world where war is no more. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

The assembly is seated. This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with Summer 2023 Mission

Trip to Costa Rica.

If you wish to give electronically, browse to our secure on-line portal at <u>clcvalpo.org/give</u> or use <u>our CLC app</u> (download at clcvalpo.org/app).

I will sing with the Spirit. Alleluia. And I will with the understanding also, Alleluia.

OFFERTORY (10:30 a.m.)

With High Delight Let Us Unite

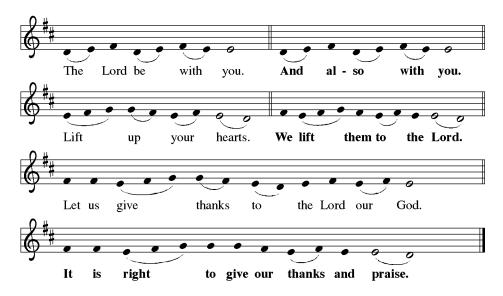
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OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward. Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.")

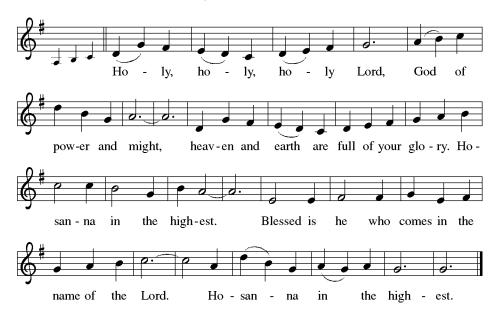


TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

The assembly is seated.

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.

The pastor invites those worshipping via livestream to commune:

The body of Christ, given for you.

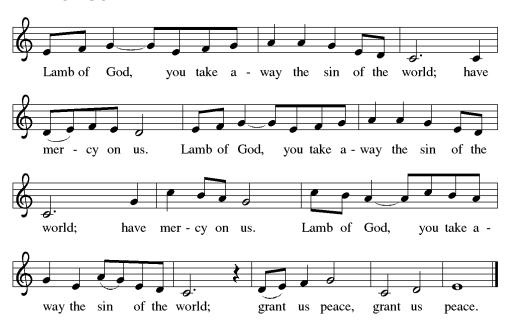
Amen (receive the bread)

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. The Common Cup is available for anyone who wishes. 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. Also, if you unable to come up to the altar, let the usher know so that pastor can bring communion to you.

LAMB OF GOD





COMMUNION HYMNS ACS #967

This is Christ's Body (sung 4x)

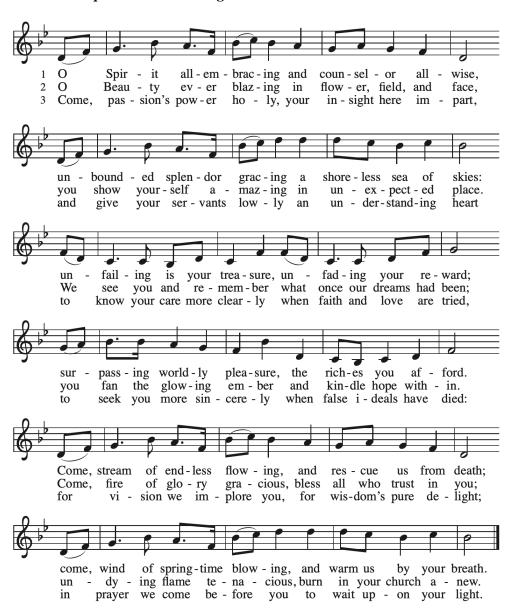


Text: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960

Music: BROKEN AND BLESSED, Anne Krentz Organ

Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

ACS #944 O Spirit All-Embracing



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

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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

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

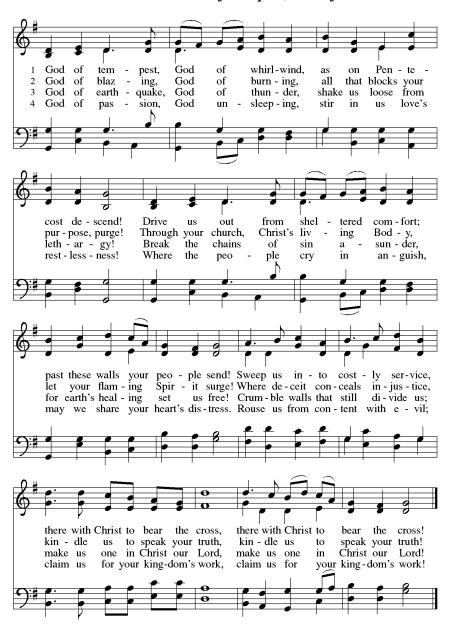
INVITATIONS

Brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

BLESSING

The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW #400 God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

setting by Manz

As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.



Worship Leaders

8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Acolyte Joanie Furuness Noah De Jesus

Lector Sue McPherson Phil McGuire

Prayer Assistant Kathy Sutherland Cindy McGuire

Communion Assistants Barbara Clements Amy Knauff

Andrew Teeple

Ushers Tim Sutherland Bill Iltzsche

Ramona Krueger

Sound/Light Lance Nolting Jeff Peiffer

Video/Livestream — Tony Reinhold

Pastors Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr.

Rev. Erica Gibson-Even

Director of Music Ministries Brian Bartusch

Worship Participants Kathy Stefans, cantor

Sanctuary Choir

Communion Baker Linda Mapes

May Altar Gifts

Holy Communion Sara & Jeremy Long ~ In celebration of our Moms

JoAnn Murfey ~ In Memory of Lori Cross

Altar Candles Ellen Swayne ~ In memory of Gladys Swayne

Eternal Lamp Candles Aria McIntire ~ In Honor of Mr. Bartusch for his music

and for his patience with the Treble Makers

COMMEMORATIONS Week of May 28, 2023

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.

May 31

Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

This festival marks the occasion when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant with John. Elizabeth pronounced Mary "blessed among women," and Mary responded with the song called the *Magnificat*.

June 1

Justin, martyr at Rome, died around 165

Born of pagan parents, Justin was influenced by an elderly Christian in Ephesus. He became a teacher of philosophy and the Christian faith. Jailed for practicing an unauthorized religion, he refused to renounce his faith and was beheaded.

June 3

John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, died 1963

When elected pope, the former Angelo Roncalli was expected to be a short-term caretaker. He showed great spirit, though, and convened the Second Vatican Council which helped bring great changes to Roman Catholic and other churches.

June 3

The Martyrs of Uganda, died 1886

On June 3, 1886, thirty-two young men were burned to death for refusing to renounce Christianity. The confident manner in which these Christians went to their deaths contributed to a much stronger Christian presence in Uganda.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of Angola and Mozambique.

We are thankful for:

- the rich natural resources in these countries, which God intends for the good of all
- the positive developments experienced since years of civil war
- village committees that seek to protect livelihoods and food security of the poor
- how the Lutheran World Federation and partners have pursued land rights in Mozambique.

We pray for:

- better sanitation, health services, and protection of the environment in these lands
- a healing of the lingering scars and memories from colonization and civil wars
- protection of the land rights of the people
- governments that are transparent and further the good of all the people, rather than being captive to foreign and business interests.

Stewardship Snippet

1 Corinthians 12:13 - For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Paul presents us with God's vision for the people of God. As God's church, how can we work toward one unified body, all people welcome and affirmed, with the Holy Spirit activating our faith and equipping us to be better stewards of all God's gifts?

Spirit of Unexpected Peace

Jesus, crucified and risen Lord of mercy, had a mission for his disciples: share the forgiveness they have received with all those longing to know God. He even had the promised gift of the Spirit to empower them. But first, he had to figure out how to get them out from behind locked doors. Jesus' disciples were afraid that what had happened to Jesus would also happen to them, so they locked themselves away and hid.

You could picture Jesus standing outside the door of their room, calling: *Come on out! It's okay! Don't worry! It's time to start sharing the good news!* And the disciples would just say: *No! We're too afraid to open the door!*

Instead of getting them out from behind their locked door, Jesus comes on in. Instead of yelling through the door to stop being such cowards, Jesus slips past their fear and their locked-up lives and brings them unexpected peace. His own Spirit of peace moves out of him as breath, as the wind of God that creates new things, and creates in them a new calming faith. Then the mission of mercy begins. This Spirit from Jesus is a pure gift that creates peace, and peace creates mission.

Fear often keeps us locked up, anxious, unable to live the life God has given us. Thankfully, Jesus knows the way past our locked doors and our fearful hiding. Instead of making us feel small for hiding when we are afraid, he breaks through whatever barriers we put up and gets right past our locked doors. Jesus' own Spirit comes to us through the word, through bread and wine, through silence, through the one next to us, slipping past whatever barriers we put up. The Spirit comes as a gift of peace—peace we can't create for ourselves, peace that is deeper than our own understanding of it, peace that creates new energy for mission.

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Portions from Prayers for an Inclusive Church by Steven Shakespeare.