

Faith ALIVE

May 28, 2023 + Pentecost

An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold**.

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

we GATHER

Prelude — “Wie Schön Leuchtet der Morgenstern” Setting by Johann Pachelbel

*Welcome & Words of Gathering

Today is the birthday of the Church! In our Gathering Hymn, we pray for the spirit to enter into our hearts to let her “work begin” in us. Notice the many names for God: “Mighty Rock”; “Source of Life”; Light Divine.” You are invited to pay attention to all the different names for God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer in today’s worship.

In a world dry and thirsty

Living Water flows;

In a world fainting and breathless

Divine Wind blows;

In a world cold and dark

Spirit’s Flame glows;

Spirit has always been here, and we open our awareness to perceive her and receive her.

Spirit is here! We give thanks and celebrate!

*Gathering Hymn — no. 786

“O Holy Spirit, Enter In”

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. **Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.**

Holy God, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both lands and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

***Canticle of Praise** — *page 140, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Three*

***Prayer of the Day**

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Ever-living God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

we LISTEN and RESPOND

Psalm 104:1-4, 10-15, 27-30

Bless the FOUNT OF LIFE, O my soul.

MOTHER OF ALL, my God, you are very great.

You do honor and majesty,

Wrapped in light as a garment,

you stretch out the heavens like a tent-curtain.

She who lays on the waters the beams of her upper chambers,

she who makes the clouds her chariot,

she is the one who rides on the wings of the wind.

**She is the one who makes the winds her celestial messengers,
fire and flame her ministers.**

She is the one who makes springs gush forth in the torrents;
they flow between the hills.

They give drink to every wild animal;

the wild donkeys slake their thirst.

By the torrents the birds of the heavens dwell;
among the branches they give voice.

**She is the one who waters the mountains from her high chambers;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.**

She is the one who makes grass to grow for the cattle,
and vegetation for human labor,
to bring forth food from the earth,

and wine to make the human heart rejoice,

with oil to make the face shine,

and bread to sustain the human heart.

all of these hope in you

to provide food in due season.

You give it to them, the glean it;

you open your hand; they are well satisfied.

This translation comes from A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church by Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney. Today, our scriptures use these translations, which use expansive names for God. How many different names do you count in our readings?

You hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you collect their breath, they die
and to their dust they return.
**You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.**

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans — Romans 8:14-27

Now as many as are led by the Spirit of God are daughters and sons of God. For you all did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall again into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption through which we cry, "Abba! Father!" It is that same Spirit who bears witness with our spirit that we are daughters and sons of God. And if daughters and sons, then heirs, heirs of God and heirs with Christ, if it is true that we suffer with Christ so that we may also be glorified with Christ.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the daughters and sons of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the daughters and sons of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as is necessary, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows that is the mindset of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation — from *ELW* Setting Three

"Alleluia"

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 Gospel of John, the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples were closed for fear of the Judeans, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you all." And having said this, Jesus showed them his hands and his side, and then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Messiah. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you all, just as the God of Peace has sent me, so I send you all." When Jesus had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit; if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Hymn — no. 944, from *All Creation Sings*

“O Spirit All-Embracing”

We reflect back to Easter Sunday when we sang this tune; we sing it today with fresh, Spirit-filled words of praise and wonder, one of many responses to receiving the Spirit. What is your response to receiving the Holy Spirit?



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.

*The Apostles' Creed

P: Let us confess our faith together:

**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 power of 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 of Intercession**

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

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, Gracious God. **We listen for your Spirit.**

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, Gracious God. **We listen for your Spirit.**

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. Hear us, Gracious God. **We listen for your Spirit.**

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, Gracious God. **We listen for your Spirit.**

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. Hear us, Gracious God. **We listen for your Spirit.**

Life-giving God, we give thanks for those who have died to new life in you. As our country observes 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, Gracious God. **We listen for your Spirit.**

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

The full text is found at hymn no. 399 and describes the Spirit as a "root of life," "cleanser of all things," and "soaring power." It is a prayer to the Spirit to "awaken us."

Offering

Music During Offering

"O Holy Spirit, Root of Life"

Setting by Emily Bruflat

***Offering Prayer**

A: 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 Savior. Amen.

we SHARE the meal

***Great Thanksgiving & Preface** — page 144, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Three

***"Holy, Holy, Holy"** — page 144, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Three

*Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Celebrating this meal in the joy of our risen Savior, we pray: **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 the Table

P: Friends, this is the joyful feast of unity.
Christ has gathered his people around the earth to commune at this table.
Across political lines and economic lines,
in places of powerfully protected affluence,
and among the poorest of the poor, we share a meal,
remembering and celebrating the One who proved shalom possible.
And so, come: you from the East and you from the West,
from the North and from the South.

Come. Come with your doubts, come with your hopes,
come with your inadequacies and with your strengths.
Come, for this is a table where all are invited and all are welcome.

*We will observe
continuous
communion this
morning as we
sing this more
introspective
Spirit song. We
pray for the Spirit
to guide us, to
"wean [our
hearts] from
earth" and to
focus our "holy
passion" on
loving and
serving Jesus.*

Distribution of Communion

"Lamb of God" — page 146, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Three

Hymn — no. 800

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"

Prayer After Communion

P: 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.

we DEPART to serve the world

Announcements

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles — Acts 2:1-18

At the conclusion: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Another account
of the story of
Christ, our
Sending Hymn
proclaims: “God
came to us then
at Pentecost, the
Spirit new life
revealing.” How
has new life been
revealed to you
through the
Spirit?

***Sending Hymn — no. 627**

“O Day Full of Grace”

Stanza 1: All Stanza 2: High Voices Stanza 3: Low Voices

Stanza 4: All, in harmony Stanza 5: All, in unison

***Blessing & Dismissal**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

As you enter a new week,

may you experience God’s presence.

May you feel God pouring out the Holy Spirit

over your heads and your thoughts and the words of your lips,

over your hearts and your feelings and emotions

and your compassion for all others,

and over your hands and your feet

as you put into action all that God commands you.

May the grace of the Savior, Jesus Christ,

the love of the Living God,

and the fellowship of the Divine Spirit ☩

be with each of you; Amen.

A: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

***Postlude — “O Day Full of Grace”**

Setting by Robert A. Hobby

Acknowledgements

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“Word of Gathering” Call to Worship by John van de Laar. <https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/a-communion-liturgy-for-pentecost-sunday/>

“Invitation to Communion” from 2010 World Communion Day, <https://www.claudiocarvalhaes.com/liturgies-2/2010-world-communion-day-worship-resource-pcusa/>

“Benediction for Pentecost” from Presbyterian Church of Canada website. <http://presbyterian.ca/worship/> <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2016/05/pentecost-benediction.html>

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

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Audio/Video: Brett Peterson

Communion Preparers: McHugh Family

Communion Servers: Brenda Mchugh, Sharon Domeier

Greeter:

Reader: Mary Spear

Ushers: John Nadeau

Musicians: Keith Stelter, John

Bipes, Nancy Nelson

Languages: Garrett Paul (German); Barb Wilkinson

(French); Gordon Long (ASL); Will Freiart (Greek);

Patricia Freiart (Latin); Rhonda Blech (Russian);

Annalise Rivas (Azerbaijani); Mary Spear (English)

Announcements

- You may have noticed different scriptures today! As mentioned in the bulletin, they came from *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church* by Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney. Fear not! This is just a change of pace for this special day in our church year; we are not going to change lectionaries.
- Flowers for the altar are given by Kay and Bob Monline today in honor of Paul and Nita Aasen.
- Refreshments after worship will be served by the Fellowship Committee today.
- Pastor Chris will be away on vacation from May 30 - June 5. Pastor Gordon Long will be leading worship on June 4th. Pastor Carl Bruihler will be covering emergencies. Should you need his assistance, please contact the church office.
- Our Southwestern Minnesota Synod will be gathering for our Synod Assembly at GAC on June 9 & 10. Please pray for David & Judy Fienen, Mary Spear, Pastor Chris and all who gather for this important meeting.

Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Erika Schuldt, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Allen Storkson, Gene Roemhildt, Karen Smithers, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Claire Cardwell, and Ella Twaddle.
- We pray for Kathryn Christenson's sister-in-law, Faye Christensen, who is recovering from surgery and mourning the loss of her sister.
- We pray for Bill and Cheryl Kautt as they mourn the loss of Bill's father, William.
- We pray for the family of Robert Samuelson, who recently died.
- We pray for the family of Glenn Stryker, who died on May 9.