

Pentecost

June 5, 2022

9:00 a.m. Worship Outside

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary



Updated Covid-19 Protocols: For those who need to remain vigilant because of age, underlying health issues, vaccination status, or close contact with vulnerable populations, we recommend attending worship at 8:30 a.m., when we will remain masked for the duration of the service. Masks are optional at 10:30 a.m. Remember that singing remains an increased risk, and masks are available in the narthex for anyone who feels more comfortable taking that precaution for themselves or on behalf of others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

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. 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 water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

ELW # 400



1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl - wind, as on Pen - te -
2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your
3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from
4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's



cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;
pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,
leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,
rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,



past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,
let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,
for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;
may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;



there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!
kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!
make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!
claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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GREETING

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

HYMN OF PRAISE

Pentecostal Power

In place of the Hymn of Praise the choir will sing the Gospel Hymn, "Pentecostal Power." The congregation is invited to sing the Chorus with the choir after each of the four verses.

CHORUS

Lord, send the old-time pow'r, The Pen-te - cos-tal pow'r! Thy floodgates of
blessing on us throw o - pen wide! Lord, send the old - time pow'r, the
Pen-te-cos - tal pow'r, That sinners be converted and Thy name glo-ri-fied!

The image shows a musical score for the chorus of the hymn "Pentecostal Power". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord, send the old-time pow'r, The Pen-te - cos-tal pow'r! Thy floodgates of blessing on us throw o - pen wide! Lord, send the old - time pow'r, the Pen-te-cos - tal pow'r, That sinners be converted and Thy name glo-ri-fied!"

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray ... God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

¹When 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? ⁹Parthians, 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.’ ”

L The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 104:24-34, 35B (*read responsively*)

²⁴How 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 many 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.

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

²⁸You 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.**

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.**

³²You 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.**

³⁴May these words of mine please God. I will rejoice in the LORD.

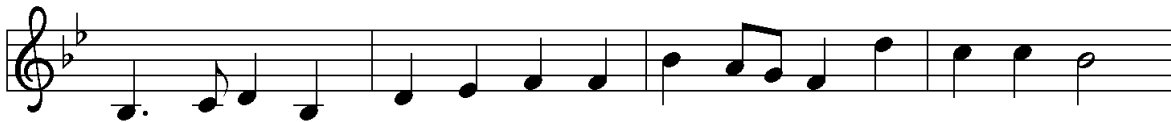
^{35b}**Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:14-17

¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

L The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***Gospel:** John 14:8-17 [25-27]

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁸Philip said to [Jesus,] “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?” ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”]

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

Pastor Traci

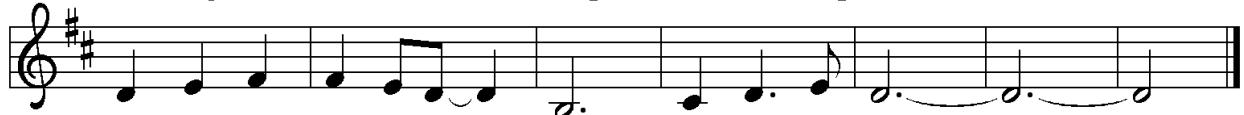
Refrain



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.

Refrain

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940
Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley
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BAPTISMAL LITURGY

P 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: We present Calleigh Marie Wright for baptism.

Callie Marie Wright, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

P Sponsors, do you promise to nurture these persons in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

P People of God, do you promise to support Calleigh and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C We do.

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

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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

C 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C 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.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P 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.

P 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.

C Amen.

P Calleigh Marie, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P *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.

P Sustain Calleigh 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.

C Amen.

P Calleigh, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C Amen.

P Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C 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.

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

P Holy Living One, Holy Moving One, burst open our locked doors, and by your Spirit drive us out into the world proclaiming your mighty deeds. Direct our words and actions, trusting the Advocate abiding in and among us. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P Feed and care for creatures that remain hidden to us yet contribute to the vibrancy of your creation. Train us to interact with creation from a place of wonder, awe, and reverence. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P Send your Spirit to places where language is a barrier to justice and mercy for those who seek it. Bless the work of translators, interpreters, and teachers. Promote understanding for the sake of those longing for true freedom and peace. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P Comfort all who live in constant fear and any who are suffering. Remind them that your Spirit has made them your children and that they are never far from your glory. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P Guide all bishops, pastors, missionaries, and other ministers of the gospel). Foster our relationships with partner synods and local ministry partners, that our visions and actions are Spirit-led. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P Gather your people across regions, nations, and lands. Root our common life in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, and by your Spirit bind us together with all the saints who have gone before us. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **C Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts. **C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

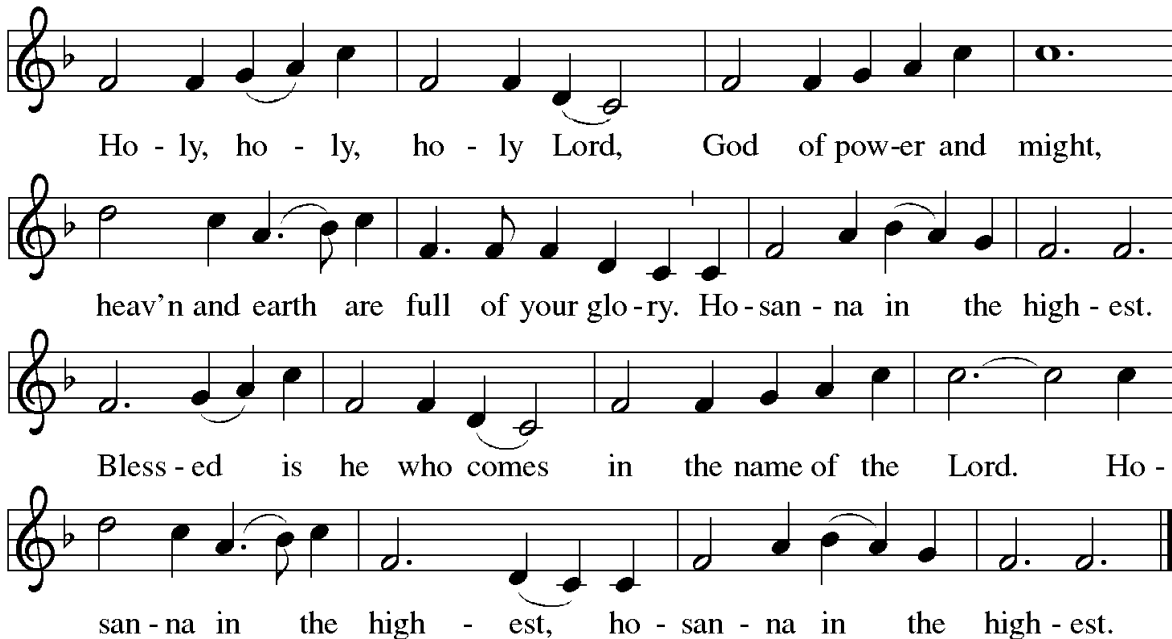
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

ELW # S207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **C Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C 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.

THE AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God

ELW # S208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION

P The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

BLESSING

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P *Let us pray...* We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. **C Amen.**

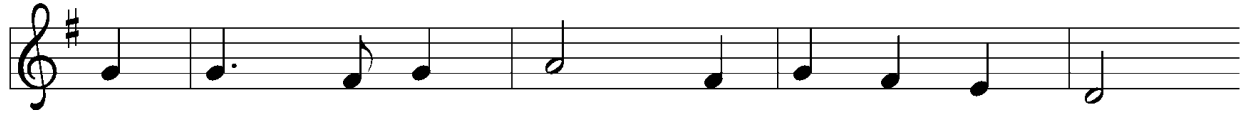
BENEDICTION

P God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, † bless you now and forever. **C Amen.**

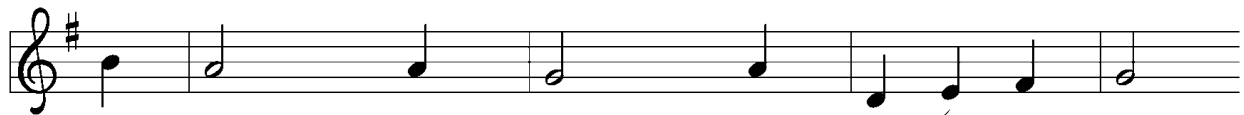
*SENDING SONG

O Spirit of Life

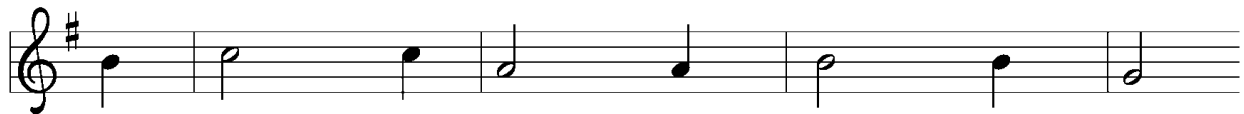
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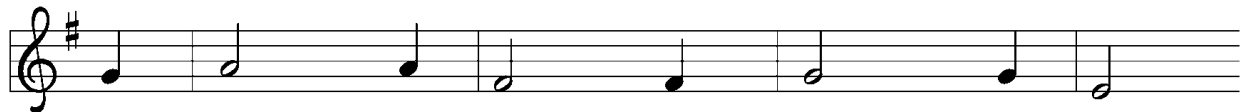
1 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,
2 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,
3 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,
4 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,



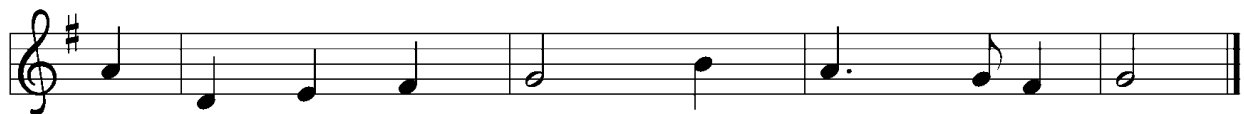
in ev - 'ry need you bring us aid,
in - crease our faith in our dear Lord;
make us to love your sa - cred word;
en - light - en us by that same word;



pro - ceed - ing forth from heav - en's throne,
un - less your grace the pow'r should give,
the ho - ly flame of love im - part,
teach us to know God's ra - diant love,



from God, the Fa - ther and the Son;
none can be - lieve in Christ and live;
that char - i - ty may warm each heart;
lead us to Christ who reigns a - bove;



O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.
O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.
O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.
O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.

Dismissal

P Alleluia! Christ is risen. **C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Go in peace. Tell what God has done. **C Thanks be to God.**

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**Please be advised that worship services are recorded and/or
live-streamed on social media.**

Today's Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God and in memory of Carol Weyandt from Barry and Carla Brumbaugh.

Church Messenger

The June 2022 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership, and articles are always appreciated.

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith

Our Organist – Mary Nelson

Our Missionary Family – On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Acolytes – Christopher Bush, Olivia Day & Ashley Smith

Our Lector – Janet Stewart

Our Altar Guild – Laura Orczeck

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

Second Quarter Ventures in Faith to “Youth & Camping”

2022 Annual Auxiliary Appeal: The Auxiliary Appeal helps those that can't afford some of the personal necessities of living in Assisted Living. Last year, ALSM provided more than \$2 million dollars to fund those they serve with limited funds. Auxiliary Appeal brochures are located at the Usher's Station near the bulletins. If you have any questions, Ruth Marshall is your Auxiliary Appeal Chairlady.

Congratulations go to great grandparents, Dennis and Margie Smith upon the birth of Harris Ray Zimmerman, Harris was born on Friday, May 20, 2022. His parents are Caroline and Dean Zimmerman.

Office Hours This Week:

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Office Hours – Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Lori Tremmel

Tues., Thurs. 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Volunteers

This Week Events

Today – Worship is Outside 9:00 a.m. Bring a chair. (Sanctuary if it rains.)
Worship in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday - Yoga, Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.
Worship & Music 6:00 p.m. via zoom

Saturday - Allegheny Synod Assembly 8:30 a.m. via zoom

Sunday – Worship is Outside 9:00 a.m. Bring a chair. (Sanctuary if it rains.)
Worship in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Carl & Dawn Alexy, John Aljets, Vivian Beach, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Mary Creps, Betty Helsel, Jere Hess, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Bill Stahl, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Diane Cappel, Greg Comer, Terry & Cathy Creek, JR Fagans & Family, Wayne Feight, Tim Flaugh, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Betty Helsel, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Darren Kreutzer, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Nathan, Aunt Mica, Pastor Drahus Oslikova, Deb Peters, Linda Piper, Helen Rogers, Paul Ruth, Barbara Smith, Howard and Connie Smith family, Luther Steele, Cindy Thomas, Norm Tremmel, Jean White, Pete Williams, Lyndsay Yon, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day.

Those Serving in the Army Overseas: Nathan Smith (Germany)



A Message on The Festival of Pentecost from the Office of the Bishop

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

If you remember the story of Pentecost, lots of people were gathered together in one place to celebrate harvest and without any notice a loud, rushing wind came from the sky and set their hair on fire!—not literally, but it looked like that was the case. And, as if that wasn't enough, the people began to speak in languages they did not know. People were confused and probably a bit scared. Some thought the babbling people were just drunk, but Peter set them straight about what was happening by telling them this fantastical event was the fulfillment of the promise that Jesus would be with them always through the power of the Holy Spirit.

That amazing day became the birthday of what we now call the church; it is an amazing thing how the Holy Spirit continues to call us together in “one place” and remind us that we are not alone, we are loved and part of a community of believers whose hair also is on fire!

Friends, the fire of the Holy Spirit was poured in you through your baptism. Not only is your hair on fire, but so is your heart, mind and soul. The fire of that first Pentecost continues to burn in you urging you to continue the growth of the church by sharing the love of Christ with others.

I invite you think deeply about the place of the Holy Spirit in your life. Do you have some sense of God working through your words and actions? If you're not sure, perhaps you could do what those first believers did by devoting yourself to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer. Few things are more important in the life of faith than remaining open to the Holy Spirit—even when it is confusing and scary.

May your celebration of Pentecost renew in you the confidence of God's eternal and tender love for you.

A message from Bishop Paula

“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Romans 12:9-10, 21

Friends,

Last week was a terribly difficult one in the life of our nation. We watched news reports of 17 children and 2 adults who were killed in their classrooms by an armed gunman in Uvalde, Texas. Conversations about gun violence, mental health and other issues in our deeply divided communities often deteriorate into the demonizing of anyone who disagrees with us.

Our gospel reading last Sunday from John 17 had us listening in to Jesus praying that his followers would be one. I've been pondering that lesson in light of all that has happened and realized there have been very few times in our history we could say we were one. And yet, that is what Jesus prayed for. The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans, pleaded with the Christians there to love each other and to overcome evil with good.

You might be wondering how we can overcome the evil we saw last week with good. The answer comes in a simple, yet often difficult command from Jesus: love one another. The kind of love Christ calls us to is a love that is willing to have hard conversations, a love that is willing to sacrifice our own need to be right and hear the other side, a love that is open to the other, a love that is persistent in its pursuit of what Jesus prayed for: unity. And, friends, unity does not mean uniformity; it means practicing the kind of love Jesus has for us; it means asking tough questions like: What conversations do I need to have to address this division? What might get in the way and how will I overcome that? Or, what do I need to do differently in order to foster unity in my community, congregation or home?

I don't have an easy answer or quick fix to any of this, but I do know that because we are followers of Jesus, striving for the kind of unity he prayed for is something worthy of my time and effort. Know that you are in my prayers as we work together to rebuild a sense of unity and peace.

+Bishop Paula

Allegheny Synod Youth **KENNYWOOD DAY**

Friday, July 1st

Meeting at 11:30am for a kickoff event and Bible study. Park closes at 11:00pm.

Leaders register your group at
www.sequanota.com

\$30 a person. (does not include food)

Registration deadline: June 24th

Groups will be responsible for
transportation, snacks, and meals.

**6th-12th Graders (entering)
& Adult leaders**

All groups must have an adult leader that
remains at the park!



Allegheny Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Meeting location and more details emailed after registration.
Contact Zion Lutheran Church in Hollidaysburg with any
questions at (814) 695-0091.

Kennywood



Martinsburg Food Pantry

The Food Pantry will be open for distribution of food on Thursday, June 16 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Those helping will be 3 or 4 people from St. John's UCC, besides the regular volunteers, to distribute food.

They will be bringing paper towels for each one that comes.

Following are the most needed items for June: Peaches or Pears, Scalloped Potatoes, Rice Sides, Hamburger Helper and Ravioli.

Many thanks for your monetary gifts, food and other items donated to the Food Pantry! *Linda K. Smith*

Help Needed

Custodian opportunity is available at St. Matthew. Seeking person or couple to provide cleaning of the church and maintenance of grounds in the absence of the Sexton. Casual hours. If interested please contact the church office, 814-793-2413, for more information.