



Today the Church is celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit, the birthday of the Christian Church. The Holy Spirit, symbolized by the tongue of fire, has been with the Church from its beginning and promises to be with us throughout all eternity. The liturgical colour for this festival is red to remind us of those tongues of fire which rested upon the believers that first Pentecost Day. It depicts the divine zeal on the day of Pentecost, and refers to the blood of the martyrs of the Church.

As we worship today we are reminded that we have been called; enlightened and sanctified by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This same Jesus sends us out with the power of His Spirit to bring peace and forgiveness to the world.



THE FESTIVAL OF PENTECOST

The Birthday of the Church

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

OPENING DIALOGUE

P: Blessed be the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and to the end of the ages.

C: **Amen. Alleluia!**

P: On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and proclaimed in a loud voice, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink."

C: **As the Scripture says, "Streams of living water will flow from within Him."**

P: By this Jesus meant the Spirit, whom those who believe in Him were to receive. (John 7:37-39)

C: **Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful people and kindle in us the fire of Your love.**

P: When the Counselor comes, whom I send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who comes from the Father, He will be My witness.

C: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful people and kindle in us the fire of Your love.

P: And you will be My witnesses, for you have been with Me from the beginning. (John 15:26-27)

C: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful people and kindle in us the fire of Your love.

P: There is more which I must say to you but it is more than you can now bear; but when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful people and kindle in us the fire of Your love.

P: He will not speak on His own but of what He hears and He will tell you what is to come. He will bring Me glory by making known to you what is Mine. In a little while you will not see Me and then later you will see Me again. (John 16:12-14, 16)

C: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful people and kindle in us the fire of Your love.

OPENING HYMN: Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling (LSB 650)

1 Holy Spirit, ever dwelling
In the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding
O'er a world of gloom and night;
Holy Spirit, ever raising
Those of earth to thrones on high;
Living, life-imparting Spirit,
You we praise and magnify.

2 Holy Spirit, ever living
As the Church's very life;
Holy Spirit, ever striving
Through us in a ceaseless strife;
Holy Spirit, ever forming
In the Church the mind of Christ:
You we praise with endless worship

For Your gifts and fruits unpriced.

3 Holy Spirit, ever working
Through the Church's ministry;
Quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving,
Setting captive sinners free;
Holy Spirit, ever binding
Age to age and soul to soul
In communion never ending,
You we worship and extol.

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

P: As Your disciples once gathered to await the Spirit on that first Pentecost, so we are now in expectation. Let us confess our sin as we await the power of the Holy Spirit. For our reluctance to believe all that the Lord has told us.

C: Forgive, Holy Spirit, forgive!

P: For our proud self-sufficiency to the exclusion of God's help in our lives.

C: Forgive, Holy Spirit, forgive!

P: For our contentment with silence when the Spirit would lead us into making a bold confession concerning Christ.

C: Forgive, Holy Spirit, forgive!

P: For our hollow worship, routine prayers and dulled hearing of the inspired Word of God.

C: Forgive, Holy Spirit, forgive!

P: For our failure to believe that the Spirit works through the lives of other Christians.

C: Forgive, Holy Spirit, forgive!

P: For our deafness in hearing the Spirit speak to us through the Law and Gospel.

C: Forgive, Holy Spirit, forgive!

P: Hear the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ, after He breathed His Spirit on His disciples: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven. If you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Trusting His promise, I, by my office as His called servant, declare to you in His name, the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Be at peace. You are free in the Spirit!

C: Come, Holy Spirit, and renew us by Your coming! Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray..... O God, on this day you once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding of all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in communion with the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN: Today Your Mercy Calls Us (LSB 915)

1 Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.

2 Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.

3 Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.

4 O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.

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OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Numbers 11:24–30 [*Moses and the Elders*]

²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them 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 as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

²⁶ Now 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, and 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 the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, 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, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”³⁰ And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON: Acts 2:1–21 [*The Day of Pentecost*]

2 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested^[a] on each one of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. **6** And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. **7** And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? **9** Parthians and Medes and 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, **11** both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”

12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” **13** But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.” **14** But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. **15** For these people are not drunk, as you

suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.^[b] ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on 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 on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: *John 7:37-39* [Jesus gives rivers of Living Water]

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventh chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as^[a] the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN: "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord" [LSB 497]

1 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord,

With all Your graces now outpoured
On each believer's mind and heart;
Your fervent love to them impart.
Lord, by the brightness of Your light
In holy faith Your Church unite;
From ev'ry land and ev'ry tongue
This to Your praise, O Lord, our God, be sung:
Alleluia, alleluia!

2 Come, holy Light, guide divine,
Now cause the Word of life to shine.
Teach us to know our God aright
And call Him Father with delight.
From ev'ry error keep us free;
Let none but Christ our master be
That we in living faith abide,
In Him, our Lord, with all our might confide.
Alleluia, alleluia!

3 Come, holy Fire, comfort true,
Grant us the will Your work to do
And in Your service to abide;
Let trials turn us not aside.
Lord, by Your pow'r prepare each heart,
And to our weakness strength impart
That bravely here we may contend,
Through life and death to You, our Lord, ascend.
Alleluia, alleluia!

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SERMON: "What Does This Mean?" - Acts 2:1-11

CREED: *Third Article of the Apostle's Creed and Luther's Explanation*

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers, On the Last Day He will raise up me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true. (Luther's Small Catechism, © 1986 CPH)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

P: Let us pray for the whole Church, that the Lord our God would defend her from all who seek to harm her.

P: Father in heaven, because no one can confess that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit, we pray that You would preserve Your Christian people from the temptations and troubles that would lead us away from You. We pray especially for our sister churches around the world and especially those who suffer persecution on account of confessing Your name. Give them the comfort of Your Holy Spirit to keep them steadfast in the truth, and grant them Your peace in their trials; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for the unity of the Church, that God would have mercy on His children and heal the sad divisions within her.

P: Father in heaven, when You poured out Your Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, You enabled Your followers to proclaim Your saving deeds to many people in many different languages. By Your mercy, cause the Church in our day to speak again with one voice. Where there is need of repentance, grant it in abundance. Where there is need of perseverance in the truth, pour it out in love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for ourselves that we may not grow weary of being a priestly kingdom but remain faithful in prayer and good works.

P: Father in heaven, because the Holy Spirit has called us by the Gospel and made us to be Your own dear children, keep far from us spiritual complacency. Remind us anew of the importance of faithfully receiving Your Word and Sacraments through which the Spirit pours out His gifts of forgiveness, peace, and new life. Being thus strengthened and sanctified, send us out into Your world to live as Your chosen people, interceding for others and serving them according to their needs; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for the wayward and the erring, that God would return them to their baptismal calling.

P: Father in heaven, because it is Your desire that everyone should repent and believe in Jesus Christ, have mercy on those baptized among us who have wandered from the faith. Graciously send Your Holy Spirit to convict them of their need for Your salvation and turn their hearts toward You. As it pleases You, grant us, their brothers and sisters, the opportunities and words to speak Your truth in love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for those who suffer from illness or pain, that the Lord Jesus, the Great Physician, would heal them.

P: Father in heaven, because You created us, You know how best to heal us. We pray that You would hear the prayers of those who cry out to You for relief from their pain and discomfort (especially...). In accordance with Your gracious will and in Your good time, restore their health that they might again apply their hands to the tasks You have given them to do; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for peace in our world.

P: Father in heaven, You open Your hands and provide for the needs of all living creatures. Grant the nations of this world freedom from tyranny, war, and chaos. We pray especially for those lands in which our nation has unique opportunities to promote a peaceful and just way of life. Enable our Canadian arm forces and diplomatic corps serving overseas to work honourably and efficiently in service to our global neighbours; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for those affected by Covid-19.

P: Father in heaven, we put under Your care the people who are ill because of this virus. Also protect the healthcare workers and others who are working very hard to heal them. Be with them, renew their energy and sustain them on long shifts and bring Your protection upon them as they work with those affected by Covid-19. We also ask Your guidance to the research doctors who are working hard to find a vaccine against this virus and eliminate the spread of this disease; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

(Here the special prayers and petitions of God's people are brought to the Lord. Each petition ends:

P: Lord, in Your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Heavenly Father, into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

THE BLESSING:

P: As God sent His Son into the world,

C: So He also send us, His children, into the world.

P: As God equipped His Son with the Spirit,

C: In like manner He equips us.

P: As God blessed His Son,

C: So likewise He blesses us.

P: Now go into the world to Work in the Spirit; Pray in the Spirit; Give in the Spirit; Witness in the Spirit and Love in the Spirit.

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, ✚ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be and abide with you always.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray (*LSB 768*)

- 1 To God the Holy Spirit let us pray
For the true faith needed on our way
That He may defend us when life is ending
And from exile home we are wending.
Lord, have mercy!
- 2 O sweetest Love, Your grace on us bestow;
Set our hearts with sacred fire aglow
That with hearts united we love each other,
Ev'ry stranger, sister, and brother.
Lord, have mercy!
- 3 Transcendent Comfort in our ev'ry need,
Help us neither scorn nor death to heed
That we may not falter nor courage fail us
When the foe shall taunt and assail us.
Lord, have mercy!
- 4 Shine in our hearts, O Spirit, precious light;
Teach us Jesus Christ to know aright
That we may abide in the Lord who bought us,
Till to our true home He has brought us.
Lord, have mercy!

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POST-SERVICE MUSIC