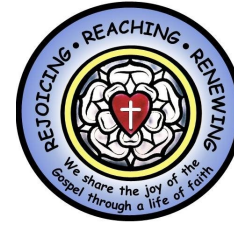


# Filled with the Holy Spirit

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620

www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org+ 402-395-2043

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

## June 8, 2025 † The Day of Pentecost

*On Pentecost, we celebrate that we have been given an Advocate to accompany us. Poured out in wind and fire, water, wine, and bread, the Holy Spirit abides in and among us. We give thanks that God speaks to each of us, no matter our origins, language, or life path. Filled with the Spirit of truth, we go out from worship to proclaim the saving power of Christ's love and the freedom of God's grace with all the world.*

### † GATHERING †

#### Prelude

*(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)*

#### Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

**Holy Communion** will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.

O M D E D N W Q T H X X G E M  
 U A Y N M H I B Q O O U K P Y  
 W J U W E V B L V H N L O E O  
 O O R I B A M O E E Z G Y N E  
 S R N N C E G W T A T N U T I  
 K P L D Y D M I R R Q J W E W  
 M A N A E G L N O T H E R C S  
 C U M L N R X G S L S Z Z O W  
 V P L J H G S A H P P N H S X  
 Y I C D Y N U M N P I Q D T U  
 F P J G X K W A F X S R U R W  
 T Z C B E X Y Z G S P S I Y B  
 Z F I R E G P E S E E T N T Q  
 D E C L A R E D G E A C M K Y  
 L S G F K V Z C V M K L N J T

FIRE	PENTECOST	WONDERS	AMAZED
HEAR	OTHER	SPEAK	WIND
SPIRIT	BLOWING	TONGUES	HOLY
DECLARE	LANGUAGE	SOUND	FILLED

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## Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

In that name, and with that faith –  
as dear children approaching a loving parent,  
as sinners redeemed by the blood of the Lamb,  
as believers filled with the Holy Spirit –  
let us confess our sins to almighty God.



**Let us seek forgiveness.**

*(Silence for confession and self-examination.)*

Most merciful God,  
**we have been unworthy and disobedient children.**  
**We have ignored our Father's admonitions,**  
**disregarded our Savior's instructions, grieved the Holy Spirit.**  
**We are not worthy to be called children of God.**  
**But we beg you – of your fatherly compassion,**  
**by your saving merits, at your inviting call –**  
**to have mercy on us and grant us your forgiveness.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him might not perish but have eternal life.  
To those who believe in Jesus Christ, the heavenly Father  
gives the Holy Spirit that they may be children of God.  
Rejoice in the Lord; your sins are forgiven –  
in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Gathering Song

### *Spirit of Gentleness*

#396

*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,

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!

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## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Table Blessing

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

## Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Living One,

**in this feast you have made yourself known to us.**

**Send us now to tell of your wonders,**

**sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life**

**to a wounded and weary world. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

## Announcements

## Benediction

May you be alive in the Spirit.

May you be a dancing flame of joy,

a warming fire of comfort,

and a blazing source of compassion.

And may the winds of Pentecost and the resurrected Christ go with you and direct you wherever you may go.

In the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Sending Song

*God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind*

#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

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.

*Refrain*  
 "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.

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## Opening Litany

O Holy Spirit, your entrance into the world on Pentecost was amazing to many.

**Continue to amaze us with your presence among us.**

O Holy Spirit, your entrance into the world on Pentecost left many people bewildered.

**Turn any bewilderment we may have into understanding, so that we may be made wise unto salvation.**

O Holy Spirit, your entrance into the world on Pentecost surprised many people.

**Continue to surprise us with your power and your might.**

O Holy Spirit, your entrance into the world on Pentecost left many people asking, "What does this mean?"

**Make the meaning of your presence known to us in the many days to come. Amen.**

### Apostolic Greeting

The blessing of the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the glorious love bestowed by the + Son, and the power of the promised Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### Kyrie

### *Spirit of the Living God*

W&P #129

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me,

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.  
 for - ev - er traced by wa - ter sign, and sealed by Spir - it flame.  
 to cling to Christ's com - mu - ni - ty, in jus - tice, peace to dwell.  
 Re - new - ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.  
 We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.

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### Distribution Hymn

### *How Small Our Span of Life*

#636

1 How small our span of life, O God, our years from birth till death:  
 2 And yet our speck of life is spanned by your in - fin - i - ty;  
 3 O Christ, you left e - ter - ni - ty to plunge in time's swift stream,  
 4 We thank you, God, for kind - ling faith that lights our tran - sient years,

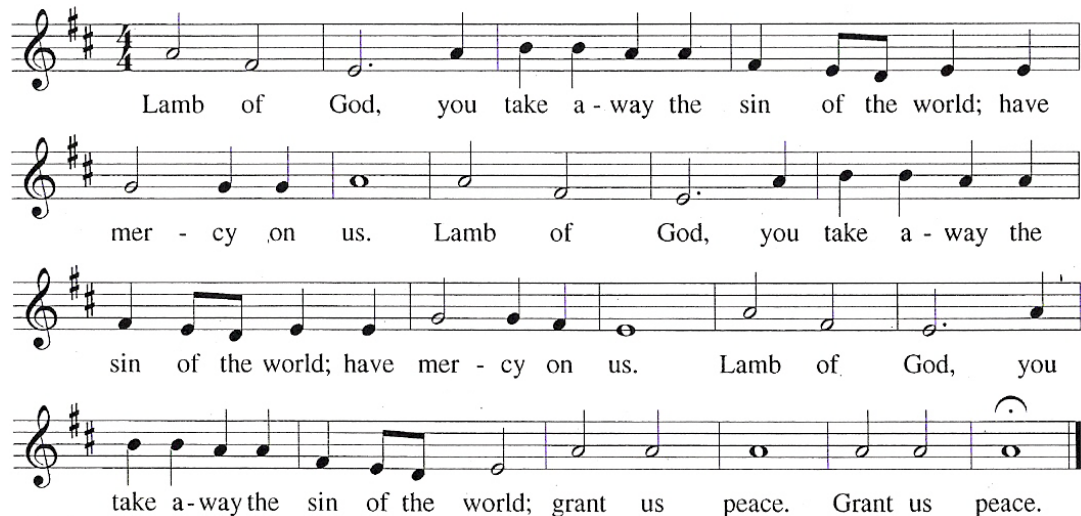
a sin - gle beat with - in the heart, the catch - ing of a breath,  
 our tick of time on earth is caught in your e - ter - ni - ty.  
 to share the short - ness of our span, our mor - tal lives re - deem.  
 il - lu - min - ing our pil - grim - age through mists of doubt and fears;

a drop with - in the o - cean's deep, a grain up - on the shore,  
 While suns and stars spin end - less - ly through depths of cos - mic space,  
 You filled your cross - closed years with love; you loved us to the end  
 for hope that sees a life be - yond the swift - ly pass - ing days;

a flash of light be - fore we sleep to see the sun no more.  
 while ae - ons roll and ag - es pass, you hold us in your grace.  
 and touch us with your ris - en life that ours may time trans - cend.  
 for love, both hu - man and di - vine, that lifts our hearts to praise.

**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.**

**Agnus Dei**                      **Lamb of God**                      *Family of God*

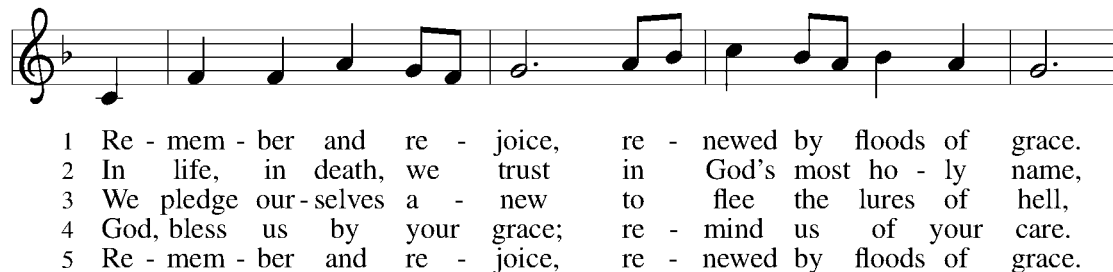


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace. Grant us peace.

**Distribution**

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:  
*The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.*  
*The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.*

**Distribution Hymn**                      *Remember and Rejoice*                      #454



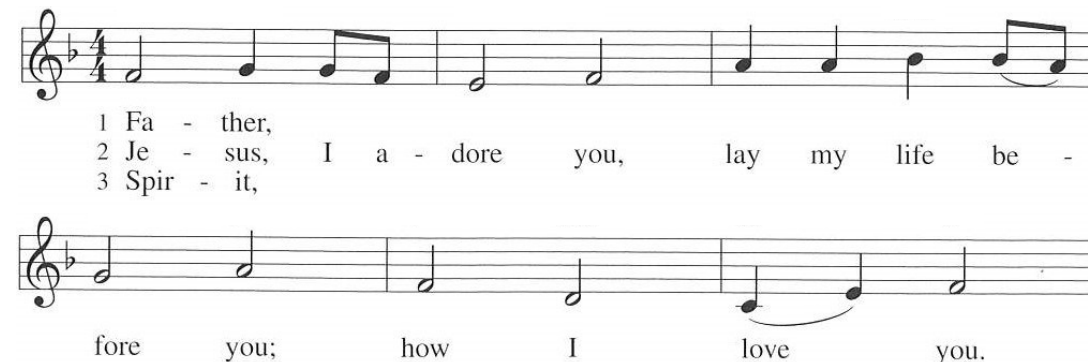
1 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.  
2 In life, in death, we trust in God's most ho - ly name,  
3 We pledge our - selves a - new to flee the lures of hell,  
4 God, bless us by your grace; re - mind us of your care.  
5 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.



Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

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**Hymn of Praise**                      *Father, I Adore You*                      W&P #37



1 Fa - ther,  
2 Je - sus, I a - dore you, lay my life be -  
3 Spir - it,  
fore you; how I love you.

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**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*  
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. Amen.**

✝ WORD ✝

**First Reading**

Acts 2:1-21

*Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples they would be filled with the Holy Spirit. Now, amid signs of fire, wind, and a variety of languages, the people were amazed and astonished at Jesus' promise coming true.*

*A reading from Acts.*

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

<sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

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

<sup>14</sup>But 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. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>"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.

<sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women,

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

*Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.*

After supper, Jesus took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
*Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

*Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

God of dreams and prophecy, send down upon us  
your gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and faith;  
of healing, discernment, and interpretation,  
that your church may be built up in the likeness of your Son.

Let anyone who is hungry find in you the bread of life,  
and anyone who is thirsty find in you rivers of living water.

Speak your word to all who are alone and in fear or despair,  
and let each one of your children  
hear your voice in their own language,  
whether that language be art or science, work or play.

Sanctify your groaning creation, that your universe  
may breathe your breath and be filled with your life anew,  
that we may love what you love, and do what you do,  
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray together 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.**

On the day of Pentecost you sent your Spirit upon the fearful disciples,  
 filling them with fire, with power, with wonder and joy,  
 and making them your church.  
 And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels  
 and all the company of heaven,  
 singing the hymn of your unending praise.

**Sanctus** *Holy, Holy, Holy* *Family of God*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, our God of pow'r and might, — Sing  
 ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Heav'n and earth are full of your maj - es -  
 ty! Ho - san - na in — the high - est! Blest is he who  
 comes in the Name of the Lord! Sing loud, — Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

**Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution**

God of comfort and strength, we look to your Holy Spirit  
 to be with us in sorrow and in contentment,  
 in crisis and in abiding stillness.

Come among us now through the power of your Spirit,  
 that we may be transformed into your image,  
 and that these gifts of bread and wine may become for us  
 the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;

in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

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

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,  
 before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup>Then 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**

*Let us read Psalm 104 responsively.*

<sup>24</sup>How manifold are your works, O LORD!

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

<sup>25</sup>**Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
 with its swarms too many to number,  
 living things both small and great.**

<sup>26</sup>There go the ships to and fro,  
 and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

<sup>27</sup>**All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.**

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

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

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

<sup>31</sup>**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
 O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

<sup>32</sup>You look at the earth and it trembles;  
 you touch the mountains and they smoke.

<sup>33</sup>**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
 I will praise my God while I have my being.**

<sup>34</sup>May these words of mine please God. I will rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>35b</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah!**

## Second Reading

Romans 8:14-17

*Here Paul speaks about the mystery of baptism: through the Holy Spirit we are claimed, gathered, and welcomed into Christ's body, the church. And we receive a new name in our adoption: child of God.*

*A reading from Romans.*

<sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For 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!" <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and 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. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia Verse

(Tune: #550)



The Spir-it of our God de-scends the earth to fill, to



breathe new life a - broad by God's a - bid - ing will. Al - le - lu -



ia! By wind and flame the Spir-it came! Al - le - lu - ia!

## Holy Gospel

John 14:8-17, 25-27

*Though the disciples struggle with Jesus' nature and identity, they receive the promise that they too will be identified with God and God's mission. Though he must leave them now, Jesus promises the coming of the Advocate whom God will send to comfort and enlighten them.*

*The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.*

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to [Jesus,] "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup>Jesus 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

## ✠ OFFERING ✠

### Offering Response

(Tune: #550)



Now may the Spir-it's fire en - kin - dle ev' - ry heart, with



heav'n-ly breath in-spire and sev'n-fold gifts im - part. Al - le - lu -



ia! With wind and flame the Spir-it came. Al - le - lu - ia!

## ✠ MEAL ✠

### Great Thanksgiving

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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



### Proper Preface

God of surprises, your Spirit brooded over the waters at creation  
and lived among your chosen people  
in wilderness, exile, and promised land.

Your spirit filled Mary's womb at the moment of Jesus' conception  
and came upon him like a dove at his baptism.

When Christ died on the cross

your power raised him from the tomb on the third day,  
and that same evening he breathed your forgiving grace  
on those who had deserted him.



A We pray for courts and legislatures.  
Write your commandments on our hearts,  
and inspire all who govern to lead with love over retribution.  
Unite judges, lawyers, and systems of justice  
in a desire for reconciliation.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P We pray for the sick in body, mind, or spirit, especially...  
Lift up all who have been bowed low  
by circumstances or internal strife.  
Bring to wholeness those who cry out to you in need.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A We pray for this congregation.  
Raise up in us a deep desire to live out our baptismal promises  
and to support those of all ages in our shared journey of faith.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A We offer thanks for the faithful departed who now rest in you.  
Let their lives encourage our own daily living.  
Console us with the promise of eternal life.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God,  
trusting that you are always with us;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

### Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**



the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do 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. <sup>11</sup>Believe 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. <sup>12</sup>Very 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. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

<sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This 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.

<sup>25</sup>“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But 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.

<sup>27</sup>Peace 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.”

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

### Gospel Response

(Tune #550)



O Spir-it of the Lord, come with cel - es - tial fire on



all the earth out-poured, our hearts and lives in - spire. Make here your



home with us be-low. E'en so, O Ho ly Spir - it, come!

## Children's Time Sermon

### Hymn of the Day

### *O Day Full of Grace*

#627



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



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



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



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

Text: Scandinavian folk hymn; tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921-2001, alt.  
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Music: Christoph E. F. Weyse, 1774-1842  
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## Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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 the People

P God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer  
for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*(A brief silence is kept.)*

A We pray for the church.

Continue to inspire our sharing of the gospel  
and equip us to tear down the barriers we have erected.

Make our welcome expansive, intentional,  
and open to loving challenge.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P We pray for creation.

Allow fire to burn safely in habitats where it's needed  
and quench flames when they threaten to run wild.

Protect forests, prairies, and grasslands  
from destruction by natural forces or human misdeeds.

Safeguard firefighters and rescuers in their dangerous work.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**