

When the day of  
Pentecost came,  
they were  
all together in  
one place.



Acts 2:1

May 23, 2021

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
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Fremont, CA 94536  
Church: (510) 793-6285

May 23, 2021  
Pentecost Sunday  
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity  
Web Site: [holytrinityfremont.org](http://holytrinityfremont.org)

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*Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts, the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.*

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## **GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING**

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Click [here](#) for a video of the full service.

**PRELUDE . . .** “*God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind*”

**WELCOME**

**SINGING BOWL**

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

The word "Pentecost" is written in a large, elegant, black script font. A stylized flame, colored in red and yellow, is positioned above the letter 'o' in "Pentecost".

## INVOCATION

*P: The wind at our backs, we entered Jerusalem.*

**All: Only to watch Jesus die on the cross.**

*P: It spiraled so quickly.*

**All: Trial. Torture. Crucifixion. Death.**

*P: But on the third day the breath of God blew new life into our futures.*

**All: Forty days with the risen Jesus.**

*P: Before he ascended, Jesus reminded us that the Spirit will come.*

**All: It was on Pentecost when the wind breathed into each and every one of us.**

*P: Sacred breath, move through us. Unlock a song within your people.*

**All: Breathe into us your hopes and dreams for a world filled with justice, love, and peace. Amen.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In rushing wind, in cleansing fire . . .

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

L: In courage found, in strength renewed . . .

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

L: In visions born, in dreams restored . . .

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

L: In hopes rekindled, in fears released . . .

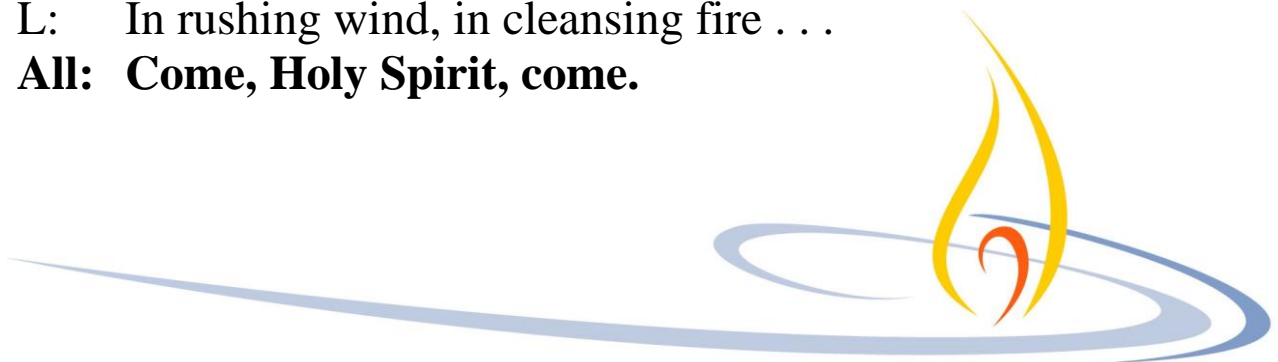
**All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

L: In the church's sudden birth, in possibilities untold. . .

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

L: In rushing wind, in cleansing fire . . .

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**



## A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism

*P: Holy One, we are not sure what it would be like if the Holy Spirit blew through our churches again as it did on the day of Pentecost.*

**All: However, we want to speak the language that you have given, louder, and more clearly in our lives and church.**

*P: So we pray, come Holy Spirit come, pour out your fire of love upon us*

**All: to be the body of Christ in a world that is often hurting, hungry, and cynical.**

*P: We want to bring the good news to the poor, heal the broken-hearted, preach deliverance to captives, bring recovery of sight to the blind and set at liberty all that are bruised.*

**All: As your disciples, we pray for all who suffer, are poor, despairing, burdened, blind and battered.**

*P: In your loving breeze, we pray for health and wholeness for those who are physically ill,*

**All: for those who are mentally ailing,**

*P: for those who are money sick,*

**All: for those who are spiritually unwell.**

*P: We pray for the healing of your creation, and the renewal of the face of the land.*

**All: We pray for those who are thirsty, that they would drink from your fountain of living waters and never thirst again.**

*P: Come, Holy Spirit, Come.*

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, Come.**



## A LITANY FOR PENTECOST

L: Flaming God of Pentecost, let us speak in tongues of comfort to those weeping over the bodies of their loved ones

**All: shot by troubled gunmen, killed in border clashes, dying from COVID-19.**

L: Let us speak in tongues of courage to those living in fear

**All: of the next shooting, the next bomb, the illness that threatens.**

L: Let us speak in tongues of condemnation against laws and policies that promote violence,

**All: prioritizing the preferences of some over the lives of others.**

L: Let us speak in tongues of care for the most vulnerable in our world—

**All: human beings, animals, and ecosystems.**

L: Let us speak in tongues of love for you and for your people,

**All: that your language might be our language.**

L: And when our tongues are still, when we have no words to speak,

**All: let our hearts burn with your fire,**

L: let our ears hear your words in our own native tongue,

**All: let our skin feel the wind of your Spirit—a mighty wind, blowing where it will. Amen**



## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

**All: Speak to our empty lives.**

L: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

**All: Breathe life into our dying dreams.**

L: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

**All: Refresh our fading hopes.**

L: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

**All: Inspire our church with vision.**

L: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

**All: Pour out your power and love.**

L: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

**All: As we worship, inflame us with wisdom and purpose.**

**Amen.**

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## GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

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### INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: Can a locked door keep the Holy Spirit from releasing us from our fears?

**All: Can a quaking spirit keep us from receiving the Spirit's gifts today?**

Reader: Can the Church be born again after two thousand years of inertia and indifference?

**All: Does the story of Pentecost have anything to say to us today? May we now listen for the word of God.**

### READING . . . *Acts 2:1-21*

When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. 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. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

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

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. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘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.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

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

The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ ”

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Reader: With the gifts of the Holy Spirit, may our hearts  
overflow with living water on this day of Pentecost,

**All: and on every day of our lives.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME . . .** *Pastor Barbara Caine*

**HOMILY . . .** *Pastor Barbara Caine*

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

L: Holy Spirit, bless the gifts we bring with your powerful presence.

**All: Through these gifts, bring new life, new hope, new visions of life, new dreams of hope, and new possibilities for unity and love in our world. Amen.**

### **THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

L: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. Gracious God, you give the Holy Spirit to your church, filling it with many and varied gifts. In the church throughout the world, strengthen us in our visioning and dreaming, that it may discover anew the Spirit's creative work. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of the nations, at the sound of the rushing wind, people speaking different languages proclaimed and heard together your deeds of power. Fill the leaders of nations with your Holy Spirit, so that they exercise your gracious will in the lives of people. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**



L: God of faithfulness, you tend to the needs of your people, even the sighs of our hearts. Hear those who cry out to you in distress. Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of love, fill this congregation, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, with gratitude for the gifts we have received from you. Renew our ministries, heal our divisions, and open us to the needs of our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**All: 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.**



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GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

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**BENEDICTION**

*P: In our moments of chaos...*

**All: God is with us.**

*P: In our moments of calm...*

**All: God is with us.**

*P: In our moments of life.*

**All: God is with us. Alleluia!**

*P: We go as a Pentecost people, touched by fire,*

**All: stirred by wind, to mend the world.**

*P: Alleluia!*

**All: Alleluia!**

**DISMISSAL**

L: Go out!

**All: Into a world that needs the Spirit of God, carried on our lips and in our loving arms.**

L: Go out!

**All: Into the world to live as God's resurrected people!**

L: Go out:

**All: We go out on the breath of God's holy wind!**

**POSTLUDE . . . "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling"**

**SINGING BOWL**

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Pastor: Tim Huff

Homilist: Pastor Barbara Caine of Holy Redeemer

Lay Liturgist & Reader: The Narveson Family

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema