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**Pentecost Sunday
June 8, 2025
Now the Feast and Celebration
Hymnal Supplement (1991)**

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.

We at Grace Lutheran Church strive to reflect and proclaim the love of God shown to us by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit by providing an inclusive and supportive environment through loving care and community service.

A warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us in person or online! We appreciate your contribution to the community today: with your voice, your presence, and just the blessing that you are. May you be nurtured by God's Word, empowered by the love of Christ, and stirred by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in this service this day, for the sake of God's mission in the world.

Grace Lutheran Church worships, prays, and serves on the traditional and unceded lands and territories of the hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əm̓ (Musqueam) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in worship of our Lord, whose manifold works are seen throughout creation: in its seas great and wide; in its creatures both small and great, too many to number; and in all the beauty and wonder of nature. And our God continues to provide for all in grace and mercy and love, through the Spirit that renews the face of the earth. So we praise God's glory that endures forever, we rejoice in all these works, and we together sing to God with all that we are, and our souls are blessed, through Jesus Christ, our brother and Saviour. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING HYMN: O Holy Spirit, Root of Life (#399)

GREETING

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

NOW THE FEAST (HS p. 4)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you come to us first in breath, and then in life, through which you reveal to us what love and community can look like. Set us aflame with your joy, that our paths be opened to new visions and dreams, and may our faith grow ever deeper in our trust in you and your promises, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

A reading from Acts.

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.

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ² 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. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

⁹ Parthians, Medes, 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, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, 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.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.

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

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

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

²⁴ How 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.**

²⁶ There 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.**

²⁸ You 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.**

³⁰ You 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.**

³² You 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.**

³⁴ May 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

A reading from Romans.

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.

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

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (HS p. 8)

GOSPEL: John 14:8-17

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

⁸ Philip said to [Jesus,] "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹ 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 the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² 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. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ 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."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Holy God, may your wisdom be for us a pillar of fire that leads along your paths of righteousness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and illumine your will for our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Anyone here play poker? At the risk of sounding cliché, I used to play quite a bit, like way before it became cool. But then poker really blew up in the early 2000s, when the NHL went on strike and all these people found themselves watching the World Poker Tour reruns on TV because there apparently was nothing else worth watching. Then suddenly I wasn't that good at the game anymore, in comparison at least, because basically everyone and literally their moms (like actually my mom learned how to play during this time), like just everyone caught onto the craze and was out buying their own sets of chips and felt table tops and setting up home games and everything. So no longer was I that cool guy that was pretty good at poker. I was now that cool guy that was just mid at poker.

Again, I used to play from before it was all that popular, and what got me into this game was this movie from the 90s called "Rounders". If you haven't seen it, it's basically about this guy played by the very talented Matt Damon who is really good at poker. I know, that might sound as boring as painting road lines, but the character goes through all these difficulties because of how good he is and how others, namely his romantic partner, couldn't accept the game as more than just irresponsible and wasteful gambling. So the movie goes deep in explaining how poker isn't just a game of chance, but involves a great deal of skill and smarts. I mean sure, anyone can learn the rules to play and have some basic knowledge in calculating odds and chances, which admittedly *is* a part of the game. But ask any poker player, any *real* poker player, and they'll say that the cards don't matter as much as the ability to read your opponents' faces, assess their emotions, and pick up on their "tells" that will give you enough information about what cards they might be holding in order for you to win the game. Yeah, there is an amount of chance involved, but that amount is almost eliminated if you're able to read your opponent well enough.

And this is what really got me into the game. Like it isn't so much about getting good at how to play the cards as much as it was about getting good at playing the player. It's about understanding the psychology of those sitting around the table with you. It's about recognising the tells and signs that are thrown out and then adjusting your strategy accordingly.

I know, it's still just a game. But reading the tells that people give off isn't limited to just winning card games, but it is useful and I'd even say *used* in all areas of life. It is a part of living with others, our interaction with anyone we may or may not have a relationship with, just existing with people who aren't ourselves. Like imagine participating in a job interview of some kind, whether you're interviewing or being interviewed, both parties would have to be able to read between the so-called lines to determine whether this might be a good fit. Or if you're in a relationship someone for any length of time, you use the signs they display or you give off signs to better understand each other's needs and wants in order to strengthen your bond and connection. Or if you're driving, you actually have to rely on the tells of the other drivers to anticipate what they're about to do, and also give appropriate tells yourself such as turn signals and brake lights so you could avoid colliding into others and being collided into.

So we instinctively read these tells that tell us what cards others might be holding, what feelings they might be having, or maybe what their intentions are for the future, and we adapt and act accordingly. But, as we all know from experience, those instincts aren't always 100%. Just like in poker, we can read someone completely wrong and make the absolutely wrong play. Throughout life, we need to be very intentional and selective of what tells to base our decisions and assessments on, otherwise we could be left very hurt, broken, and totally disillusioned. Mistakes could be made, collisions may be had, and relationships might fail. Our assumptions might blind us, feathers could be ruffled, and we might be left with yolk on our faces. Sometimes we might even wrongly assume someone who is full of the Holy Spirit as just drunk at 9:00 in the morning.

While that last one might be a lot less likely since these days being drunk at 9am isn't all that uncommon, but the poor reading of what was going on and assuming something completely false that we get in the first reading out of Acts for this Pentecost Sunday is exactly what I'm talking about. The people that were witnessing this manifestation of the Spirit weren't used to what they were seeing, they didn't know how to accurately assess the situation, they didn't recognise the tells that would be given by someone who has been anointed by God through the Holy Spirit.

And I guess we can't blame them, I mean it was a pretty new phenomenon. They wouldn't have known the clues that were given, the promises that were made, or the signs that were prophesied. This would have likely been the first time that they saw anything like what they saw, so they just would naturally assume that the disciples were more inebriated rather than Spirit-filled.

And so on this Pentecost Sunday, that is the question that I have for us. Would we recognise the works of the Spirit, or do we just assume that all actions that we aren't used to or don't understand are caused by the intoxication from a different kind of substance? Can we tell from the tells? What criteria do we use? What are the sure signs of the Spirit with us, empowering us, and leading us into community, relationship, and action?

Of course, it'd be easier if we had some very specific instruction on the matter, you know, like what Philip asks for in today's gospel lesson. It would be easier if we're just shown what God's face looks like. It would be easier to be given clear examples of God present in our lives. Because once we see it, then we can undeniably recognise it in the world, in others, and even in ourselves.

But Jesus' response to us would be the same as it was to Philip and the other disciples. To see God is to know Jesus. To know Jesus is to follow his teachings. To follow his teachings is to love him.

And that is the number one Fruit of the Spirit, isn't it? These fruit as listed in Galatians chapter 5 are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. These are the tells of one who is full of the Spirit. These are the markers of a life that has been changed by Jesus. This is who God forms, reforms, and informs us to be.

Notice nowhere in that list is there power, strength, or might. There is no mention of self-righteousness, piety, or judgementalism. The Fruit of the Spirit doesn't include selfishness, intimidation, and vindictiveness. But all the fruit come from a place of love. Love for God, love for the other, love for ourselves. That is the natural fruit that we display when we are filled with the Spirit. This is how we recognise the Spirit in us and all people: through the acts of grace, mercy, and charity. These are the tells that tell us that we are empowered by the Spirit: displays of welcome for the stranger, forgiveness for the neighbour, and love for all people.

But again, our Spirit-radar won't be 100% as people can be pretty good actors. But I think it's a safe place for us to be in when we act out of love and recognise and lift up love in our lives and in the lives of others. Jesus warns us that there will be people who will come claiming to be like him or even be him, but the litmus test will always be love... selfless, gracious, and humble love. This is the sign of God's people. This is the mark of those who have been changed and renewed by Christ. This is the tell of the Spirit, working in us and through us, guiding us and leading us on paths of peace, righteousness, and empowering us in our role in this one body of Christ.

On this Pentecost Sunday and the season after that is to come, may we be open to the fruit-producing workings of the Spirit in our lives, that we might recognise and be encouraged by the tells in others and ourselves of community, right relationship, and love. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY: God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind (#400)

CREED (HS p. 11)

Together with all those united in the Spirit, let us confess the Christian faith with the Apostle's Creed:

**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 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

With life breathed into us by the Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with, “by your merciful Spirit, O God,” and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. By your merciful Spirit, O God, **hear our prayer**.

Spirit of love, we praise you for all the things you have done and for your eternal presence in our lives. Fill us each day with your grace and mercy that we be united as the one body of Christ. By your merciful Spirit, O God, **hear our prayer**.

Spirit of community, we praise you for the church that you have instituted on earth, as your love is revealed through service and worship. Bless all gatherings in your name, that your kingdom may be furthered and your Word be known. We pray especially for our neighbouring faith communities; those who use this building for worship, work, and play; our partners Anglican Church of Canada and Moravian Church in Canada; and our bishops, rostered ministers, congregations, and ministries of the ELCIC. In particular we pray for Chetwynd Shared Ministry in Chetwynd and all who offer their skills and leadership to serve them; and for Christ Lutheran Church in Chilliwack and their pastor Dean Andersen. By your merciful Spirit, O God, **hear our prayer**.

Spirit of life, we praise you for the lands, the seas, and the airs that you have created and entrusted to us to live in. Instill in us discipline and wisdom that we may properly care for all that you have made and it continue to house us in mutual respect. By your merciful Spirit, O God, **hear our prayer**.

Spirit of justice, we praise you for the diversity of your people and the wide range of cultures and customs that we share. Guide us into the way of peace, that we may learn to live with each other in spite of difference, and that we can appreciate and value each unique perspective on life. We especially pray for the continued support of those that we’ve sponsored to come into this country: Abraham Barhane; Solyana Amanuel; and Filimon Abraha; as well as for those who have not yet arrived: Maekele Kiflu, Selam Haile, and their children; and Mery Gabramikael. By your merciful Spirit, O God, **hear our prayer**.

Spirit of wholeness, we praise you for our bodies and minds, and how you continue to bless them with your love. Be especially with those who are ill, who mourn, or who feel lonely, that your blessing breathed into us always be apparent. Grant to us healing where it is needed, forever welcoming us into your everlasting community. We pray especially for Bryan and Chona; Ron, Tess, and Mineko; Beulah; Olaf; Joe; Bev and family; John and Betty; Sukhwant; Pastor Kristen; Laura; Kandie; Thomas; Will; Chris; Larry; Walter; Piet; Hwee Yang; Ephraim; Kelly; Mardi; and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time... By your merciful Spirit, O God, **hear our prayer**.

Spirit of eternal unity, we praise you for your presence throughout time, and for your intersecting and involvement in our lives. You have blessed us with saints throughout this journey that help to shape and guide our faith. Keep their memories alive in our hearts, that their lessons of life and love always inform us of you and your grace. By your merciful Spirit, O God, **hear our prayer**.

Into your hands, O gracious and merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your promised Spirit and advocate to help and guide us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and places give thanks and praise to you, O God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sends to us your Spirit to walk with us and guide us to join with the choirs of angels, the hosts of heaven, and the whole church on earth to praise your name with this unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (HS p. 15)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

God almighty, full of glory and grace, we have seen your love and mercy in its fullness in the face of Jesus Christ. We give you thanks that you have made us one with him as he is one with you and the Holy Spirit. And it is by this Spirit that we can be united. It is through this Spirit that we can know of your love and grace. And it is because of this Spirit that we can see all that you have done and continue to do for the sake of our salvation.

For on the night that he was betrayed, our Saviour Jesus sat with his friends for a meal, where he took the bread, gave thanks, broke and shared it and said, "Take and eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Then after they ate, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave to them to drink from 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."

It is in this bread and cup that we are reminded of your mighty acts of mercy, celebrated in this feast of blessing with all the saints, offering to you the proclamation of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

You sent to us your Spirit to bless this meal. You give us your Son to declare us as heirs of your gospel. In your sovereignty you lift us up as a united kingdom and community through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (HS p. 18)

Brought together to be one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 COMMUNION

Taste and see God's Spirit residing among us.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: Lamb of God (HS p. 18)

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading (#401)

As the Grains of Wheat (#465)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, again your blessing in this bread and cup has nourished us with your love and grace.

May your Spirit rest upon us as we go from here, that we be led and guided to bring honour and glory to your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May God the Holy Shepherd lead you and guide you into community and peace,
God the Holy Saviour lift you up in love and unity,
And God the Holy Spirit fill you with grace, mercy, and bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: Go, My Children, with My Blessing (#543)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, be one in the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.