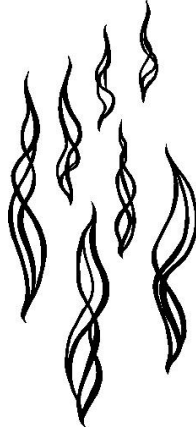




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**Day of Pentecost  
May 24, 2026  
Now the Feast and Celebration  
Hymnal Supplement (1991)**

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. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. 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.

*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 hən̓q̓əmiñəm̓ (Musqueam) and Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

## GATHERING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP AND BLESSING OF THE NEW BANNER

We gather in awe of the Lord our God who, with everlasting wisdom, has created all things and invites us to live together in community and blessing. For God's hands are open and full of good things, ready to empower us and all people in our worship and service. And so we give thanks for this banner that has been remodified by Judith with the creativity and skill that God has given her, to aid in our observance and remembrance of the seasons. May it be for us and all who gaze upon its artistic beauty, set apart as a symbol of the Spirit at work among and through us as a congregation and people of God, as it adorns this space and our hearts. May we be moved then, with all living things small and great, to worship and praise our God for strengthening and nourishing us as we give God all glory and honour in all that we say and do, gladly singing, praying, and being in God's Spirit forever. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**GREETING HYMN:** Spirit of Gentleness (#396)

#### GREETING

The border-removing grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wall-breaking love of God, and the barrier-lifting 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, like a mighty rushing wind your Spirit moved upon the first disciples on the day of Pentecost, and like a purifying fire your message of salvation was seared on all our hearts and minds. May this same Spirit be among us this day, that our courage be stirred, our witness be prophetic, and our proclamation of your truth be heard across cultures, traditions, and languages, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

## WORD

#### FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

A reading from Acts.

*Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.*

<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 people 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, “Fellow Jews 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,  
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: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

<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: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

*Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.*

<sup>3b</sup> No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (HS p. 8)**

### **GOSPEL: John 20:19-23**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit, speak to us in the language of our hearts, that we might hear and see you with understanding and answer your call with confidence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

So I've been back from a short week off for like a full 7 days now and I still don't think I've recovered yet. Nothing really bad happened or anything, but it's just that it was very tiring. Oh, so very mind-blowingly tiring.

In case you don't know what I'm talking about, I took last week off because I had volunteered to help chaperone our oldest son's band on their trip out to the Musicfest Canada's Nationals in Ontario. This wasn't a competition per se, but more of a ranking and learning system for some of the better high school bands across the country. Their band was planning this trip for a while, since they got the invite to go about a year ago. And the excitement among the kids was so evident in the preparations, the meetings, and even in the fundraising, which I guess might have contributed to how very fatiguing the trip was. I knew there was going to be a good number of students going, but I guess I wasn't totally prepared for just how many there would be. The final count was like 60 kids spread over 8 chaperones.

That's not that bad, you might think, that's like an average of 7 and half kids per adult. But still, that meant the group consisted of almost 70 very different and unique personalities, individual energies, and a wide range of needs and wants and apparently, triggers. Again, like I said, nothing really bad happened. There weren't any full-blown fights or any major conflict or anything like that, not that I saw at least. But as you would imagine, things weren't always exactly smooth sailing for the whole 5 days of the trip. There were a couple of rough patches here and there. We found ourselves at times on troubled waters. And of course, occasionally some feelings were rubbed the wrong way.

But in spite of all that, the kids stuck through it. I mean it's not like they really had a choice as they were roughly 3,411 kilometers from home (I counted on the way over), so they were kind of confined to the trip and with each other. Having said that though, I was actually impressed with these kids, these very different kids from very different upbringings that have very different socio-economic backgrounds and were so very different in their levels of coolness. I was impressed in that, in the midst of all of their differences, they got along pretty well. A lot better than I ever would have ever expected, at least.

I mean sure, this is a group of over-achieving students from Burnaby that we're talking about, so of course, at least 90% of them are Asian, so any racial tensions could be taken right out of the picture. But really, their ethnicity or where their parents may have come from was just a small, small, tip of the iceberg of difference that they faced amongst each other. I thought I could recognise and pinpoint the different personalities too from my days of growing up in the Lower Mainland. Like I thought I knew who the rich kids were and what they'll be like, or the popular kids, the athletes, the studious ones, the clowns, and all those other stereotypes we might have dealt with in our pasts or even through the media.

But from what I saw, on the most part these kids put all that aside and were united by this one common thread: that they were this accomplished high school band, all with their own parts to play and contributions to make, together wanting to make music that can be shared with the world. It didn't matter what instrument they played, how old they were, or where they fell in

the social hierarchy that I was a part of for so long. All that didn't matter to them as much as playing good music together did.

I don't know, it was all quite... *harmonious*. Pun very much intended.

I've never been in band like this in school or anything, so I can't really compare from experience. But the level of commitment I saw from these kids really was inspiring. Not just to their craft of their own instrument, whatever that was, but again to the relationship, the comradery, the teamwork among their bandmates that allowed them to be the best they could be.

So strong was this bond that it crossed all these barriers and labels that much of society has created to separate and divide us from each other. So tight was their connection that they saw past the images and facades of the teenage life and learned to accept each other as they are or aren't or even as they hoped they would be. So important was their community that they learned to cohabitate in... *peace*.

And while I didn't expect to get some theological learning on this trip, it was proven yet again that God works in mysterious ways. Because to me, what I saw in these kids was the Spirit of peace that was breathed upon the disciples by Jesus, and then was manifested as flame in that same group just a few weeks later on the day of Pentecost. That flame ignited their hearts, purified their community, and showed them how to tear down the walls that divided them.

The walls of language. The divisions of culture. Even the separation of time. All removed completely from this community and left them as united.

See this festival of Pentecost was a big deal back in those days. Happening 50 days after the Passover, it was one of the few harvest festivals the ancient Israelites observed. And like all the other festivals, people from all over the known world would gather at the central hub of worship and Jewish identity in Jerusalem to give thanks for another year of providence and God's grace.

And this is the backdrop in which the disciples find themselves, together with their freshly minted replacement for Judas Iscariot, Mattias. Not since that night that Jesus was arrested had they been as complete and whole as they were now. Complete and whole, but surrounded by diversity, difference, and the hustle and bustle of that festival life. Although they were numbered as 12 again, significant in their Jewish numerology in symbolising community, good order, and fullness, they might have felt still a bit incomplete without Jesus at the helm. While they were reunited with their call as Jesus' disciples and apostles in the world, they were separated from everyone else like a horse with no name. Even though they were literally at home, they may have identified themselves as outsiders without a leader.

And it's in that, in the diversity, in the segregation, in the reasons to be isolated even when not alone, that the Holy Spirit appears and fills the hole that was left by Jesus not just with love and faith, but with a common and shared purpose of community, relationship, and unity. The unity that bridges differences. The relationship that teaches us to serve and live with and for others. The community that shows us and all people how we belong to the one body of Christ: welcomed, redeemed, and saved by God.

So just as my son's band, while numbering a lot more than the 12 disciples, were able to see past the diversity, put aside their differences, and communally lifted up and honoured each other's unique contribution to the melody of their music and life in general, so can we, as disciples of Christ and by the power of the Spirit, learn to live together, work together, and be together as God's children in a world in such need of a Saviour.

See, this is what I believe this day is all about. That we be reminded of how to see and recognise the Spirit at work in our lives. That we be open to how the Spirit is present among us, among our community, and in all people whether we like them or not. That we be able to hear the song of love and grace, filling us in our weakness, emboldening us in our strengths, and revealing to us our place in this body of Christ, where we can positively contribute to the betterment and healing of the world with the proclamation of the promises of God, the peace of Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit, with, among, and through us all.

So on this Pentecost Sunday that leads us into the season after Pentecost, may we see our role in God's plan, how we fit in Christ's family, and how we are gifted and empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve, to live in community, and to love one another in right relationship. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

**CREED** (HS p. 11)

Together with all of God's people welcomed into community, 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**

Led into community and compassion, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with "by your manifold mercy, O Lord," and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. By your manifold mercy, O Lord, **hear our prayer**.

O God, your works are wondrous and we praise your name for joining us in community and revealing to all the truth of your love and grace. May our lives be a proclamation of the good that you do, that your very nature be reflected in all that we are in your name. By your manifold mercy, O Lord, **hear our prayer.**

O God, your wisdom is seen and felt in our communities and relationships as we are empowered by your truth and promises. Strengthen us in our ministry, that your gracious forgiveness and redemption be apparent to all. We lift up in prayer 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. We specifically lift in prayer out of our BC Synod Chetwynd Shared Ministry in Chetwynd and all the pastors and leaders that serve them; and Christ Lutheran Church in Chilliwack as they discern their future. By your manifold mercy, O Lord, **hear our prayer.**

O God, by your wisdom you created the earth and all its creatures, both small and great. Give us a sense of appreciation for all that you've made and entrusted to us, that our stewardship be increased and our actions be for the good of all creation. By your manifold mercy, O Lord, **hear our prayer.**

O God, your glory endures forever and we look to your face for justice and peace. Instill in all world leaders, politicians, and people of influence a sense of your wisdom and grace, that all the nations might one day live in harmony. We also pray for the continued support of those that we've sponsored to come into our 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 Meri Gabramikael. By your manifold mercy, O Lord, **hear our prayer.**

O God, we will sing to you throughout our lives, praise you while we have our being, and rejoice in your name through the ups and downs that we go through as individuals and together as a community. Be with those among us who are facing hardship, whether they be sick, downcast, or lonely, that we all be reminded of your everlasting presence and providence. Especially we pray for Kathy and family; Bryan and Chona; Ron, Tess, and Mineko; Greg and Aikiko; Bev and family; John and Betty; Sukhwant; Pastor Kristen; Pastor Carol; Laura; Kandie; Will; Chris; Larry; Walter; Piet; Kelly; Betty; Ngan Kew (nan CUE); Matt; Patty; and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time...  
By your manifold mercy, O Lord, **hear our prayer.**

O God, may our words of rejoicing be pleasing to you as you welcome us to live with you and all the saints in your kingdom forever. May we always be reminded of the inspiration of faith of the past through your Spirit, and may we be strengthened by the eternal love that we share in your name. By your manifold mercy, O Lord, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the gift of your Spirit in our midst, promised to us by 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 by the power of your Spirit continues to live and act in and around our lives, joining us together with all of the choirs of angels, the hosts of heaven and the church on earth in praising your name with this unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** (HS p. 15)

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy God, you are mighty and holy and in you we have nothing to fear. You remain present among us, leading us and guiding us into your inclusive love, showing us the ways of your righteousness and grace. And in the fullness of time, you send to us your Son, Jesus, to fill us with your Spirit of peace, community, and love.

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

And then after they ate, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it 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."

So it is in this bread and cup that we see the fullness of your grace and mercy, joining us together in love, solidifying in us the truth of our faith that we proclaim:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

So it is to you, O God, that all honour and glory belong, for bringing us together, for sending Jesus to be with us as one of us, and for gifting us your Spirit of truth and peace, empowering us to be your people in the world for the sake of your world, now and forever. **Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** (HS p. 18)

Brought together as 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 joining us together as God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:** Lamb of God (HS p. 18)  
Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading (#401)  
Veni Sancte Spiritus (#406)

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy God, in faith you have given us food for our souls, by faith you have strengthened us for your work, and through faith you continue to guide us by your Spirit. May all that we do and all that we are be pleasing to you through Jesus Christ and by the power of your Spirit. **Amen.**

### **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

May the Sovereign God bless you with love, grace, and peace,  
the Saviour God sustain you in joy and hope,  
and the Spirit of God fill you with courage and strength, this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** We Know That Christ Is Raised (#449)

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, be witnesses of God's love in what we do and who we are.  
**Thanks be to God.**