

# Day of Pentecost

Sunday, June 8, 2025

## Introduction to the day

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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.**

## 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.*

## PSALM: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 104:30)

## 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.*

## GOSPEL: John 14:8-17 [25-27]

The holy gospel according to John.

*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.*

## DAY OF PENTECOST - Let's Dance!

What on earth actually happened on this day of Pentecost? What was the miracle that revealed the presence of God? What was the Holy Spirit up to?

In the Acts of the Apostles we hear that the disciples spoke in various languages (2:4). Are we hearing about a miracle of the tongue, an ability to speak so that others might understand? The scripture also says each person in the crowd heard the disciples "speaking in the native language of each" (v. 6). Did we just hear that it was in fact a miracle of the ear? Is this story about people being able to comprehend the power of God's presence?

In a broken world, in a world of "me, me, me first," our impulse is often to choose one interpretation or the other—and to make sure we end up on the "correct," winning side of the discussion. But when we return to the death of Jesus on the cross, observed some fifty days ago, we see that he offers us a third and holy option. Rather than taking sides in our walk with Jesus, we align with his heart, capable of embracing all.

To consider that the Pentecost story is a miracle of *both* the tongue and the ear is to accept a beautiful invitation—an invitation, at the birth of the church, to enter into a sacred dance of both speaking and listening.

To consider it a dance would be to acknowledge a natural flow of the Spirit drawing us to not one or the other but to both in loving turn.

In John's gospel reading for the day, Jesus says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (14:15). The commandment Jesus speaks of is "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (13:34).

Speak, listen, and love: this is how we dance together.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

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.**

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.**

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.**

We pray for the sick in body, mind, or spirit especially Shirley Glickman, Donna L. Hoffman, Cassie Jessup, Bill Lorbetskie, Glenda Panke, Barry Rogers, Marilyn Schneider, Danny Schultz, Doug Sell, Debbie Thom, Keith Weckwerth, and those in long term care facilities and senior residences. Lift up all who have been bowed low by circumstances or internal strife. Bring to wholeness those who cry out to you in need. In this moment of silence we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts those who need your healing touch. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this congregation (especially Cohen who affirmed their baptism this day). 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.**

We offer thanks for the faithful departed who now rest in you. Today, we remember our sisters Clara Behm and Janet Ott. Let their lives encourage our own daily living. Console us with the promise of eternal life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 115)**  
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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