

# Day of Pentecost

Sunday, May 24, 2026

## Introduction to the day

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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

*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.*

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

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

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

*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.*

## GOSPEL: John 20:19-23

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

## DAY OF PENTECOST - Deep Breath

In the world of the Bible, the word *breath* is synonymous with "life." Breath is necessary for a creature to be considered alive; where there isn't breath, there isn't life. Breath from God animates—brings to life—the creature formed from dust, the first human. When Jesus dies on the cross, three of the four gospels describe the moment using the phrase "breathed his last."

In today's gospel reading, Jesus appears to the disciples after the resurrection and offers his body to them for inspection. His scarred hands and side reveal that he is, in fact, Jesus, who was crucified. He is not an impostor. The disciples rejoice at the recognition. Next, Jesus breathes on them, a clear physical and symbolic assurance that he is not just a body but a *living* body. The breath that was once spent and gone has returned. He is not reanimated; he is *resurrected*. He has life in him again!

When Jesus breathes on his disciples, he also invites them to receive the Holy Spirit. This moment is extraordinary. Jesus animates the disciples in the same way God animated Adam: by bestowing divine breath, which brings not only physical life but spiritual life as well. Moreover, Jesus reveals that the Holy Spirit he promised to the disciples is, in fact, his own animating Spirit.

The earth-shaking wind of the Spirit at Pentecost is also an intimate breath of life. Through this divine exhale, there is the gift of life—body *and* spirit—and the enduring promise of resurrection.

Spend a few moments today doing some deep breathing as you give thanks for God’s gift of breath and for the Holy Spirit.

## **SERMON**

### **PRESENTATION (ELW p. 234)**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of *their* baptism.

I present *Bella, Brandt, Gavin and Sophie*, who *desire* to make public affirmation of *their* baptism.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

O God, you send the Holy Spirit to gather your church into one. Inspire all ministers of the gospel to speak prophetic and hope-filled words to all whom they encounter. Bless the work of interreligious dialogue.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. Protect all living things, bring forth clean water and abundant food, and grant us wonder as we contemplate all you have made. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to break down the barriers of communication among nations. Bestow peace in war-torn areas, guide all in government and society to work for justice, and guard those serving in the armed forces, especially this weekend as we remember those who died in service to their country. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to accompany those who feel abandoned. Provide food for those who hunger and drink for those who thirst, soothe those who are anxious or bereaved, comfort those who are sick or suffering, and answer all who call upon your name especially Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Shirley Glickman, Donna L. Hoffman, Glenda Panke, Marilyn Schneider, Carolyn Schroeder, Heather Schruder, Doug Sell, Kimberly Thom, Roy Zadow those in long term care facilities and senior residences. In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those who need your healing touch. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit through the gift of baptism. Bless both those preparing for or affirming their baptism. May they be encouraged by this community of faith as they live out their baptismal promises. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to console us in our grief. Today, we remember our brother Keith Weckwerth. We give you thanks for our ancestors in the faith whose witness to your mighty works continues to inspire our lives. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray 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.**

**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.**

**BLESSING (ELW p. 114)**

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**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

**Announcements:**

**Sunday, May 24th - Day of Pentecost**

**9:00 AM** – Bonnechere – Holy Communion

**10:30 AM** - Grace – Holy Communion

Confirmation Sunday

**Monday, May 25th**

**9: 00 AM to 3:00 PM** - Quilting at Grace

7:00 PM – Grace Council

**Tuesday, May 26th**

**10:00 AM** – Bible Study

**Thursday, May 28th**

**9:00 AM to 11:30 AM** – Toy Bus

**10:00 AM** – Grace Choir

**Friday, May 29th**

Pastor's Day Off

**Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 PM – Grace Cemetery

Graveside Service for Beverly Schroeder

**Sunday, May 31st - Trinity Sunday**

**9:15 AM** – Fellowship prior to worship

Meeting of the Joint Council

**10:30 AM** - Joint Service at Grace – Holy Communion

=====

**Just a Reminder:**

**Starting June 7, 2026 to Sunday, August 30, 2026**

**services times are as follows:**

**9:00 AM** – Grace Eganville

**10:30 AM** - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

**St. John's, Bonnechere**