

Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church, 2006 60th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin



May 23, 2021

Gathering Liturgy for Pentecost Sunday

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C Amen

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To

you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.



GATHERING SONG: "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind" (ELW #400) vv. 1 & 4

1 *God of tempest, God of whirlwind,
as on Pentecost descend!
Drive us out from sheltered comfort;
past these walls your people send!
Sweep us into costly service,
there with Christ to bear the cross,
there with Christ to bear the cross!*

4 *God of passion, God unsleeping,
stir in us love's restlessness!
Where the people cry in anguish,
may we share your heart's distress.
Rouse us from content with evil;
claim us for your kingdom's work,
claim us for your kingdom's work!*

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)
This is the feast of victory for our God.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.*

This is the feast of victory for our God.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.*

This is the feast of victory for our God.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:*

*Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever.
Amen.*

This is the feast of victory for our God.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia.*

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world.

Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and

reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Readings for Pentecost Sunday

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.’”

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!**

Romans 8:22–27

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for

adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved.

Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

GOSPEL: John 15:26–27, 16:4b–15

Jesus said, ²⁶“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the

Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. ...

^{16:4b}“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am

going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

Pastor Barker's Sermon on Acts 2

Have you ever thought to yourself, “what difference can one person make?” Or maybe you’ve thought, “I can’t make a difference because I’m too young, or too old, or not rich, or don’t have influential connections” and the list could go on and on.

If we think about it, our culture has a very limited view of who can truly be a leader. Ivy League graduate-from-a-wealthy-or-well-positioned-family-and-the-list-of-identities-could-go-on-and-on.

Pentecost throws this whole vision of leadership on its head.

There are people gathered from a huge swath of what we would now call Europe, Asia, and North Africa. Almost all of these people come from the far reaches of the Roman Empire and some come from neighboring areas like

Mesopotamia. In terms of Roman culture, this is not a group of influential people—almost all people from backwoods parts of the empire and people who lived outside of what the Romans deemed civilized.

The Holy Spirit descends on this group of people. This is a powerful reminder that the Holy Spirit knows no difference between language, nationality, or race. It descends on all people Pentecost and does so

to this day.

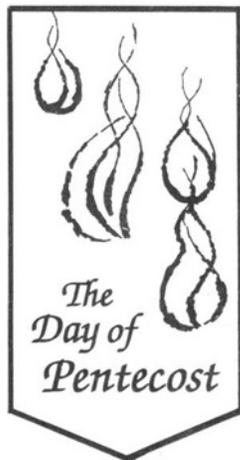
But, it’s not just that it descends on this diverse group of people. Peter explains what is happening by quoting the prophet Joel: “I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men

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.”

So, Pentecost is not just about the Holy Spirit descending upon people who speak different languages and are from different nationalities but it is poured out on people from every age group—the young and the old—and in the Biblical mind this type of phrase that bookends a range is meant to include the middle part as well. So it could be said, everyone from the young sons and daughters to your old men.

But it’s not just age diversity, it includes gender diversity, “both men and women,” and tremendous economic diversity including even slaves.

And, if you think about this, to this day our churches at their best are organized around



Pentecost. There are Christians who have received the Holy Spirit on every continent and from every country. And again, it's not just national or racial diversity but a diversity of age, and class, and gender.

In fact, in the ELCA, our denomination, a couple of weeks ago our first openly trans bishop was elected, Bishop Megan Rohrer, to serve as bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod.

So, it is essential that each one of us realized that the Holy Spirit is for us. We can't make excuses for why we can't have the Holy Spirit. There is no "I can't make a difference" or "I'm not fill-in the blank enough" with the Holy Spirit.

Now, what does the Holy Spirit do on Pentecost and to this day.

On the first Pentecost we see three things happen.

First, the Holy Spirit brings this group of people together. They can understand one

another because of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit forms them into the first church. So, the Holy Spirit serves as an identity creator and also a bond that links us with other folks who have the Holy Spirit.

Second, Peter explains to us that the Holy Spirit empowers us for prophecy, visions, and dreams. Now, this is not primarily about being able to tell the future. If we look at prophecy, including the Prophet Joel, prophecy is about speaking on behalf of God. And this speaking is centered around two things. First, it is centered around calling God's people to repent from ways they are living with injustice towards God, one another, and strangers. Second, it is centered around beautifully hopeful images of what the future will hold if God's people are faithful.

Third, the Holy Spirit empowers this first church to eradicate poverty by sharing all

of their possessions with one another.

At Grace we have so powerfully seen how the Holy Spirit has descended upon our whole church. I think of Ian, one of our teenagers, who last summer during the pandemic lived out this call of sharing by organizing Project Lunchbox. Each week he led a team that he recruited to put together dozens of boxes of food to help our neighbors who found themselves in especially dire circumstances because of the pandemic. Or I think of our dear sister Holly, who is on the other end of our age spectrum, who has invited so many people to visit our church. I think of her inviting Aariah and her family one night to join us—and although we don't see them as much as we used to, they still come for diapers on Thursday.

Let us keep living boldly with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Creed, Prayers, and Communion Liturgy

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"
(ELW #398) vv. 1 & 5

1 *Holy Spirit, truth divine,
dawn upon this soul of mine;
breath of God and inward light,
wake my spirit, clear my sight.*

5 *Holy Spirit, right divine,
King within my conscience reign;
Be my guide, and I shall be
Firmly bound, forever free.*

CREED

P Confident in Christ's resurrection, let us proclaim our faith:

C **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.

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYERS "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (ELW #752)

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P 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.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of life, your mighty works are too numerous to count. The earth is full of your creatures, living things both great and small. Open your hand and give them the necessities of this life. Send your fresh Spirit over the face of the earth. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P 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.

C Your mercy is great.

P 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, especially:

- Mary Andrews (Welcome Center volunteer from St. Anthony's)
- Dawn Bench (Welcome Center volunteer)
- Doug Becker (Marlene Binninger's son)
- Jackie Brichacek (Nancy's sister-in-law)
- Jean Boothe (Grace soup kitchen supervisor)
- Hank Buehrens
- Andrew Calvert
- Pat Calvert
- Barb Caputo
- Holly Cummings
- Eric Dangerfield (Carolyn Reynold's boyfriend)
- Connie, mother of Welcome Center volunteer Lynda Eirich
- Gregory Foster
- Steve Gapko
- Shirleen Gulick
- Aggie Hartnell (Bert Felland's mother)
- Sydney Houston
- Jacqueline & David Kramer
- David Kristopeit (Nancy's brother-in-law)
- Dorothy Keuffer
- Dean O'Hanlon
- Carolyn Reynold's children Eddie, Santino, and Lytoshia
- Cynthia Schwartz (Norma's daughter)
- Marcia Swanson
- Joyce Swift
- Linda Wadham
- Florence and Jacqueline Walker (Carolyn's sisters)

- Dottie Watts
 - Kristi Weiss (Rollie's daughter);
- Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of love, fill this congregation, Grace 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.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of hope, those who have died in you raise their eternal song of praise. We give you thanks for the many gifts of your people and rejoice in the witness of your saints (*especially...*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING. "We Give Thee but Thine Own" (ELW #686)

*1 We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING. SONG: "O Holy Spirit, Root of Life" (ELW #399) vv. 1 & 3

*1 O Holy Spirit, root of life,
creator, cleanser of all things:
anoint our wounds, awaken us
with lustrous movement of your wings.*

4 O Holy Wisdom, soaring power,

*encompass us with wings unfurled,
and carry us, encircling all
above, below, and through the world.*

DIALOGUE & PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might:*

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this

is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, 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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into

us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P With [name/s and] your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C **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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;



grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG “God Be with You Till We Meet Again” (ELW #536) vv. 1 & 3

1 *God be with you till we meet again;
by good counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd’s care enfold you;*

God be with you till we meet again.

*Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus’ feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.*

3 *God be with you till we meet again;
when life’s perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again.* Refrain.

DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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Altar flowers today are given by Marlene Binninger for the glory of God and in celebration of her birthday.



Congregational Meeting Approves Cooler, Sabbatical and Leave Policies

Grace members attending last Sunday’s congregational meeting voted to allow Grace Welcome Center to put a walk-in freezer next to the walk in refrigerator in the Rainbow Room. Grace Welcome Center is now moving forward to present a beautification plan for the area, including repainting the walls and moving the light fixture.

The congregation also approved a second motion to adopt our synod’s model family leave policy and sabbatical policy, as described in last week’s *Grace Notes*. The church

council and Pastor Barker explained how these two policies would fit together in his life over the next several years.

Grace Receipts: May 16, 2021

General offering	\$ 1,152.00
Benevolence	\$ 160.00
Non-members, non-designated.....	\$ 65.00
Noisy offering.....	\$ 1.90
<u>Minus banking fees.....</u>	<u>\$ (9.10)</u>
Total	\$ 1,369.80
Grace weekly budget in 2021:	\$ 3,224.20



Garden Project Seeks Help Weeding, Watering

Things are moving forward at the Garden Project. Most of the raised beds have been planted. The Garden Project now needs help to keep the garden watered and weeded. All the materials needed are at the garden, at 2011 57th Street,

Kenosha. We have created an online schedule, so feel free to sign up for a watering/weeding day. It takes 45 minutes to an hour to water.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/dd8es747> to access the watering/weeding

schedule. There is a space for two people per day to sign up. Choose a day and come at the time that works best for you.

Questions? Need instructions? Contact Margie at breck2227@gmail.com.

Grace Lutheran Church
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<https://www.GraceKenosha.com>

Worship services in-person and livestreaming at www.facebook.com/GraceElcaKenosha/ 9:30 a.m. Sunday

Pastor Jonathan Barker: jonathan.w.barker17@gmail.com 626-864-6404

Church office: graceoffice@wi.rr.com ☎ 262-654-9143

Office hours: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday

May Lauds

Laud to Bill Gregory for climbing up the ladder this week to replace burnt out light bulbs. Thank you so much Bill for brightening up our sanctuary!

Laud to Scott Houston for looking at the toilet that isn't working in the downstairs women's bathroom. Thanks for coming by after an all-night shift!

Pastor Is Away This Week

Pastor Barker will be away on vacation May 24 through June 1. Pastor Jim Lynch of Lakeshore Lutheran Church (262-654-7113) will be available for emergencies.

Please welcome Pastor Warren Williams as our guest preacher next Sunday, May 30.

Chris and Florence from Kindred Kitties make sure the cats of our Grace Welcome Center clients are well fed.

