



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.

Pentecost Sunday
Sunday, May 28th, 2023—9:30 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church
Helena, Montana

*(Please respond with the words in **bold print** and stand, as you are able, at the places marked with an *)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Alelluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty,
you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.

In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.

Empower our witness to your resurrection.

Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.

Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.

Where despair prevails, grant hope.

Where chaos reigns, bring peace.

We ask this through Christ,

who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.

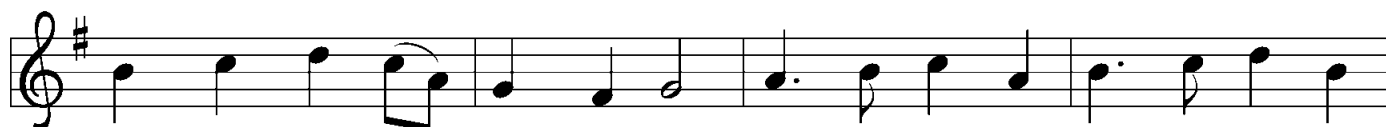
***Opening Hymn“God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind” ELW #400**



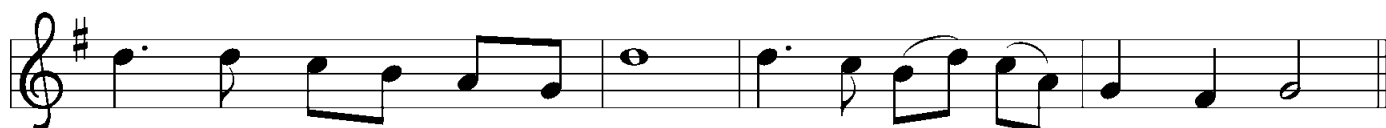
1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl - wind, as on Pen - te -
 2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your
 3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from
 4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's



cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;
 pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,
 leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,
 rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,



past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,
 let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,
 for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;
 may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;



there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!
 kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!
 make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!
 claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

***Greeting**

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

*Canticle of Praise.....“Now the Feast and Celebration”



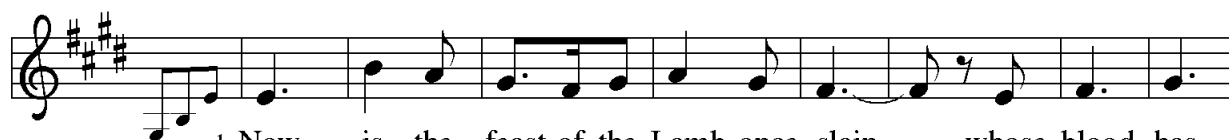
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

***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.

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." ¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, 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. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

^{3b}No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. ¹²For 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. ¹³For 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**

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

***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.

Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples

rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Worship arts materials for all ages are available in the back of the church for you to use and enjoy during worship.

Sermon.....Pastor Keith Weatherford

Silence for reflection follows the sermon

***Hymn of the Day....."Children of the Heavenly Father" ELW #781**



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Baptism of Liam Patrick Menahan.....ELW pg. 227

***Prayers of Intercession**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

***Prayer Response** *(Each portion of the prayers ends with these words.)*

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

***Sharing of the Peace**

(...Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19))

As Christ welcomed everyone, let us open our hearts and lives and be like Christ to everyone we meet. The peace of the Lord be with you,
And also with you.

(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say "Peace be with you" or similar words.)

Offering

(An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need and the communion table is set.)

Offertory MusicSt. John's Sanctuary Choir
"On the Day of Pentecost" by Douglas Nolan

***Offering Prayer**

Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life, and so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Words of Institution

For in the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you, do this in 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 which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." As we have died with Christ so have we risen with Him. Remembering this life saving grace and resurrection, we join with all creation in praising Your name.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. Amen!

*Lords Prayer

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

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

(We celebrate open communion and all who are baptized are welcome to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.)

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." *Refrain*

2 You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. *Refrain*

3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. *Refrain*

4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise. *Refrain*

***Prayer after Communion**

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.
Amen.

***Benediction**

The God of all, who raised ✙ Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.
Amen.

***Sending Hymn....."O Day Full of Grace" ELW #627, verses 1, 2, 4**



1 O day full of grace that now we see ap - pear - ing on
 2 O day full of grace, O bless - ed time, our Lord on the
 3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own, when he on the
 4 God came to us then at Pen - te - cost, the Spir - it new
 5 When we on that fi - nal jour - ney go that Christ is for



earth's ho - ri - zon, bring light from our God that we may
 earth ar - riv - ing; then came to the world that light sub -
 cross was hang - ing; and then he a - rose and moved the
 life re - veal - ing, that we might no more in death be
 us pre - par - ing, we'll gath - er in song, our hearts a -



be a - bun - dant in joy this sea - son. God, shine for us
 lime, great joy for us all re - triev - ing; for Je - sus all
 stone, that we, un - to him be - long - ing, might join with an -
 lost, its pow'r o - ver us dis - pel - ling. This flame will the
 glow, all joy of the heav - ens shar - ing, and there we will



now in this dark place; your name on our hearts em - bla - zon.
 mor - tals did em - brace, all shame and des - pair re - mov - ing.
 gel - ic hosts to raise our voic - es in end - less sing - ing.
 mark of sin ef - face and bring to us all true heal - ing.
 join God's end - less praise, with an - gels and saints a - dor - ing.

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

Ministering in Worship

Preaching & Presiding	Pastor Keith Weatherford
Assisting Minister	Lorrie Vennes, LPA
Organist	Dodie Walsh
Choir Director	Connie Conley
Technology	Angela Conley
Acolytes	Kate Lee, Maria Lee, Ayla Munding-Adsay
Ushers	Greg Field, Gail Vennes
Lectors	Ian Gutierrez, Kate Lee, Gwynn Munding, Kirsten Weatherford, Jennifer Wintersteen
Communion Servers	John & Gwynn Munding, Pr. Neal & Mary Ruedisili
Altar Guild	Mait Board, Mildred Twingley, Jennifer Wintersteen
Witness to the Gospel	Members of St. John's Lutheran Church

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In our prayers: Christina Tielking, Tammy Tetrault, Susan Boettcher, Dick and Barbara Wolgamott, Ken Downing, Dean Rueb, Mark and Renee Slocum, Laurel, Rosita Moe, Tom Morrow, Bruce Gottwig, Vicki Alpiner, Bob Sorensen, Larry Brandvold, Deb Berg, Anne Tennant, Meg Biggs and family, Karen Sturm, Erma Polich, Dale Twingley, Richard Bomar, Emma Rose Plute, Jeff Shirley, Jeremy Stockstad, Tatiana Ceaicovschi, Chris Gibbs, Randy Holmes, Lester Anderson

For those who have died and now rest in God's merciful care:

Marge Mihelish, Troy McGee, Wanda Kruckenberg, Niki Right, and all the Saints in heaven

On the occasion of their baptism: Liam Patrick Menahan

For those in residential living centers, extended care or homebound:

Rosita Moe, Hazel Aasved, Esther Fuehrer, Julie Wolff, Adeline Rasmussen, Susan DeBree, Bill Mattfeldt, Jimmie McGee, Karen Nave, Mary Gardinier

For those who are deployed and getting ready to deploy: Grayson Alm

Missionaries: Willie, Anne, and Micah Langdji in Cameroon
Missionaries around the world

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Monday, May 29th: Memorial Day, Office Closed

Wednesday, May 31st: No Midweek Connection Summer Edition

Saturday, June 3rd: ITA Therapy Dog Training 9:00 am-1:00 pm

May Social Ministry Offering-ELCA Good Gifts

To support and coordinate with the Sunday School “Goat Sale”, ELCA Good Gifts will be the Social Ministry cause for the entire month of May. Animal gifts given through ELCA Good Gifts are some of the most popular gifts that they offer in their catalogue. These gifts support the sustainable development ministries of ELCA World Hunger, which include training, education, and resources to help the community care for animals and to create new market opportunities like starting a small business of selling eggs, meat or dairy products. The Sunday School chose goats this year because they are able to live in harsh climates (cold & hot), they can live in a variety of landscapes, and they provide many resources to a community. Please support this “boots on the ground” ministry by sending in your money to the office or place your offering in a pew envelope and check the “Social Ministry” box.

Open House & Packing Party on Sunday, June 4 at Rebekah’s

Drop by 2155 Alpine Dr. anytime between 2:30 and 6:30 on Sunday afternoon.

Beer, Wine, Non-alcoholic beverages, and Snacks will be available to reward your packing efforts.

Update from the Synodical Women’s Organization

Members of the Montana/Northern Wyoming Synodical Woman’s Organization (SWO) Board will be assisting with registration and voting at Synod Assembly on June 2 and 3. In an effort to get women involved in the Women of the ELCA, we will be holding a drawing for a basket of goodies at the SWO table. If you would like to contribute a hand-crafted item to the basket, please let Rebekah know so she can take it with her to Great Falls on June 1.

Midweek Summer Connection

A reminder no Midweek Summer Connection on Wednesday, May 31st. We will resume with our regular schedule on Wednesday, June 7th with dinner at 5:30 pm, worship with Holy Communion at 6:30 pm, and a time for Fellowship at 7:00 pm. Our weekly space of grace is open to all and we would love to see you on June 7th as we want to hear from you directly what you would like this summer. How can we shape our programming this summer to best fit what you need for your spirit and soul? Do you need food? Worship? Community time? All of the above? A combination of the above? We look forward to the conversation!

VBS/Day Camp with FLBC-We still have space!

We are excited to host **VBS/Day Camp** with our favorite counselors from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp again this summer. VBS/Day Camp is designed to be a fun highlight of the summer, while providing opportunities for growth in faith, leadership, and friendship. Day Campers experience these gifts through a wide range of carefully crafted programs and activities (worship, Bible study, service projects, community building games, outdoor time, and much more!)

Who: Kids ages 4-Kindergarten & Kids entering 1st Grade
and through 6th Grade this fall

When: June 19-23 daily from 9:00 am-1:30 pm

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church (1000 Helena Avenue)

Cost: \$50 for the week-scholarships available

Theme: Holy Trinity. Wholly Love.

Registration forms are available online on our website or in the church office. Please fill out the form and return to the church office with your payment.

P.S. Have you aged out of camp? We would love to have our Middle School and High School kids help out junior counselors and we will have a Youth Night on Wednesday, June 21st free of charge.

P.P.S. Are you an adult who still wants a VBS/Day Camp experience? We will have MANY opportunities to help so please stay tuned! We promise it is the best week of the summer.



Holy Trinity. Wholly Love.

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first
and the last, the beginning and the end."*

Revelation 22:13

Quilters and School Kits Annual Report 2022-2023

So starts another year.

On May 12th the truck rolled into Helena and we loaded 151 school kits and 167 quilts that will be sent around the world by ELCA World Relief.

The quilters are always looking for twin, queen or large flat sheets or nice cotton or cotton blend material. Be on the lookout for them while you are at garage sales, etc. White sheets are discouraged by the ELCA because of the lack of laundry facilities in most countries.

We gave graduates quilts, and supplied quilts for baby and adult baptisms, Festival of Angels, God's Love, Flat Head Bible Camp, and Project Promise.

This years' school supplies will be on sale soon. The following list is the same as last years'

- Four 70 sheet note books
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils
- One ruler with both inches and centimeters
- Five black or blue ink pens
- One pencil sharpener
- One box 24 crayons
- One blunt scissor
- One 2 ½ inch eraser

This year with your help we hope to meet our goal of two hundred quilts and two hundred school kits. Collection boxes are in the narthex.

This project of love could not be accomplished without all of the congregations help.

God's Work, Our Hands

Linda Roessner & Mildred Twingley