



St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Highspire
Pentecost
May 24, 2026

Introduction

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.

Overview

God Gives More than Enough

It is the "first day of the week" (John 20:19), the day of the new creation, but to those locked away in the upper room in fear, the world is as it always has been. So entrenched are they in the ways of grief and guilt that the Risen One in their midst needs to offer his life-giving invitation twice: "Peace be with you." The logic of the new age is peace, not retribution; forgiveness, not vengeance. With the invitation to new life comes also the means: the gift of the Holy Spirit, breathed upon them and within them. Just as the Father sent Jesus into the world, so now are these disciples sent as witnesses to God's saving work.

Pentecost is therefore the crowning achievement of the Jesus story. Now, more than ever, these huddled disciples would have just cause to sing the "Dayenu" ("It would have been enough") verses from the Passover seder meal, but revised: It would have been enough for the Word and wisdom of God to have been born in the flesh . . . Dayenu! It would have been enough for the Word to grow to adulthood and share his stunning parables about God's gracious activity in the world . . . Dayenu! It would have been enough for this Word to say to his enemies, "Father, forgive them" . . . Dayenu! It would have been enough for this Word to have died on a cross for us . . . Dayenu! It would have been enough that he rose again in blessing, not vengeance . . . Dayenu! But now, beyond what we would even expect—the Word becomes our word and it is written on our hearts at Pentecost . . . Dayenu! It is enough, and more than enough to enflame our ministry of reconciliation in a world in need of a healing word

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Spirit of the Living God

Praise Team

The Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

ELW p. 119

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

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.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW #671

*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.

*HYMN OF PRAISE Veni Sancte Spiritus (seven times)

ELW #406

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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.

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. 2 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. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy

Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

14 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. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 No, 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.

18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.

19 And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

20 The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (read responsively)

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

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!**

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.

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

12 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. 13 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.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (2 times) ELW#172



***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.

P The holy gospel according to John

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

19 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." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Alex

Pastor Alex

*HYMN OF THE DAY God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

ELW #400

*NICENE CREED

ELW p.126

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

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 *Don Alsedek, Connie Barner, Rachel Benkovic, Rose Hoover, Samson Kennedy, Bernie Kunz, Rob Lipsitt, Sally Schonewolf and the friends and family of Scott Whary.* 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.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You send the Holy Spirit to console us in our grief. We give you thanks for our ancestors in the faith, especially Scott Whary and scientists Nicolaus Copernicus and Leonard Euler whose witness to your mighty works continues to inspire our lives. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P 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.

C Amen.

*PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Your Name Is Power

Praise Team

*OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the Vineyards

ELW #182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

C Amen.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (sung)

ELW p.144

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are quarter notes, mostly beamed in pairs or groups of four. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first measure. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a comma, the second with a period, the third with a period, and the fourth with a double bar line.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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:

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

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.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With 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.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p.145

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

*SHARING THE MEAL

P Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

Lamb of God

ELW p.146

Spirit of Gentleness

ELW #396

O Spirit of Life

ELW #405

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus,

C Amen.

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BLESSING**

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

***RECESSIONAL HYMN** Lord, You Give the Great Commission ELW #579

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Grady Daub

**We appreciate Grady Daub for sharing his musical talent with us
this morning. Thank-you.**

A Note from Don Dell

**Thank You so much for the wonderful birthday cards and wishes
from everyone! It brought a huge smile to my face and made my
day extra special!**

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Prelude - "Spirit of the Living God"-words & music Jacob Sooter and Mia

Fieldes CCLI Song #7035191 @2014 All Essential Music Praise Team

Processional Hymn - "Shine, Jesus, Shine" ELW #671 words & music -

Graham Kendrick @1987 Make Way Music

Hymn of Praise - "Veni Sancte Spiritus" ELW #406 (7 times) Jacques

Berthier @1978 Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications Inc.

Gospel Acclamation - "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ELW #172 (2 times)

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Hymn of the Day - "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind" ELW #400 words -

Herman G. Stumpfe, Jr. music - John Hughes @ 2000 GIA Publications, Inc

CWM RHONDDA

Special Music - "Your Name Is Power" words & music Chris Llewellyn and

Gareth Gilkeson CCLI Song #7132589 @2019 Capitol CMG Paragon Praise

Team

Offertory Hymn - "Let the Vineyards" ELW #182 Richard Hillert @1978 LBW,

admin. Augsburg Fortress

Great Thanksgiving - p.144 ELW, setting 3

"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" p.144 ELW, setting 3

Distribution Hymns - "Lamb of God" p. 146 ELW, setting 3

"Spirit of Gentleness" ELW #396 words & music - James K. Manley

@1978 James K. Manley

"O Spirit of Life" ELW #405 music - J.S. Bach PUBLIC DOMAIN

Recessional Hymn - "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" ELW #579

words - Jeffrey Rowthorn music - Cyril Taylor @1970, 1979 Hope Publishing

Co. ABBOT'S LEIGH

Postlude - Grady Daub

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If you are in need of Pastoral care, please reach out to our church office at 717-939-3492 or by email at stpetershighspire240@gmail.com . You can also reach out to Pastor Alex, at 717-434-5037.

Worship Participants for May 24, 2026

Presiding Minister	Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Worship Assistant	Patrick Hawkins
Musician	Grady Daub
Lector	Randy Hoover

Worship Participants for May 31, 2026

Presiding Minister	Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Worship Assistant	Brian Keyser
Musician	Grady Daub
Lector	Matt Hunt

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Centerpiece is presented to the Glory of God by Bob and Kay Sutch in honor of their 62nd wedding anniversary on May 25th, and for Terry and Sherry Leahy's wedding anniversary on May 27th.

Altar Guild Announcement

If anyone is interested in a palm left from Palm Sunday, please feel free to give one a new home. They are located in the Nursery and can be picked up after the service today.

Pentecost 2026

Our geraniums presented in loving memory of:

Fern and Harold Hoover and Rachel and Edward Einsig by Randy and Grace Hoover.

Ralph and Julia Calhoun, and Clarence and Barbara Hawkins by Patrick and Jill Hawkins and family.

Dorothea and Jeremiah Smith and Clarence and Barbara Hawkins by Karyl and Larry Hawkins.

Charlie Souders and Loved ones by Judy Souders.

My parents Clarence and Cora Witmer by Judy Kunzman.

Our grandparents Stricker and Edith Young and Fred and Cardella Dell by Jeff and Helene Hoch.

Our Geraniums presented in Honor of:
My grandsons Davey and Luka Benkovic and Alex Hein by Judy Kunzman.
Our children and grandchildren Joelle, Jeremy, Jennie, Hayley, Sammy, Ryan and Henry by Jeff and Helene Hoch.
Our parents Don and Carol Dell and William and Joanne Hoch by Jeff and Helene Hoch.
In thanks for all the progress during my recovery by Sally Schonewolf.
My Family and Friends by Nancy Wilson.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

This Wednesday, May 27th, there will be rehearsal for the Choir at 7:00pm. Join us at rehearsals and offer your talents to the Lord through music! Any questions, call or text Steve at 717-265-6854.

All are Welcome Bible Study

The All are Welcome Bible Study meets on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm. We are currently reading Psalms. We send out a weekly email with the Zoom link, as well as a brief summary of what we covered the previous week. To get the link for attending the Zoom session, or just to get on the weekly email list, please contact Matt and Mary Hunt at allarewelcomebiblestudy@gmail.com.

THANKFUL THREADS

Thankful Threads is in need of pant and skirt hangers with clips. (There is NOT a need for regular hangers.) The hangers can be brought to the church prior to the services or during the Free Meal hours on Monday evening. For more information, call Martha Walmer at 717-939-0153.

A Friendly reminder from Sally:

Please remember to take 1 or more Samaritan Bags to hand out to those who may be in need of this outreach. They are located in a basket in the back of the sanctuary to grab and keep available in your travels.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Mark your calendars for the following dates:

Sunday, June 7th Church Picnic @ Negley Park in Lemoyne. Worship will be at 10:15 with a meal to follow. Please bring a side dish to share. Hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage, condiments, water, paper plates, utensils and napkins will be provided.

Sunday, June 21st at 2:00 PM Installation for Pastor Alex to be held at St. Michael Lutheran Church, Harrisburg

Come to church and stay for Fellowship every Sunday in the Parlor. Enjoy coffee and snacks and friendly conversation! If you would be interested in "Hosting a Sunday" please check the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board located in the hallway outside the Music Room/Church Office.