



Day of Pentecost

Sunday, May 24, 2026

Esther Lutheran Church, ELCA

Making Christ Known Through Faith, Hope, and Love

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.

PRELUDE

BELL

WELCOME

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Please stand as you are able

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

P: I ask you, what will separate us from our God?

C: **Nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ!**

P: Can hardship or distress, persecution or famine, peril, or sword?

C: **Nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ!**

P: Can death or life, rulers or powers, height, or depth?

C: **Nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ!**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: Give us the willingness to be honest with ourselves, with one another, and with you about the ways in which we have caused harm in this world. Give us the openness to see where our actions or failures to act have led to pain in those closest to us and in those far away. Do not let us sink further into self-harm through self-blame and hatred, but give us the courage to set right our wrongs, and to return to you again and again for forgiveness.

P: The risen God has raised you to newness of life in Jesus' name. You are in Christ a new creation, and God forgives you every wrong. Celebrate with all of creation a world redeemed, and lavish the love you have received on all that is.

C: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (ELW 807)**

**1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.**

- 2** Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.
- 3** Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

***GREETING:**

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

C: Amen.

KYRIE: *sung* (ELW pg. 213)

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE: "*Glory to God*" (ELW pg. 213)**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

Please be seated

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.

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 people 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, "Fellow Jews 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.' Here ends the first reading.

PSALM 104:24-34, 35b ~ Congregation reads the bold

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

²⁴How 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.**

²⁶There 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.**

²⁸You 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.**

³⁰You 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.**

³²You 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.**

³⁴May 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. 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 powerful deeds, 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. Here ends the second reading.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Alleluia” (ELW pg. 205)

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 20:19-23

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

¹⁹When 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.” 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.” The Gospel of the Lord... **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated

CHILDREN’S TIME & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Spirit of Gentleness” (ELW 396)

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

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

- 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

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

- 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

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

- 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

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

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940
Text © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

L: 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.

L: 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,

C: Receive our prayer.

L: 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 Jerry, Bruce, Cheryl, Chris, Kristy, Ricky, Larry, Joan, Dennis, Lois, Dale, Bev, Gary, Shirley, Joyce, Allison, Becky, Kim, Cadence, Sara, Barb, Leroy, Karen, and Pete. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

L: You send the Holy Spirit through the wind and weather. Please bless us with the weather we need—rain to soften the soil, sunshine to nourish the plants, and calm skies to protect the work of our hands. Guard us from storms and disasters and teach us to trust in your perfect timing and guidance. Fill our hearts with peace in every season, knowing that you are always with us and caring for all creation. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

L: We thank you for our graduating seniors and for guiding them through every challenge, lesson, and achievement that brought them to this moment. Bless their dreams and ambitions, and remind them that their worth is found not only in success, but in the people you created them to be. Surround them with supportive friends, loving family, and opportunities to grow in faith and purpose. Merciful God,

C: **Receive our prayer.**

L: 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.**

Please stand as you are able

***APOSTLES' CREED: (ELW pg. 217)**

**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**

***PEACE:**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Please be seated

OFFERING

We thank you for our gifts of time, talent, and treasure that help this congregation, to continue our ministry together, and to make Christ known in our communities and the world.

OFFERING HYMN: “Now Thank We All Our God” (ELW 839)

1 Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

Please stand as you are able

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P: Heavenly Father,

C: All that we have comes from your hand, and all that we are is a gift of your grace. Bless these gifts and use them for your glory, that they may serve your kingdom, help those in need, and spread your love in this world. Teach us to give with joy, to serve with humility, and to trust you with all that we have and all that we are. Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER: *sung* (CLH 632)**

**Our Father, which 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

***BLESSING:**

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ
fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

***SENDING SONG:**

***"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"* (The Genesis Song Book #34)**

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We Will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Words: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 Lorenz Publishing Company (Admin. by Lorenz Corporation), Music: 1966 F.E.L. Publications.
Assigned 1991 Lorenz Publishing Company (Admin. by Lorenz Corporation)

***DISMISSAL:**

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jerry Anderson	Kristy Fyhrie
Larry Sather	Joan Burquest
Dennis Rosenquist	Lois Rosenquist
Ricky Hart	Sara Skoglund
Leroy Olson – father of Becky Arvidson	
Cheryl Farber – mother of Melissa Schlosser	
Rev. Bruce Miller- father of Karin Wagner	
Barb Peterson -friend of the Thoms	
Dale Flemming – father of Laurie Ratajesak	
Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons	
Shirley Nesges – friend of the Thoms	
Bev Lorine – mother of Mandy Arvidson	
Joyce Muires – friend of the Thoms	
Bev Guse-Ohlrech – friend of the Pedersons	
Allison Dotzler – friend of Kathy Mittag	

Cadence Smith – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Becky Yttrie – friend of the Townsends
Kim Casavan – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Karen Schlosser – mother of Justin Schlosser
Pete Baugh – brother-in-law of Pr. Ken Bowman
Family and Friends of: Sarah Pomeranz, David Anderson, Katie Jahnke, Colleen Burquest, Doug Tvedt, Alma Robinson, Jerry Pogose, Terry Burns, Wayne Lund, Bruce Carter, Inez Nelson, Gary Willie, Connie Pesta, and Kathy Wilkins

THIS WEEK AT ESTHER

Sunday, May 24th – Day of Pentecost

Sunday Fellowship Before & After Worship

10 am – Worship led by Pr. Brigitte – **Noisy Offering & Wear Red Today**

2 pm – Worship at St. William's

Friday, May 30th

Newsletter articles due to church office

7:30 pm – Graduation Ceremony and PPHS

Saturday, May 30th

Synod Assembly

Sunday, May 31st – The Holy Trinity

Sunday Fellowship Before & After Worship

10 am – Worship led by Megan Townsend

2 pm – Worship at St. William's

NEWS AND NOTES

There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex for providing food for VBS.

Thank you Pastor Birgitte Simpson from People's Church for leading worship today! Noisy offering that day will go towards their congregation. People's Church is a multicultural and indigenous ministry of the ELCA in the NWMN Synod. They live out their faith by showing Creator God's love for all people by offering shelter, hot meals, and community. For more information go to: peopleschurch-elca.org.

GIFT OF PLANNING EVENT

Join us at Esther on Tuesday, June 9 at 6:00 PM for an evening of food, fellowship, and thoughtful conversation about planning for the future to provide the ultimate gift to yourself and your loved ones: peace of mind.

What to expect:

- Representatives from Lind Family Funeral Home will guide us through end-of-life planning.
- Jewel Townsend will share a Funeral Planning Packet to help you document your wishes and personal story for loved ones.
- Christy Hart will offer practical tips for organizing financial and vital information, making it easier to access and understand—both now and in the future.
 - We'll be grilling burgers and brats, so please bring a dish to share as we gather for a meaningful and informative night.

What a Mess! VBS at Esther will be held June 14th -18th starting each evening with supper at 5:30 pm with lessons, music, crafts, and worship from 6-8 pm. Also join us on Thursday June 28th for a potluck and short program. ALL ARE WELCOME! For more information contact the church office at secretary@estherlutheran.net. Be sure to invite friends, grandkids, cousins, and neighbors to join in the fun! We could also use a few more volunteers for help crafts and activities – even if you are unable to make it we would love your help!



Vanco online giving platform is a great way to set up a scheduled giving plan for even when you cannot make it to church. Scan the QR code, go online to estherlutheran.com, go to the tab “ways to support Esther Lutheran Church” and click on the link <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZP4R> or download the app Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement. Any questions please ask Mandy Arvidson.

Check out the Esther Calendar on our website to stay up to date on everything happening!

Go to estherlutheran.com and click on “Esther Calendar.”

You belong here. We believe that each person has unique gifts, are created in God's image, and is a beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us each week to share in the community of faith at Esther - “Knowing Christ - making Christ known through faith, hope and love”. If you would like to become a member of Esther, please contact Mandy in the church office at 218-338-2171 or

*secretary@estherlutheran.net or Jewel Townsend at 320-760-2503 or
jewellht17@gmail.com.*

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