

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Festival of Pentecost

MAY 28, 2023

PRELUDE and WELCOME

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Congregational members are invited to bring a lighted candle forward and place it on the altar during the Call to Worship.

The presiding minister and assisting minister lead the Call to Worship.

May God be with you.

May God bless you.

Come Holy Spirit! *Storm of creation*

Life-breath of Eden. *Blaze in the desert*

Rage in the prophets. *Singer to exiles*

Come Holy Spirit! *Stirrer in Mary. Questions in wilderness*

Dove over Jordan. *Upstart in synagogue*

Upset in temple. *Agent of healing*

Servant at supper. *Gasp at Golgotha*

Sign in the tomb. *Seed of surprise*

Come Holy Spirit! *Song at the rising. Chorus at Pentecost*

Call to disciples. *Healer to nations*

Hope for eternity. *Our future now.*

ACTS 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost had come, they 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.'

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

HYMN: ELW # 401 GRACIOUS SPIRIT, HEED OUR PLEADING

Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading, fashion us all anew.

It's your leading that we're needing, help us to follow you

Come, come, come, Holy Spirit come.

Come to teach us, come to nourish those who believe in Christ.

Bless the faithful, may they flourish, strengthened by grace unpriced.

Come, come, come, Holy Spirit come.

Guide our thinking and our speaking done in your holy name.
Motivate all in their seeking, freeing from guilt and shame.
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit come.

Not mere knowledge, but discernment, nor rootless liberty;
Turn disquiet to contentment, doubt into certainty.
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit come.

Keep us fervent in our witness, unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure.
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit come.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 might have a right judgement in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

PSALM 104:24-34,35b

How manifold are your works O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,
living things both small and great.

There go the ships to and fro,

and Leviathan which you have made for the sport of it.

All of them look to you

to give them their food in due season;

You give to them, they gather it;

you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are terrified;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

You send forth your spirit, and they are created;

and so you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;

O Lord, rejoice in all your works.

You look at the earth and it trembles;

you touch the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will praise my God while I have my being.

May these words of mine please God,

I will rejoice in the Lord.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Hallelujah!

1 CORINTHIANS 12:3b-13

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to 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. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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. 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

JOHN 20:19-23

When 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."

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If 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. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN ELW # 582 HOLY SPIRIT EVER DWELLING

**Holy Spirit, ever dwelling in the holiest realms of light,
Holy Spirit, ever brooding o'er a world of gloom and night,
Holy Spirit, ever raising those of earth to thrones on high,
living, life-imparting Spirit, you we praise and magnify.**

**Holy Spirit, ever living as the Church's very life,
Holy Spirit, ever striving through us in a ceaseless strife,
Holy Spirit, ever forming in the Church the mind of Christ,
you we praise with endless worship for your gracious gifts unpriced.**

**Holy Spirit, ever working through the Church's ministry,
teaching, strength'ning, and absolving, setting captive sinners free,
Holy Spirit, ever binding age to age and soul to soul
in communion never ending, you we worship and extol.**

NICENE CREED

**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:

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from 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.
He 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

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

A brief silence.

Passionate God, you sent your Spirit through the gifts of fire, wind, and word.
As you equipped the disciples for their work, equip us to bring the good news
to all those who long for you.

Hear us, O God.....**your mercy is great.**

Restoring God, wind and flame bring life and destruction throughout the world.
We pray for those who work with wind energy, for migratory birds, for
protection for lands facing destructive fire, for forestry managers and
firefighters. Renew the face of the earth.

Hear us, O God.....**your mercy is great.**

Ever-present God, your Spirit embraces all. Send your Spirit of understanding to
immigrants, refugees, and any experiencing language barriers. Bless the work
of translators, ESL teachers, ambassadors, and international peace
organizations. Safely guide those fleeing war and danger.

Hear us, O God.....**your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, you anoint us with your Spirit. Bless nurses, doctors, midwives,
chaplains, counsellors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need.
We pray for all who seek your comfort.....all we name in our hearts this day.

Pause

Hear us, O God.....**your mercy is great.**

Generous God, you impart a variety of gifts. Set aflame the desire to learn from one another. Make your presence known as we serve the community and care for our neighbours.

Hear us, O God.....**your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE and OFFERING

MEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, Breath of life, Water of growth and Fire of love;
with a mighty wind you brought creation into being,
and by a pillar of fire you led your people into freedom.

We praise you for the gift of your Son,
who poured out your Spirit on his disciples of every race and nation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection,
and the sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit,
we await his coming again to renew the face of the earth.

Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and this meal:
anoint us with your gifts of faith, hope, and love,
that, with thankful hearts,
we may be witnesses to your Son.

Through him all glory and honour is yours,
Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

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

LORD'S 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.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Thanks be to God.

HOLY COMMUNION

you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words

"the body of Christ given for you" "the blood of Christ shed for you"

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ strengthen us and
keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

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

HYMN ELW # 400 GOD OF TEMPEST, GOD OF WHIRLWIND

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!**

God of blazing, God of burning, all that blocks your purpose, purge!

Through your church, Christ's living Body, let your flaming Spirit surge!

**Where deceit conceals injustice, kindle us to speak your truth,
kindle us to speak your truth!**

God of earthquake, God of thunder, shake us loose from lethargy!

Break the chains of sin asunder, for earth's healing set us free.

**Crumble walls that still divide us: make us one in Christ our Lord,
make us one in Christ our Lord!**

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!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the as the Spirit blesses.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE