

# Holy Eucharist

May 28, 2023

Zoom link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=ei94MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz0>

9

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

## The Day of Pentecost Year A

### Prelude

### Opening Hymn

Hymnal 48

*O day of radiant gladness!*

1 O day of ra - dant glad - ness, O day of joy and  
2 This day at the cre - a - tion, the light first had its  
3 This day, God's peo - ple meet - ing, his Ho - ly Scrip - ture

light, O balm of care and sad - ness, most  
birth; this day for our sal - va - tion Christ  
hear; his liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, through

beau - ti - ful, most bright; this day the high and  
rose from depths of earth; this day our Lord vic -  
Bread and Wine made near. We jour - ney on, be -

low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune, sing,  
 to - rious the Spi - rit sent from heaven, and  
 liev - ing, re - newed with heaven - ly might, from

“Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,” to the great God Tri - une.  
 thus this day most glo - rious a tri - ple light was given.  
 grace more grace re - ceiv - ing on this blest day of light.

*Presider:* The Lord will pour out his spirit upon all flesh,  
*People:* **and your sons and daughters shall prophesy,**  
*Presider:* Your old men shall dream dreams,  
*People:* **and your young men shall see visions.**  
*Presider:* You shall know that the Lord is in the midst of Israel,  
*People:* **that God is the Lord and there is none else.**  
*Presider:* And it shall come to pass  
*People:* **that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

*The Presider begins the Collect for Purity*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:  
**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The following is sung, all standing as they are able*

## Glory to God

Canticle 20 ♩ = 130

Setting: Doug Howell

*Gloria in excelsis*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est and

14 peace to God's peo - ple, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heavenly

19 King, Al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we

25 praise you for your glo - ry. Lord, Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

31 Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God. You take a - way all the sin of the

36 world. Have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

43 Fa - ther. Re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the

48 Ho - ly One. You a - lone are the Lord. You a - lone are the Most High

51 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men, A - men.

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## Collect of the Day

*Presider*            The Lord be with you.  
*People*             **And also with you.**  
*Presider*            Let us pray.

O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

## First Reading

Acts 2:1-21

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

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



<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>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.

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

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

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

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

Reader           The Word of the Lord.  
People           **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 104:25-35, 37**           *to be prayed responsively, beginning with the men*

*Benedic, anima mea*

<sup>25</sup>O LORD, how manifold are your works! \*  
in wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
<sup>26</sup>**Yonder is the great and wide sea  
with its living things too many to number, \*  
creatures both small and great.**  
<sup>27</sup>There move the ships,  
and there is that Leviathan, \*  
which you have made for the sport of it.  
<sup>28</sup>**All of them look to you \*  
to give them their food in due season.**  
<sup>29</sup>You give it to them; they gather it; \*  
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.  
<sup>30</sup>**You hide your face, and they are terrified; \*  
you take away their breath,  
and they die and return to their dust.**  
<sup>31</sup>You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; \*  
and so you renew the face of the earth.  
<sup>32</sup>**May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; \*  
may the LORD rejoice in all his works.**  
<sup>33</sup>He looks at the earth and it trembles; \*  
he touches the mountains and they smoke.  
<sup>34</sup>**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; \*  
I will praise my God while I have my being.**  
<sup>35</sup>May these words of mine please him; \*  
I will rejoice in the LORD.  
<sup>37</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul. \*  
Hallelujah!**

## **Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Corinth.

<sup>3b</sup>No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

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

chooses.

<sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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.

Reader           The Word of the Lord.  
People           **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand as they are able.*

### Sequence Hymn

### Hymnal 511

*Holy Spirit, ever living*

1 Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er liv - ing as the Church's  
2 Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er work - ing through the Church's

ve - ry life; Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er striv - ing  
min - is - try; quick - ening, strength - ening, and ab - solv - ing,

through her in a cease - less strife; Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er  
set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free; Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er

form-ing in the Church the mind of Christ; thee we praise with  
 bind-ing age to age, and soul to soul, in a fel - low -

end - less wor-ship for thy fruits and gifts un - priced.  
 ship un - end - ing thee we wor - ship and ex - tol.

*All remain standing as they are able.*

## Holy Gospel

John 20:19-23

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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



*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Sermon

Rob Hampton

*All stand as they are able.*

## Renewal of Baptismal Vows

*Presider* Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy catholic Church.

*Presider* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil  
and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*People* **I do.**

*Presider* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Presider* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**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 to judge the living and the dead.**

*Presider* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* **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.**

*Presider* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin,  
repent and return to the Lord?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity  
of every human being?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**



*A Priest asperges the People, saying*

Create in us clean hearts, O God.

*The Presider concludes the Renewal of Vows saying*

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, **+** keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

*All remain standing as they are able.*

## **Prayers of the People**

*Presider* Peace be with you, brothers and sisters, children of God. In wonder and gratitude, let us pray, saying, “You send forth your Spirit: Come, Holy Spirit.”

*Intercessor* Holy God, by your Spirit you gave birth to your Church: may our many members be the one Body of Christ in this world. Give to each member of your Church the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. You send forth your Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

*Silence is kept*

Holy God, you gave your disciples the ability to speak in the languages of the people: may we also speak about your deeds of power throughout the world, that all may know of your salvation. You send forth your Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

*Silence is kept*

Holy God, you poured out your Holy Spirit in your holy city Jerusalem: pour out your Spirit in our own city of Chelsea. Raise up prophets and dreamers; give us vision. You send forth your Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

*Silence is kept*

Holy God, the earth is full of your creatures: may all who look to you be given food in due season. Open your hand in desolate places and fill the hungry with good things. We thank you for all these blessings [especially for \_\_\_\_\_]. You send forth your Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

*Silence is kept*

Holy God, you give the gift of healing by your Spirit: bring healing and wholeness to all those on our hearts and minds this day. In your might and mercy, renew the face of the earth; bring renewal to those in bodily need or spiritual distress [especially \_\_\_\_\_].

Holy God, we pray for our sisters and brothers who were baptized into the one body, who were made to drink of the one Spirit, and who now have died in Christ. May those who have called upon your name, O Lord, be saved forever. You send forth your Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

*Silence is kept*

*Presider:* For what other persons and situations shall we pray today?

O God, who on this day opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Presider says to the people*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence is kept.*

*Minister and People*

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

*A Priest stands and says*

Now there is rejoicing in heaven, for you were lost, and are found. You were dead, and are now alive in Christ Jesus our Lord. Abide in peace. The Lord has † put away all your sins. **Amen.**

*All stand as they are able*

## Peace

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*The People then are seated.*

## Announcements

## Holy Communion

*Presider* O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

*The people stand as they are able when the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

## Offertory Hymn

## Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*The people remain standing as they are able*

## Great Thanksgiving

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The Presider proceeds*

God of surprises, your Spirit brooded over the waters at creation and  
lived among your chosen people in wilderness, exile, and promised land.  
Your Spirit filled Mary's womb at the moment of Jesus' conception  
and came upon him like a dove at his baptism.

When Christ died on the cross your power raised him from the tomb  
on the third day, and that same evening he breathed your forgiving grace  
on those who had deserted him.

On the day of Pentecost you sent your Spirit upon the fearful disciples,  
filling them with fire, with power, with wonder and joy,  
and making them your church.

And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels  
and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

5  
God of po - wer and might. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

9  
God of po - wer and might. Hea - ven and earth are

12  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! All

15  
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -

18  
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

24 *molto rit.*  
Bles - sed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

*The Presider continues*

God of comfort and strength, we look to your Holy Spirit to be with us in sorrow  
and in contentment, in crisis and in abiding stillness.

Come among us now through the power of your + Spirit,  
that we may be transformed into your image, and that these gifts  
of bread and wine + may become for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread,  
gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,  
"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
"Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith:

*Presider and People*

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

*The Presider continues*

God of dreams and prophecy, send down upon us your gifts of wisdom,  
knowledge, and faith; of healing, discernment, and interpretation,  
that your church may be built up in the likeness of your Son.

Let anyone who is hungry find in you the bread of life,  
and anyone who is thirsty find in you rivers of living water.

Speak your word to all who are alone, and in fear or despair,  
and let each one of your children hear your voice in their own language,  
whether that language be art or science, work or play.

Sanctify your groaning creation, that your universe may breathe your breath,  
and be filled with your life anew, that we may love what you love,  
and do what you would do, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God. **AMEN.**

*The Presider then continues*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say:

*People and Presider*

**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.

## Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

*The Presider says*

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

You call us, Lord Jesus, to share the feast  
which you first shared with the disciples  
on the night before your death upon the cross.  
**The same life you shared with them is shared with us.**

The same love you poured forth on the cross is poured forth in this feast;  
this is the feast which your saints share for ever.  
**We also are called to this feast of our forgiveness, redemption,  
health, and joy; let us come then to this table  
and share this feast; and as we come to you, Lord Jesus,  
come now and always to us. Amen.**

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

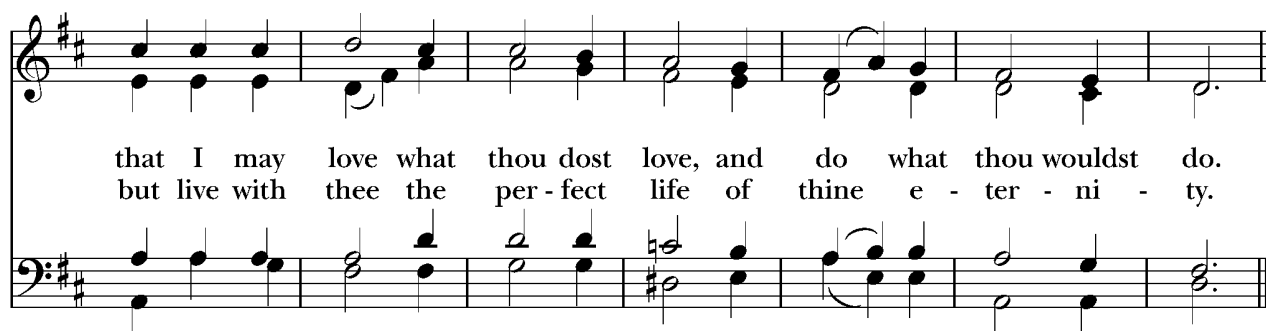
*The following is sung after all have received, and the table is being cleared.*

**Post-Communion Hymn**  
*Breath on me, breath of God*

**Hymnal 508**

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,  
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die;

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Breath on me, breath of God'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of lyrics is '1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,' and the second line is '4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die;'. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady rhythm.



that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.  
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

*After Communion, the Presider says*

Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

**Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth  
a people forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

*A priest blesses the people, saying*

May God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

May God the Son who, in bursting the grave, has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of + God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

LEVAS 117

*I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says "sing!"*

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "I'm goin' - a sing\* when the Spir - it says sing." The first system includes a performance instruction: "\*2. pray 3. moan 4. shout". The second system continues the lyrics: "I'm goin' - a sing when the Spir - it says sing." The third system continues: "I'm goin' - a sing when the Spir - it says sing, and o -". The fourth system concludes with: "bey the Spir - it of the Lord." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

## Dismissal

*Minister* Go forth into this world. Don't be afraid. Don't be ashamed to be people of love. And go forth into this world and help us to change it from the nightmare it often is, into the dream that God intends.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## Postlude



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**This week in prayer**

**Please remember these persons and congregations in your prayers this week:**

**Our Bishops** Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises (TEC); Elizabeth, Donald and Craig (ELCA)  
**and for** all priests, deacons, Ministry Teams, and those in formation

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

May 28 The Extra-Provincial Churches

**Diocese of Michigan Cycle of Prayer:**

May 28 Trinity Church, Monroe; St Philip the Apostle, Santo Domingo, DR

**St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer:** Paislee, Jonah, Declan, Austin, Mira, Jack

**and our continuing prayers for:** Bob, Carlos, Robert, Selenah, Jim M, Mardi

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**Faith in Action** provides leadership in collecting donations of food to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to [Nancy](#) who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive** is **June 18**. Please contribute as generously as you can.

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**Upcoming Commemorations**

- May 28 John Calvin: Theologian, 1564
- 30 Joan of Arc: Mystic and Soldier, 1431
- 31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary by the Angel Gabriel
- June 1 Justin, Martyr, 167
- 2 The Martyrs of Lyons, 177
- 3 The Martyrs of Uganda, 1886





## May 28, 2023 – The Day of Pentecost

### Acts 2:1-21

In Acts, there seems to be a direct connection between the Spirit and the act of prophesying. Prophesying comes from being in direct contact with the Spirit of God. It is a speech act that is the result of God's movement, of the pouring out of God's Spirit.

But Acts tells us something crucial here. This Spirit-fueled speech act is one that is meant to bring people in; it gathers and embraces. It empowers people to speak of God's power not only in a way that others can hear but in the languages of their hearts. The Holy Spirit gives the power of prophecy in order to traverse boundaries.

Peter reminds the people of the prophet Joel's words, that God would pour out God's Spirit "upon all flesh." God's dream is for all creatures to be moved by the Spirit such that we would be able to speak—and listen—across language and cultural differences, about the glory of God.

- When have you been caught up by the Holy Spirit?
- How have you seen the Spirit act to dissipate destructive division and gather people together?
- How can the Spirit use you to participate in this ingathering?

### Psalm 104:25-35, 37

Not long ago, when I was able to go on a whale-watching tour, I felt like I was eavesdropping on someone else's prayer. You see the blow, the column of moisture spraying out of the whale's blowhole, and you hear the husky breath of the whale. You see the dark, smooth, serpentine movement of the whale coming out of the surface of the water, the dorsal fin appears, and then it disappears. Slowly, out of the water rises the big, beautiful fluke of the whale, with shining water dripping from it, and then it sinks slowly under the surface. The whale is using this movement with the fluke in the air to propel a powerful dive, deep into the sea, below the boat.

I think of Psalm 104, and what this powerful, playful display of the whale tells about God. What wisdom, what creativity, to design a creature such as the whale. Verse 27 says, "There is that Leviathan, which you have made for the sport of it." The word "Leviathan" probably refers to a mythical sea monster, but the closest I've seen to that is a whale. And now I know what it looks like when God has fun. To see the whale in its glory is coming closer to seeing God in God's glory, just as it is seeing anyone else being who they are made to be. And the relieving thing about the whale (and God) is that it has nothing to do with me. I was able to simply sit without interfering and watch the prayer of the whales, and the reciprocal delight of God.

- When have you eavesdropped on the prayers of creation?
- What does the creation around you have to tell you about the Spirit who creates and renews the face of the earth?

## John 7:37-39

Jesus says, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me.” It is not belief that begins the inquiry, the searching; it is thirst. Our thirst propels us toward Jesus, but it is our belief that causes us to drink. Note: the belief follows the thirst, the searching, and the encounter.

The believer, compelled by their encounter with Christ, drinks. And then afterward, “out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.” This living water is the Holy Spirit, flowing out from us, for the sake of the thirst of others. We are called to thirst, to search, to encounter, to believe, to drink, and then, to nourish others with God’s own Spirit. This is a Trinitarian dance we move in and out of throughout this life.

- Are you in a moment of searching, encountering, believing, drinking, or nourishing others?

*This Bible study was written by Sarah Faehnle Mast*



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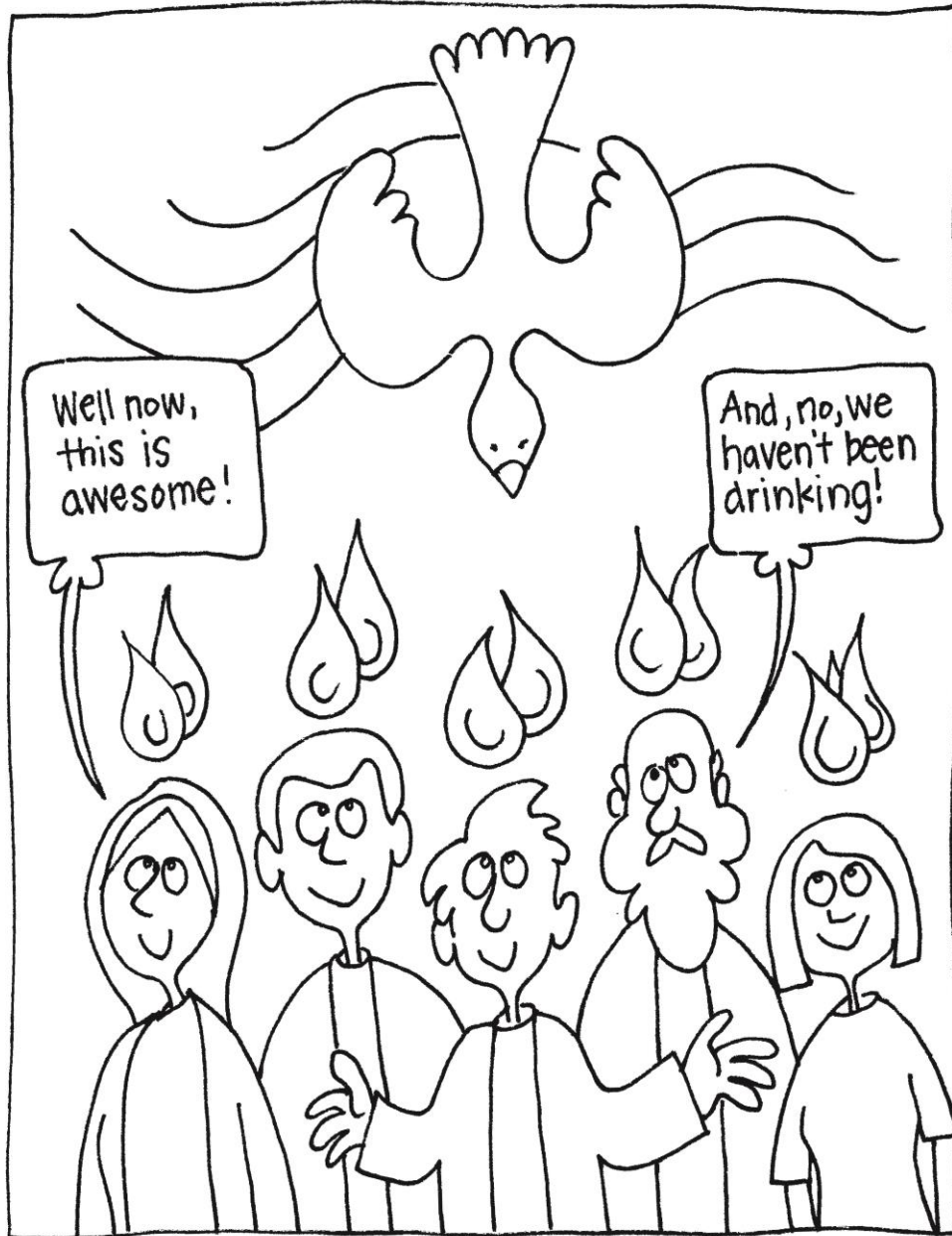
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