



# The Day of Pentecost

## Gathering

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Prelude “Come Holy Spirit, Lord God” Dietrich Buxtehude

Opening Hymn #506 Praise the Spirit in Creation  
(See bulletin p.17)

*All standing, the Celebrant says:*

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People:* And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever.  
*Amen.*

## Collect for Purity

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*Celebrant:* 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.*

Hymn of Praise LEVAS #118 Spirit Song  
(See bulletin p.18)

## Collect of the Day

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*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Officiant:* Let us pray: Almighty God, on this day you 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.*

## The Readings

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### The First Reading: Acts 2:1–21

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples 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.'"

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

### The Response: Psalm 104:25–35, 37

- 25 **O** LORD, how manifold are your works! \*  
in wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 26 Yonder is the great and wide sea  
with its living things too many to number, \*  
creatures both small and great.
- 27 There move the ships,  
and there is that Leviathan, \*  
which you have made for the sport of it.
- 28 All of them look to you \*  
to give them their food in due season.
- 29 You give it to them; they gather it; \*  
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
- 30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; \*  
you take away their breath,  
and they die and return to their dust.
- 31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; \*  
and so you renew the face of the earth.
- 32 May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; \*  
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.
- 33 He looks at the earth and it trembles; \*  
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

- 34 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; \*  
I will praise my God while I have my being.
- 35 May these words of mine please him; \*  
I will rejoice in the LORD.
- 37 Bless the LORD, O my soul. \*  
Hallelujah!

## The Second Reading: Romans 8:22–37

**W**e know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn

Veni Sancte Spiritus

(See bulletin p.20)

## The Gospel: John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15



*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

**J**esus said to his disciples, “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes

from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Annette Joseph

## **Affirmation of Faith**

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*Celebrant:* Let us renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we renounce Satan and all his works, and promise to serve God faithfully in God’s holy catholic Church.

*Water is poured into the font  
and the Celebrant leads the renewal of baptismal vows.*

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

*People:* I do.

*Celebrant:* Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

*People:* I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who 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.  
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.

*Celebrant:* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People:* We 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.*

*Celebrant:* 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.

*Celebrant:* 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.

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

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

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

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

*Celebrant:* 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.

*Celebrant:* May Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, and called us to ministry in Jesus Christ, keep us in eternal life by his grace; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

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*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)*

*Celebrant:* Let us offer our prayers and petitions to Almighty God.

*Reader:* Engage us O God in the renewal of this Diocese towards your Christ-centered vision. Help us to realize that we are bound one to another in our common life and ministry. Spirit of God;

*People:* We are listening.

*Reader:* Empower us, O God, to energize the ministry of all the baptized, making our communities of faith healthy and holy places of your presence that reach out in compassion and hope in Christ's name. Spirit of God;

*People:* We are listening.

*Reader:* Unite us, O God, to be compassionate and not competitive, to be consoling and not controlling, to be faithful and not fearful as we continue to build relationships in communities centered on the vision of your reign. Spirit of God;

*People:* We are listening.

*Reader:* Guide us, O God, to be responsible stewards here on earth, to prophetically witness to your reign. We pray especially for members of the United Nations, for Joseph, our President, for Michael, our Governor, Robert, our Mayor, and other civic leaders, that they may do justice and love mercy. Spirit of God;

*People:* We are listening.

*Reader:* Deliver us, O God, from mistrust of one another and the misuse of our gifts. Help us to see in our worshiping communities, large and small, growing and struggling your grace and promise. Spirit of God;

*People:* We are listening.

*Reader:* Heal us, O God, in our communities, our families, and in the hidden places in our hearts. We pray for those in this community who are ill or in any kind of need, especially \_\_\_\_\_. Give us the courage and the grace to be your presence among them. Spirit of God;

*People:* We are listening.

*Reader:* Comfort us, O God, as we remember all those saints who have gone before us in light and have finished their course in faith. Give to the departed, especially \_\_\_\_\_, the comfort of your promise and presence. Spirit of God;

*People:* We are listening.

*Reader:* Support us, O God, as we support each other, particularly in Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop; Deon, our Bishop; Annette, our priest; and all who minister in witness in your Church. Spirit of God;

*People:* We are listening.

*Reader:* Teach us, O God, as we journey through the Christian life to continually engage each other, young and old, in the spiritual formation, discernment, discipleship and stewardship. Spirit of God;

*People:* We are listening.

*Celebrant:* Disturb us, O God, when we are too well pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little, when we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore. Spirit of God; we are listening. Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity and in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim. Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask You to push back the horizons of our hopes; And to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love. *Amen.*

## **The Peace**

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*The peace is exchanged:*

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ.*

*Here at Christ Church, we consider gratitude and generosity to be spiritual disciplines. While some of us still can't be together to pass the collection plate to one another in person, we encourage you to offer your gifts and service in any way that makes the most sense to you.*

[Click here](#) to contribute to our ongoing ministry by donating online.

*Celebrant:* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. (*Ephesians 5:2*)

Offertory Hymn

LEVAS #120 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit  
(See bulletin p.20)

# Holy Communion

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## The Great Thanksgiving

*The People remain standing.*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Celebrant:* It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:



God of pow-er and might, \_\_\_\_\_ hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -

Blessed is the one

- 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.

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Composer Tempo ♩ = 120

*The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues:*

*Celebrant:* Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us

Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:

“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

“Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: The cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*All:*           Dying, you destroyed our death.  
                  Rising, you restored our life.  
                  Christ Jesus, come in glory!

*Celebrant:* Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*All:*           Blessed are you now and for ever. *Amen.*

## The Lord’s Prayer

*Celebrant:* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

*People:*       Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed by 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.*

## The Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant:* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People:* Therefore let us keep the feast. *Alleluia!*

The musical score is presented in two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us." The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and a more melodic treble line with some chords.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "Lamb of God". It consists of three staves: a vocal line at the top, a piano accompaniment in the middle (with a grand staff), and a bass line at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace." The piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

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## Communion

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn

#516 Come Down, O Love  
(See bulletin p.23)

## Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*St. Augustine's Prayer Book, p.192*

*Celebrant:* Our Jesus, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. We love you above all things and we desire you in our souls. Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into our hearts. As though you were already there, we embrace you and unite ourselves wholly to you; never permit us to be separated from you. *Amen.*

## Prayer after Communion

*After communion, the Celebrant says:*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray:

*All:* Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life in our hands;  
now we put our lives into yours.  
Take us, renew and remake us.  
What we have been is past;

What we shall be, through you, still awaits us.  
Lead us on. Take us with you. *Amen.*

## **The Blessing**

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*Celebrant:* May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn      WLP #782 Gracious Spirit, Give Your Servants  
(See bulletin p.24)

## **Dismissal**

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*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*People:*      Thanks be to God. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Postlude      “Come Holy Spirit, Creator God”      J. S. Bach

## **Servers**

<i>Priest-in-Charge</i>	Rev. Annette Joseph
<i>Reader</i>	Barbara Muench
<i>Host</i>	Judi Naeter
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Marilee Dennington
<i>Organist</i>	Mary Miller
<i>Choir Director</i>	Randyn Heisserer-Miller
<i>Ministry Intern</i>	Joshua Smith

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1 Praise the Spi - rit in cre - a - tion, breath of God, life's  
 2 Praise the Spi - rit, close com - pan - ion of our in - most  
 3 Praise the Spi - rit, who en - light - ened priests and pro - phets  
 4 Tell of how the a - scend - ed Je - sus armed a peo - ple  
 5 Pray we then, O Lord the Spi - rit, on our lives de -  
 6 Praise, O praise the Ho - ly Spi - rit, praise the Fa - ther,



1 or - i - gin: Spi - rit, mov - ing on the wa - ters,  
 2 thoughts and ways; who, in show - ing us God's won - ders,  
 3 with the word; his the truth be - hind the wis - doms  
 4 for his own; how a hun - dred men and wo - men  
 5 scend in might; let your flame break out with - in us,  
 6 praise the Word, Source, and Truth, and In - spi - ra - tion,



1 quick - ening worlds to life with - in, source of breath to  
 2 is him - self the power to gaze; and God's will, to  
 3 which as yet know not our Lord; by whose love and  
 4 turned the known world up - side down, to its dark and  
 5 fire our hearts and clear our sight, till, white - hot in  
 6 Trin - i - ty in deep ac - cord: through your voice which



1 all things breath - ing, life in whom all lives be - gin.  
 2 those who lis - ten, by a still small voice con - veys.  
 3 power, in Je - sus God him - self was seen and heard.  
 4 fur - thest cor - ners by the wind of hea - ven blown.  
 5 your pos - ses - sion, we, too, set the world a - light.  
 6 speaks with - in us we, your crea - tures, call you Lord.

1. Oh, let the Son of God en-fold you, with His  
 2. Oh, come and sing this song with glad-ness, as your

1. Spir - it and His love, Let Him fill your heart and  
 2. hearts are filled with joy, Lift your hands in sweet sur -

1. sat - is - fy your soul. Oh, let Him  
 2. ren - der to His name. Oh, give Him

1. have the things that hold you, and His Spir - it like a  
 2. all your tears and sad - ness, give Him all your years of

1. dove, Will de - scend up - on your life, and make you  
 2. pain, And you'll en - ter in - to life in Je - sus'

Words: John Wimber  
 Music: John Wimber  
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1. whole. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. name. \_\_\_\_\_

Je - sus, Oh,

Je - sus, come and

fill your lambs. \_\_\_\_\_

Je - sus, Oh, Je - sus,

come and fill \_\_\_\_\_ your lambs. \_\_\_\_\_

# Veni Sancte Spiritus

Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

*Cantor*

1. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, from heav - en shine forth

with your glo - rious light. Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

2. Come from the four winds, O Spir - it, come breath of God; dis -

perse the shad - ows ov - er us, re - new and strength - en your

peo - ple. Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

*Translation: Come, Holy Spirit.*

Words: Pentecost Sequence; Taizé Community, 1978

Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) © 1984 Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

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## LEVAS 120

## There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

1. There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, \_\_\_\_\_ And I

(2. There are) bless - ings you can - not re - ceive \_\_\_\_\_ Till you

(3. If you) say He saved you from your sin, \_\_\_\_\_ Now you're

1. know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ There are  
 2. know Him in His full - ness, and be - lieve. \_\_\_\_\_ You're the  
 3. weak, you're bound, and can - not en - ter in, \_\_\_\_\_ you can

1. sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, \_\_\_\_\_ And I  
 2. one to pro - fit when you say, \_\_\_\_\_ "I am  
 3. make it right if you will yield; \_\_\_\_\_ You'll en -

1. know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. going to walk with Je - sus all the way." \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. joy the Ho - ly Spir - it that we feel. \_\_\_\_\_

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, Sweet Heav - en - ly Dove,

Stay right here with us, — fill - ing us with your love.

And for these bless - ings — we lift our hearts in

praise; With - out a doubt we'll know — that we have

1.-2. 3.

been re - vived when we shall leave this place. 2. There are  
3. If you place.

Words: Doris Akers (b. 1922)

Music: Doris Akers

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## 516

## Come Down, O Love Divine

1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,  
2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn  
3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,  
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

Words: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434?); tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890), alt.  
 Music: *Down Ampney*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

66. 11. D

## WLP 782

## Gracious Spirit, Give Your Servants

1. Gra - cious Spir - it, give your ser - vants joy to set sin's  
 2. Word made flesh, who gave up glo - ry to be - come our  
 3. Lov - ing God, who birthed cre - a - tion from the noth - ing -  
 4. Tri - une God, e - ter - nal Be - ing, nev - er end - ing,

cap - tives free, hope to heal the bro - ken - heart - ed,  
 great high priest, tak - ing on our hu - man na - ture  
 ness of space, kin - dling life where all was emp - ty,  
 un - be - gun, bound - less grace and per - fect jus - tice,

peace to share love's li - ber - ty. Through us bring your balm of  
 to re - deem the last and least; let your cour - age and com -  
 turn - ing cha - os in - to grace: when we feel con - fused and  
 right - eous and for - giv - ing One: so en - fold us in your

glad - ness to the wound - ed and op - pressed; help us claim and  
 pas - sion shape and guide our min - is - tries; as our Sav - ior  
 fruit - less, dawn up - on our rest - less night; give us faith's im -  
 mer - cy that our wills and yours u - nite; through us may the

show God's fa - vor as a peo - ple called and blessed.  
 and our Shep - herd, lead us to the truth that frees.  
 ag - i - na - tion, hope's re - new - ing, love's de - light.  
 world be - hold you, find your love, your truth, your light.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944); © 1997 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: *Abbot's Leigh*, Cyril Vincent Taylor (b. 1907);

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## Notes on the Service

The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 • Ps. 104:25-35, 37b • Rom. 8:22-27

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

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The Jewish holiday called the Feast of Weeks is also known as Pentecost because it falls (*pente*) fifty days – or a week of weeks – after Passover. Most anciently Pentecost must have celebrated the harvest of winter wheat; in second temple times it commemorated the giving of the Torah. Christianity observes Pentecost because on that day **the Holy Spirit came to the disciples**. As described by today’s reading from the Acts, that event took place in Jerusalem about nine on a Sunday morning in the early 30s CE. The “one place” where Acts locates Pentecost has been identified by tradition as the Upper Room, the Cenacle, where the Last Supper had also occurred.

Christian lore calls Pentecost the church’s birthday because then the hitherto uninspired disciples were fired up into a powerful religious movement. The nickname Whitsunday came from the custom of baptizing at Pentecost whatever converts had not been baptized at Easter. Those newly-baptized wore white robes; hence, Whit(e)Sunday. Nowadays red vestments and hangings symbolize the fiery Spirit, and members of some congregations wear some article of red clothing. After today the paschal candle will be put aside, and the special Eastertide features of the liturgy will be dropped.

One collect for Pentecost refers to the Acts account of the Spirit’s coming to speak to all races; it emphasizes “outreach.” The other collect refers to the Spirit’s teaching us right judgment; it emphasizes “insight.”

To describe the Spirit of God, Acts uses Hebrew imagery of wind and fire, as on Mt Sinai. A crowd of Jews and proselytes from different countries hears the *inspired* apostles speaking “each in his own tongue.” That is not speaking in tongues, *glossolalia*: rather, it is instantaneous translation, a reversal of the unintelligibility of different languages at the Tower of Babel.

Psalms 104 is one of the great Hebrew poems of creation, on a par with Job 38-39 and Genesis 1. The section used by the church on Pentecost lists marvels of the oceans, and credits the Spirit or the breath of God as the giver of their life. Leviathan is a monster of Canaanite myth with features of crocodiles and whales both. The psalmist treats him as God’s toy. Among modern authors, Hobbes and Melville used Leviathan as a symbol of vast power.

Paul sees the Spirit at work in believers who groan, yearning for adoption. The Spirit helps us and prays for us with desire too deep for words.

During his farewell to his disciples, Jesus promises them that the Spirit will make clear what they are as yet unable to understand. Three times Jesus says, the Spirit “will declare it to you,” that is, will make the truth evident.

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*We are a community forgiven and loved by God,  
joyfully called to the work of reconciliation.*

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