



Ezekiel 37:14, NRSV

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**Sunday, May 19, 2024**  
Pentecost

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Service Theme  
**CHRIST HAS NOT LEFT US ALONE**

Jesus told his disciples that, though he was going to ascend into heaven, he wasn't going to leave them alone. He was going to send "the Advocate," a title for the Holy Spirit. But Jesus wasn't sending the Spirit just to keep us company. Jesus would have the Advocate give us spiritual power so that we might participate in Christ's saving work. Here is the final resurrection reality. The Spirit gives us the ability to raise the spiritually dead to life. We see this happen on Pentecost. The festival of Pentecost was held fifty days after the Passover. (Pentecost is Greek for "fifty.") It was a time to thank God for the harvest. But on that day, through the Church at work, the Holy Spirit gathered another harvest, a harvest of souls. Therefore, Pentecost is the third great festival of the Church, along with the Nativity and the Resurrection. With the Festival of Pentecost, the festival half of the Church Year comes to a close.

## Invocation

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## Opening Prayer

M: Holy Spirit, who at the beginning moved upon the face of the waters:

**C: Have mercy on us.**

M: Holy Spirit, by whose inspiration holy men spoke from God:

**C: Have mercy on us.**

M: Holy Spirit, power of the highest, who overshadowed Mary:

**C: Have mercy on us.**

M: Holy Spirit, through whom the holy Child Jesus grew in wisdom and stature:

**C: Have mercy on us.**

M: Holy Spirit, who descended like a dove and lighted on Christ our Lord at his baptism:

**C: Have mercy on us.**

M: Holy Spirit, by whom Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil:

**C: Have mercy on us.**

M: Holy Spirit, by whose counsel and care Jesus endured the agony and purpose of the cross:

**C: Have mercy on us.**

M: Holy Spirit, who on the day of Pentecost descended upon the apostles in the likeness of fiery tongues:

**C: Have mercy on us.**

M: Holy Spirit, by whom we were born to a new life in  
Baptism:

**C: Have mercy on us.**

M: Holy Spirit, through whom we confess that Jesus Christ  
is Lord:

**C: Have mercy on us.**

M: By your life-giving power and might:

**C: Deliver us, Holy Spirit.**

M: By your all-powerful intercession:

**C: Deliver us, Holy Spirit.**

M: By your continual presence in the Church:

**C: Deliver us, Holy Spirit.**

M: We beseech you to hear us, Holy Spirit, that it may  
please you to guide your holy Church into all truth and  
to fill it with your love:

**C: Hear us, Holy Spirit.**

M: That we may find joy in proclaiming the good news of  
salvation to all people, near and far:

**C: Hear us, Holy Spirit.**

M: That, as we live in the Spirit, we may also keep in step  
with the Spirit:

**C: Hear us, Holy Spirit.**

M: That we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our  
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

**C: Hear us, Holy Spirit.**

M: That we may have grace to persevere to the end:

**C: Hear us, Holy Spirit.**

M: Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of life:

**C: We implore you to hear us.**

M: Come, Holy Spirit, renew the hearts of your faithful  
people

**C: And kindle in us the fire of your love. Amen.**

Hymn

CW 183 - Holy Spirit, Light Divine

**1 Holy Spirit, Light divine,  
Shine upon this heart of mine;  
Chase the gloom of night away;  
Turn the darkness into day.**

**2 Holy Spirit, Love divine,  
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;  
In your mercy pity me;  
From sin's bondage set me free.**

**3 Holy Spirit, Joy divine,  
Cheer this saddened heart of mine;  
Fill me with your heav'nly peace;  
Let it grow and still increase.**

**4 Holy Spirit, Pow'r divine,  
Dwell within this heart of mine;  
Cast down ev'ry idol throne;  
Reign supreme and reign alone.**

**5 See, to you I give my heart;  
Cleanse my life in ev'ry part;  
Your own temple I would be  
Now and for eternity.**

First Lesson

Ezekiel 37:1–14 (EHV)

*The Lord allows Ezekiel to see that the Spirit would give that prophet's words the power to raise the dead to life.*

The hand of the LORD was upon me. He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley, which was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He had me pass through them and go all over among them. There were very many on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

<sup>3</sup>He said to me, “Son of man, can these dry bones live?” I answered, “LORD God, you know.” <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.’ ”

<sup>5</sup>This is what the LORD God says to these bones.

I am about to make breath enter you so that you will live. <sup>6</sup>I will attach tendons to you. I will put flesh back on you. I will cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you will live. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I was prophesying there was a noise, a rattling, as the bones came together, one bone connecting to another.

<sup>8</sup>As I watched, tendons were attached to them, then flesh grew over them, and skin covered them. But there was no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the wind. Prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind that this is what the LORD God says. From the four winds, come, O wind, and breathe into these slain so that they may live.”

<sup>10</sup>So I prophesied as he commanded me. Breath entered them, and they came back to life. They stood on their feet, a very, very large army.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They are saying, ‘Our bones are dried up. Our hope is lost. We have been completely cut off.’ <sup>12</sup>Therefore, prophecy and say to them that this is what the LORD God says. My people, I am going to open your graves and raise you up from your graves and bring you back to the soil of Israel. <sup>13</sup>Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live. I will settle you on your own land, and you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.”

Psalm 51b

(page 87)

*Refrain*

**Come, Holy Spirit, renew our hearts and kindle in us  
the fire of your love.**

**O Lord, open my lips,\*  
and my mouth will declare your praise.**

**You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;\*  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

**The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;\*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not  
despise.**

*Refrain*

**Create in me a pure heart, O God,\*  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

**Do not cast me from your presence\*  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,\*  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,\*  
and sinners will turn back to you.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

Second Lesson  
Acts 2:1-21 (EHV)

*The Day of Pentecost was the fulfillment of God's promise to pour out his Spirit.*

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly a sound like the rushing of a violent wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>They saw divided tongues that were like fire resting on each one of them. <sup>4</sup>They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, since the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak fluently.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were godly Jewish men from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>When this sound was heard, a crowd came together and was confused, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. <sup>7</sup>They were completely baffled and said to each other, "Look, are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>Then how is it that each of us hears them speaking in his own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, and of Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt, and the parts of Libya around Cyrene; visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring in our own languages the wonderful works of God." <sup>12</sup>They were all amazed and perplexed. They kept saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others mocked them and said, "They are full of new wine."

<sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: "Men of Judea, and all you residents of Jerusalem, understand this, and listen closely to my words. <sup>15</sup>These men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup>On the contrary, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>This is what God says will happen in the last days:  
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.

Your sons and your daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions.

Your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>I will show wonders in the sky above,  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and a rising cloud of smoke.

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

<sup>21</sup>And this will happen: Everyone who calls on the name  
of the Lord will be saved.

### Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful  
people, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.  
(Antiphon for Pentecost)

**C: (sing) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia**

### Gospel

John 15:26-27,16:4b-11 (EHV)

*Jesus promised he would not leave us alone but would  
send us the Spirit of truth to give us the courage and power  
to testify to the world.*

<sup>26</sup>“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you  
from the Father—the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the  
Father—he will testify about me. <sup>27</sup>And you also are going  
to testify, because you have been with me from the  
beginning.”



I did not tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you.

<sup>5</sup>“But now I am going away to him who sent me, and not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup>Yet because I have told you these things, sorrow has filled your heart. <sup>7</sup>Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth: It is good for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment: <sup>9</sup>about sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; <sup>11</sup>about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

### Hymn

CW 186 O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God

**1 O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God,  
Revealer of God’s holy Word,  
You come to us from God’s great throne,  
From God the Father and the Son,  
O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God.**

**2 O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God,  
Enlighten us by that same Word;  
Unless your grace the pow’r should give,  
None can believe in Christ and live,  
O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God.**

**3 O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God,  
Increase our faith in our dear Lord;  
Teach us to know the Father’s love  
And his dear Son, who reigns above,  
O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God.**

**4 O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God,  
Lead us to love your sacred Word;  
The holy flame of love impart,  
That kindness may inspire each heart,  
O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God.**

Sermon Text & Theme

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (EHV)

Theme: **Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD:**

- 1) Though your hope has perished,
- 2) I will put my Spirit in you and you will live!

Hymn

*CW 177:1,4-5* Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest

**1 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,  
And make our hearts your place of rest;  
Come with your grace and heav'nly aid,  
And fill the hearts which you have made.**

**4 Drive far away our wily foe,  
And your abiding peace bestow;  
If you are our protecting guide,  
No evil can with us abide.**

**5 Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
And you, from both, as Three in One  
That we your name may ever bless  
And in our lives the truth confess.**

Offertory Prayer

Prayer Pentecost & Lord's Prayer

M: Praise to you, Holy Spirit. We worship and glorify you as the Lord and the giver of life. As you were present at the beginning of the world to shed life on all created things, as you gave a new life of understanding to the disciples in your Pentecost baptism of fire, so by the baptism of water with the Word, you have made the light of faith shine in our hearts to know Jesus as our Lord.

In thanksgiving for your gifts to us, we confess:

**C: I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.**

**But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.**

**M: Holy Spirit, all-seeing Counselor and fountain of all spiritual gifts, stand by us in the weakness of our sinful flesh. Grant us a right understanding of the truths that Jesus taught. Give us strength to endure with patience whatever afflictions God may send into our lives. Help us, intercede for us, train us that we may pray to the Father with boldness and confidence. Preserve us by the power of your Word in our most holy faith as members of the Church, the body of Jesus, where there is forgiveness for all.**

**C: In this Christian Church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.**

**M: Holy Spirit, highest comfort in every need, in these gray and last days of the world, strengthen our feeble hands, steady our weak knees, encourage our fearful hearts. Remind us of your Word and promises: "Be strong; do not fear. Your Lord will come again. He will come to save you." And in your final, mighty, creative act, O Holy Spirit, raise up our bodies so that we, together with all the saints, may lift up our heads and with glorified eyes see our Savior drawing near.**

**C: On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true. Amen.**

*(Special Intercessory Prayers)*

**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.**

Confession and Absolution

*(Please stand)*

M: My fellow disciples, in the Lord's Supper, Jesus is coming to us in a very special way: as we receive the bread and the wine of communion, Jesus is present to give us his actual body and blood, and to pronounce forgiveness to each one of us personally. Because of the Lord's presence and his forgiveness in communion, the Apostle Paul wrote, "*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28) Therefore, before the Lord comes to meet with us, let us honestly ask ourselves before God who knows our hearts:

- 1) Do you confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his anger and punishment? If so, then answer, "I do confess!"

**C: I do confess!**

M: It is good for you to confess because God's word says, "*When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.*" (Psalm 32:3)

2) Are you sorry for the sins you have committed against God by things you have done, said and thought, and by the things you have failed to do? If so, then answer, “I do repent!”

**C: I do repent!**

M: It is right for you to repent because God’s Word says, “*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not within us.*” (1 John 1:8)

3) Do you now believe that God will forgive you and save you for the sake of Jesus’ perfect life and redeeming death? If so, then answer, “I do believe!”

**C: I do believe!**

M: It is right for you to believe because Jesus himself says, “*God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*” (John 3:16)

4) Do you now promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to make every effort to turn away from sin and live for your Lord? If so, then answer, “I do so promise!”

**C: I do so promise!**

M: It is right for you to promise because God’s Word says, “*Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*” (Matthew 3:8)

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: As repentant and forgiven sinners, we now come to meet with our Lord.

**C: (sing) O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the**

### Distribution

#### Hymn

CW 616 - Feed Your Children, God Most Holy

**Feed your children, God most holy;  
Comfort sinners poor and lowly.  
Jesus, bread of life from heaven,  
Bless the food you here have given.  
As these gifts the body nourish,  
May our souls in graces flourish  
Till with saints in heav'nly splendor  
At your feast due thanks we render.**

### Thanksgiving

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C: And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Benediction

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

C: **Amen.**

## Hymn

CW 184 O Holy Spirit, Enter In

- 1 O Holy Spirit, enter in  
And in our hearts your work begin,  
Your dwelling place now make us.  
Sun of the soul, O Light divine,  
Around and in us brightly shine,  
To joy and gladness wake us  
That we May be Truly living,  
To you giving Prayer unceasing  
And in love be still increasing.
- 2 Give to your Word impressive pow'r  
That in our hearts from this good hour  
As fire it may be glowing,  
That in true Christian unity  
We faithful witnesses may be,  
Your glory ever showing.  
Hear us, Cheer us By your teaching;  
Let our preaching And our labor  
Praise you, Lord, and serve our neighbor.
- 3 O mighty Rock, O Source of life,  
Let your dear Word, in doubt and strife,  
In us be strongly burning  
That we be faithful unto death  
And live in love and holy faith,  
From you true wisdom learning.  
Your grace And peace On us shower;  
By your power Christ confessing,  
Let us see our Savior's blessing.

## Announcements

### **Church Cleaners:**

May 26 - Thomas // June 2 - Mark

### DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

**Su (19) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class**  
**10:30 am Worship (with Communion)**  
**3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore**

*Pastor will be in the US from May 22-28<sup>th</sup>. If you need to reach him during that time, please call his US number: (512) 887-8982.*

**Su (26) 9:00 am NO Sunday School or Bible Class**  
**10:30 am Lay led Worship**

**We (29) 6:00 pm Elder's Meeting**  
**7:00 pm Council Meeting**

**Th (30) 6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)**

**Fr (31) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study**  
**4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)**

**Su (2) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class**  
**10:30 am Worship (with Communion)**  
**3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore**



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