

# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

“Gathered by Grace - Sent to Serve”

## “The Heart of the Matter”

Pentecost Sunday

May 31, 2020

### WELCOME

*Thank you for worshipping with us today!*

*If you would like to support the mission of Prince of Peace so that we can continue worship, community outreach, and other ministries, you can give any amount by cash, check, online, through the Give+ app by Vanco, or by sending a text to 833-394-7887 (text your dollar amount and follow the prompts). Thank you for your generosity.*

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### **ORDER OF SERVICE**     *The assembly speaks the bold verses*

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#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Red is the color of Pentecost and the color of hearts. You may want to dress in red for this special day, a color that represents the fire of the Spirit that came to the early church on Pentecost. Younger members of the family can also be ready for the Acts scripture reading with crepe paper or fabric strips as “tongues of fire.”

Each week includes sharing food, so preparations include **making a meal or snack** to be ready at the time of the gathering. Other items to gather are a **candle** and a “**worry stone**” with a heart painted or drawn on it or some other word or picture that reminds you that Jesus is present with you. You can also make or color a heart every time you hear the word “heart.”

#### *Silence for Individual Reflection and Prayer*

#### SPENDING TIME TOGETHER

The day of Pentecost has come! We have been spending time together each week being reminded that our hearts have the Spirit of Christ within, helping us, guiding us, giving us strength and courage and overflowing gratitude for each other. All of this was inspired by the early Christian community, one that was often under difficult circumstances but continued to support each other along the way:

*“Day by day, as they **spent much time together** in the temple, they **broke bread at home** and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, **praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.**” (Acts 2: 46-47a)*

We create a “temple” of worship in our hearts that connects us across boundaries, distance, and time. But as we share this worship, we will stay connected. At the “heart of the matter,” we are connected through the Spirit that makes us one in love.

## OPENING ACT OF CENTERING OUR HEARTS AS ONE

We are going to center our hearts as one to begin.

Let's take a deep breath together.

I invite you to place your hand on your heart and  
let's lightly tap together in a slow heartbeat rhythm:

Holy Living God,  
Heartbeat of Creation,  
help us to take this time to center on you,  
for you made us,  
you gave us life,  
and you continue to be with us  
every moment...  
every breath...  
every step.

Hear this assurance from God:  
Be still, O heart, you're not alone,  
your beat is shared with me.  
Come now, and calm, and center here,  
you're mine, secure and free.

Let's take another deep breath, making sure our shoulders and any tension we feel in our bodies  
is letting go with the breath.

Let's take another one.

Let us pick up our heart stone, sometimes called a "worry stone,"  
and let our touch on its surface remind us that God's touch is  
within us, between us, and around us.

As close and real as this object is in our hands right now,  
is how close Love is to us always.

Let us imagine letting go of our worries for now into God's  
heart of love.

We offer a prayer of letting go:

Into your care, we offer now,  
our worries, fears and strife.  
We turn to you and know you're near—  
Your light, our love and life.

Let's light our candles now and set our heart worry stones next to it.

**HYMN**

*"God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind"*

**#400**  
*(vs. 1 & 4)*

**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 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!**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923 Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## **BREAK BREAD**

### **BLESSING THE MEAL (prepare your meal or snack)**

We gather at our table this day, giving thanks for all the people who have contributed to our meals every day and every week in our series: farmers, grocery store workers, those who cooked it, and those who will clean afterwards. Let us bless our meal by praying this “repeat after me prayer”...

Wind and fire of God,  
**Wind and fire God,**  
We gather in your name...  
**We gather in your name...**  
invited by Jesus...  
**invited by Jesus...**  
bound together with your Spirit...  
**bound together with your Spirit...**  
in union with each other...  
**in union with each other...**

Feed our bodies and our spirits...  
**Feed our bodies and our spirits...**  
with your comforting presence...  
**with your comforting presence...**  
so that we might be your comfort to others...  
**so that we might be your comfort to others...**

Bless this food...  
**Bless this food...**  
and break open our hearts...  
**and break open our hearts...**  
Bless this drink...  
**Bless this drink...**  
and pour out your love...  
**and pour out your love...**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together, gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

And now I invite you to pick up a plate of food or a cup of drink on the table and let us say the one word that is at the heart of the matter in every blessing we do at our tables, repeating after me...

“Grateful!”

“Grateful!”

Let us begin to “break bread” while we “break open the Word” in our scriptures.

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD WITH SCRIPTURE

### Gospel Reading: John 7:37-39

On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted,

“All who are thirsty should come to me!

All who believe in me should drink!

As the scriptures said concerning me,

*Rivers of living water will flow out from within him.”*

Jesus said this concerning the Spirit. Those who believed in him would soon receive the Spirit, but they hadn't experienced the Spirit yet since Jesus hadn't yet been glorified.

### Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-21

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, “Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans and

Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!” They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, “What does this mean?” Others jeered at them, saying, “They’re full of new wine!”

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

*In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.  
Your young will see visions.  
Your elders will dream dreams.*

*Even upon my servants, men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.*

*I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.*

*The sun will be changed into darkness,  
and the moon will be changed into blood,  
before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.*

*And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved*

## **MEDITATION**

### **HYMN**

*“O Day Full of Grace”*

**#627**

**O day full of grace that now we see  
appearing on earth's horizon,  
bring light from our God that we may be  
abundant in joy this season.  
God, shine for us now in this dark place;  
your name on our hearts emblazon.**

**O day full of grace, O blessed time,  
our Lord on the earth arriving;  
then came to the world that light sublime,  
great joy for us all retrieving;  
for Jesus all mortals did embrace,  
all shame and despair removing.**

**For Christ bore our sins, and not his own,  
when he on the cross was hanging;  
and then he arose and moved the stone,  
that we, unto him belonging,  
might join with angelic hosts to raise  
our voices in endless singing.**

**God came to us then at Pentecost,  
the Spirit new life revealing,  
that we might no more in death be lost,  
its pow'r over us dispelling.  
This flame will the mark of sin efface  
and bring to us all true healing.**

**When we on that final journey go  
that Christ is for us preparing,  
we'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,  
all joy of the heavens sharing,  
and there we will join God's endless praise,  
with angels and saints adoring.**

Text: Scandinavian folk hymn; tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921-2001, alt. Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### **Action Response**

1) I invite you to pour a glass of water for each person present. As you do this, consider silently what it is that is pouring from your heart today; 2) I invite you to each light a candle and as you do, consider silently what it is that your heart is on fire for; 3) Turn on a fan or make a fan with a napkin and fan your face and consider silently what winds of change you want to blow through your life.

### **Breaking Open our Lives with Discussion**

Our theme scripture says, "they ate their food with glad and generous hearts." One way we can be glad and generous is to share about how we are finding strength, hope, love and peace in these days. This is part of "breaking bread" with each other as we break open our hearts to one another as well. Let's share what came to us as we did the Action Response.

What is it that is pouring from your heart today?

What is it that your heart is on fire for?

What winds of change you want to blow through your life?

Finally, what do you feel is at the heart of the matter of life?

Let's take some time at our tables to talk about these questions or write them down in our journals or on notecards.

*Let's complete this sentence, "The true heart of the matter for me in life/What I've learned is the most important thing in life is \_\_\_\_\_"]*

### **BREAKING OPEN OUR HEARTS WITH PRAYER**

For those who have lost loved ones

For those who are sick and recovering

For those who are caring for loved ones who are sick at home

For those who are caring for persons in medical care

For those who are separated from loved ones

For those who are feeling alone and isolated

For those who are helping and are so very tired  
For those who are struggling to find friends, food, and comfort  
For those who are afraid

Let us take another breath of Spirit as our “Amen.” We know that God sends out our prayers and the Spirit, Breath of God, is blowing from within us outward, as a Spirit of Compassion and Presence.

### **BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES**

*Our 2020 graduates: Hailey Anderson, Hannah Anderson, Mattie Rae Shockley, Matthew Teska, Hannah Yuds, Ashley Zima, Benjamin Zima, Lauren Zima, and Ryan Zima,*

Friends in Christ, today we give thanks to God and seek God’s blessing as we send these graduates to their new callings.

It is our privilege to affirm them as they have completed one phase of their lives and move with great expectations onto another.

Graduates, as you celebrate your achievements and prepare to begin new endeavors, be mindful of your grounding in faith and of your vocation to serve God in all your life’s work and accomplishments.

Let us pray. Gracious God, you bless your servants with many achievements. We give thanks especially for the milestones that Hailey, Hannah, Mattie Rae, Matthew, Hannah, Ashley, Benjamin, Lauren, and Ryan will have attained in their upcoming graduations.

As they begin new phases of their lives, may they also know your love and experience your peace in all the experiences they encounter. Bless also the parents of these students who have raised their children and nourished them in the Christian faith. Give them strength in your continuing presence, and give them many joyful reunions with their sons and daughters who may be leaving home soon to begin new and varied ventures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve our God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **PRAISE GOD!**

We know Jesus is present among us...

**We know Jesus is present among us...**

even in this very home...

**even in this very home...**

We will not let fear be louder than love...

**We will not let fear be louder than love...**

but with glad hearts and rejoicing souls...

**but with glad hearts and rejoicing souls...**

we will sing God’s praise...

**we will sing God’s praise...**

for we are Pentecost People...!

**for we are Pentecost People!**

**The Spirit sends us forth to serve;  
we go in Jesus' name  
to bring glad tidings to the poor,  
God's favor to proclaim.**

**Then let us go to serve in peace,  
the gospel to proclaim.  
God's Spirit has empowered us;  
we go in Jesus' name.**

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### **HAVE GOODWILL**

What message does the world need? Perhaps you will decide to create a way to let more and more people know the message of Christ, "You are not alone. I am here. You have the fire of my love in your heart forever!" What can we do to create more "heart-full-ness" in our household, in our family, in our relationships with those we cannot be with right now? How can we offer our hearts to those who are working so hard right now? How can we tell others that we will make it through? Make your own plan today.

**Sidewalk Messages of Good News** - After worship together, take messages of good news, hope, joy, peace, and love to the community using the sidewalks outside your home and throughout your neighborhood. Share with your neighbors the good news that they are loved, that there is hope, and that we are all in this together. Make your designs as simple or orate as you like, with messages like, "peace be with you" and "you are so loved" for everyone! Or you can leave your "heart" stone someplace for another person to find.

### **BENEDICTION**

*(based on Psalm 16)*

As we close this time together, remember:  
God is always with you. No matter what you face,  
no matter what trials or hardships come your way,  
God is right beside you, offering love straight from the heart,  
guiding and directing your path.  
So, acknowledge your fear and your worry  
and know it is as true and holy as any feeling,  
including joy and hope and love.  
Take heart! This is the heart of the matter.  
**Amen.**

### **POSTLUDE JAM**