



DAY OF PENTECOST

Dove of Peace Lutheran Church May 23, 2021

Day of Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

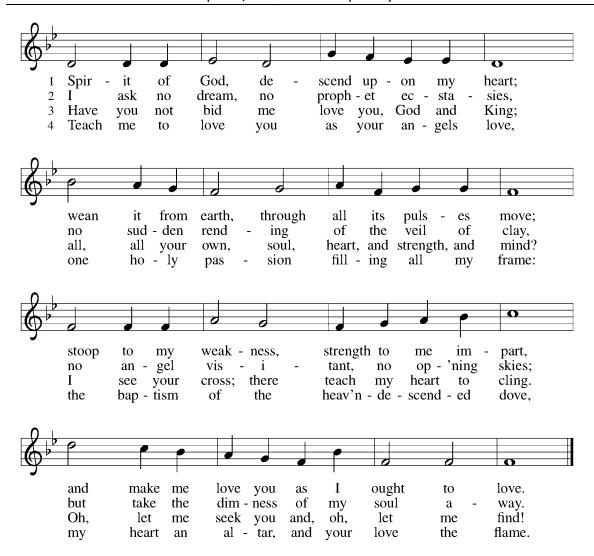
PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Theme and Variations 1-3 from Prelude, Adagio, and Chorale Variations on *Veni Creator Spiritus*, Op. 4 Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

Veni Creator Spiritus is an ancient Pentecost hymn, believed to have been written in the 9th century by a monk named Rabanus Maurus. Maurice Duruflé was among the many composers inspired by Veni Creator, dedicating one of his masterpieces to the tune, his Op. 4 Prelude, Adagio and Chorale Variations. This morning we hear the theme and the first three variations, which show off the flute and string stops of the Dove of Peace pipe organ.

Pastor Stephen Springer



Text: George Croly, 1780–1860 Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841–189

*GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Hebrew word rendered as ruach means "spirit," "wind," or "breath." This reading plays on the different meanings of the word. Just as the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision are given new life, flesh, and breath (or spirit), so God will give the exiles God's own spirit and will bring them home to the land of Israel.

A reading from Ezekiel.

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



Psalm 104:3

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* \otimes 2008 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

²⁴How manifold are your | works, O LORD!

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

- ²⁵Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too man- | y to number, living things both | small and great.
- ²⁶There go the ships | to and fro,

and Leviathan, which you made for the | sport of it.

²⁷All of them | look to you

to give them their food | in due season. REFRAIN

²⁸You give it to them; they | gather it;

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

²⁹When you hide your face, | they are terrified;

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

³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they | are created;

and so you renew the face | of the earth.

³¹May the glory of the LORD en- | dure forever;

O LORD, rejoice in | all your works. REFRAIN

³²You look at the earth | and it trembles;

you touch the mountains | and they smoke.

³³I will sing to the LORD as long | as I live;

I will praise my God while I | have my being.

³⁴May these words of | mine please God.

I will rejoice | in the LORD.

^{35b}Bless the LORD, | O my soul.

Hal- | lelujah! REFRAIN

SECOND READING: Acts 2:1-21

Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community bears witness to God's activity in multiple languages.

A reading from Acts.

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

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

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

- ¹⁷'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.
- ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
- in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.
- ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
 - and signs on the earth below,
 - blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
- ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
 - and the moon to blood,
 - before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
- ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God. GOSPEL ACCLAMATION The assembly sings the acclamation before and after the verse of the day.



Cantor: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts | of your faithful,* and kindle in us the fire | of your love.

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

While speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as "the Helper" and describes the difference the Spirit will make in their lives and in the world.

The Holy Gospel According to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord**.

[Jesus said,] ²⁶"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. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{16:4b}"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless 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. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹²"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When 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. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

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

CHORAL MEDITATION

Members of the Dove of Peace Chancel Choir

Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me Setting by K. Lee Scott (b.1950)

American composer and hymnodist K. Lee Scott weds this 19th century text by Englishman Thomas Lynch with a 17th century plainsong for this chant-like anthem for Pentecost. Coincidentally, the tune, ADORO TE DEVOTE, is found twice in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship, including a Pentecost hymn with another text (ELW 402). Today marks the conclusion of the Chancel Choir's season; members will continue to lead singing over the summer, however, for in-person and online worship.

> Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be; Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee; And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal; And, with actions bold and meek, for Christ, my Savior, speak.

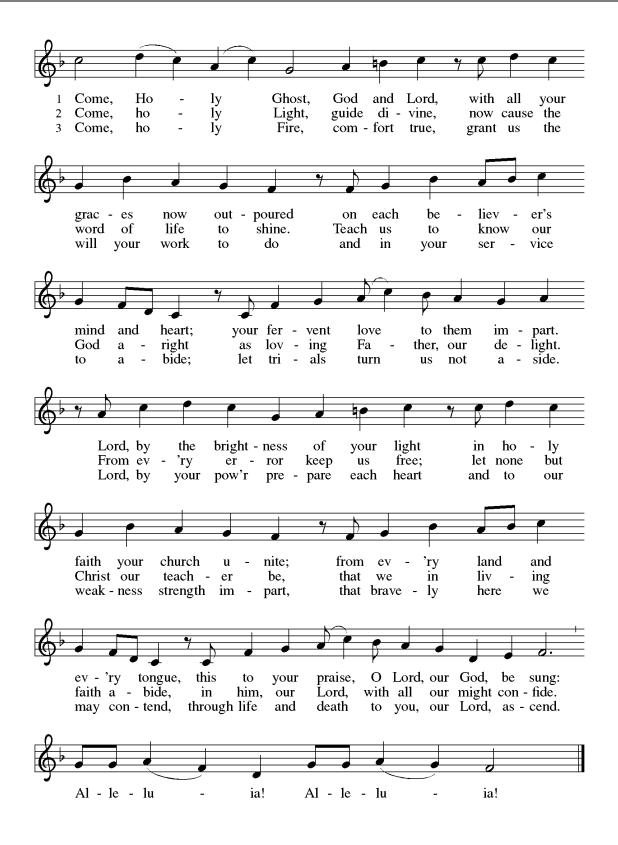
Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be; Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee; And, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear; And, with actions brotherly, speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be; Show thy mercy tenderly, make me more like thee; Separate from sin, I would and cherish all things good, And whatever I can be give him who gave me thee.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;
Help me now thy pow'r to see, I would be like thee;
'Gainst all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield;
Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory. Thomas Lynch (1818-1871); K. Lee Scott

SERMON

Pastor Stephen Springer



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the heart of your church; guide it into all truth; unite it in one holy faith, and carry its message of hope to every land. Let it be a light to the nations, proclaiming in every tongue the word of salvation for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Come Holy Spirit, fill us at Dove of Peace with holy passion. Although we may not be visited by angels or dream visionary dreams, help us to wait patiently for what we do not see, and teach us to love our God with heart, soul and mind. Intercede for us when we don't know how to pray, and fill us with gratitude for the gifts we have received from you, especially the gifts of worship and sacraments, which we hope to share again soon. Renew our ministries, and open us to the needs of our neighbors.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth. Creation cries out, and we are co-workers in the continuing process of caring for the replenishing of the earth, that all may flourish and enjoy the necessities of life.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Come Spirit of Truth, pour your grace upon the nations. We share your distress in the face of evil, and pray that you would work to change the hearts of the deceitful. Lead them to exercise your gracious will in the lives of people, and to correct unjust systems that cause hardship and suffering.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the people of Gaza and Israel, that the ceasefire will hold, that the violence and killing will end. We pray that both sides will work toward a long-term, sustainable and just peace.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Come Holy Spirit with healing in your wings. Where there is illness, mental or physical, provide the needed remedy. Where death's door opens, bring reassurance, comfort and peace. Hear those who cry out to you in distress. Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Come Holy Spirit, remind us that in hope we were saved for adoption and redemption. Keep us strong in faith, rejoicing in the witness of the Saints who have gone before us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Alleluia Bell Choir

A Festival Chime Gustav Holst (1874-1934); Arr. Lee G. Barrow

American composer and music educator Lee Barrow has transcribed for bell choir Holst's piece by the same name, which is built on the familiar Welsh melody known to many Christians as ST. DENIO. See ELW 525. Dove's Alleluia Bell Choir concludes its season with this joyful anthem with gratitude for the opportunity to make and share music in the midst of the pandemic.

COMMISSION

Concluding announcements and ministry opportunities.

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

ELW # 400



Komm, Gott Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist BWV 667, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Komm, Gott Schöpfer is Martin Luther's adaptation of one of the most ancient and enduring Pentecost hymns, Veni Creator Spiritus. The text implores God the Holy Spirit to descend on us and provide inspiration for the creation of the various works of humankind. Bach wrote a setting for the Orgelbüchlein, and then expanded upon that setting for inclusion in the Great Eighteen chorales written while he was in Leipzig. The setting features two verses of the chorale, placing the melody first in the soprano part with rhythmic punctuation from the accompaniment, and then in the pedal, with flowing 16th notes in the manuals evoking the presence of the Holy Spirit.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Thanks be to God.

Dianne Huston, Assisting Minister Gail Eifrig, Lector Eric Holtan, Cantor Kevin Seal, Organist

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far And grace will lead me home



Dear Friends:

On May 13, 2021, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a statement that said, **"If you are fully vaccinated, you can resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic."** This is great news for all Americans, and it is very welcome news for all of us at Dove of Peace.

Because a very high percentage of our members have already been fully vaccinated, we believe that we can safely and responsibly relax many of our restrictions. From the beginning, we have always followed scientific and public health guidelines, government guidelines, and denominational guidelines. Now we move forward in alignment with those same guidelines.

- 1. Beginning Sunday, May 30, 2021, our 9:30am worship service will be open to all who wish to worship indoors.
- 2. Beginning Sunday, May 30, 2021, mouth and nose coverings (masks) will be optional for worshipers who have been fully vaccinated, at both our 8:00am and 9:30am worship services.
- 3. Weekly eucharist (the sacrament of Holy Communion) will resume at our 9:30am worship service on or by Sunday, July 4, 2021.

There are many details still to be worked out, but our objective for the summer of 2021 is now clearly in sight. The 9:30am service of worship, previously "online only," will rapidly evolve to become the "new normal" worship experience at Dove of Peace, at least until fall.

The leaders of Dove of Peace (pastor, council, and staff) have all been fully vaccinated and we strongly commend the Covid vaccinations to everyone who is medically qualified to safely receive them. Any worshiper who is not vaccinated will be required to continue masking until testing results in Pima County fall below a 2% positivity rate.

For all who are uncertain about the risks of worshiping at this time, Dove of Peace will provide three excellent alternatives:

- 1. The online worship service will continue to be available for all who are not physically present. It will continue to be "live stream" at 9:30am, and will also be available "on demand" at any point after the live service ends.
- 2. The outdoor worship service will offer much greater protection than any indoor gathering. Face masks will be optional, but it will be a small number of people in a very large outdoor space, so Covid transmission risk will be minimal.
- 3. At 9:30am, the sanctuary will have a designated "extra precautions" area for worshipers who wish to wear masks and maintain a distance of at least six feet.

As circumstances and demand change in the weeks ahead, we may change, eliminate, or add to these options.

It has been a long journey, made with the grace of God. Our losses have been great. Our journey is not yet done, and when it is, we will not be completely the same as when we began. But we can rely on the promise: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever." (Hebrews 13:8)

God keep us faithful. God keep us safe.

Pastor Stephen Springer with the Congregation Council of Dove of Peace Lutheran Church