

Where Two or Three Are Gathered: Worship for Small Assemblies

June 8 - July 13, 2025

Day of Pentecost to 5th Sunday after Pentecost, Year C

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Order for Holy Communion Service

The Holy Communion liturgy is for use when an Ordained Pastor or Authorized Lay Minister is present to preside

Call to Worship (optional)

Thanksgiving at the Font (Optional) p.59-60 ACS

Kyrie (optional)

Gathering Hymn

Prayer of the Day

Word - First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel

Sermon/Reflection

Hymn of the Day

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Share the Peace

Offering

Eucharistic Prayer

ELW p. 65-70, choose between forms V-XI, OR ACS p. 56-58, or as suggested below

Lord's Prayer (ELW p.221)

Distribution of Communion

Blessing

Sending Hymn

Dismissal/Blessing ELW p.222, or as printed

Order for Service of the Word

Greeting

Call to Worship (optional)

Thanksgiving at the Font (Optional) p.59-60 ACS

Gathering Hymn

Prayer of the Day

Word - First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel

Sermon/Reflection

Hymn

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Share the Peace

Canticle of Thanksgiving – ELW #208 *Praise to You, O God of Mercy*

Thanksgiving for the Word (ELW p.220) OR

Thanksgiving for the Word (Psalm 25:1-2a, 4-5, 10) To you,

O LORD, I lift up my soul.

My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame.

Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

Lord's Prayer (ELW p.221)

Blessing Leader: Let us bless the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Sending Hymn / Dismissal

- **There is also a Service of Word & Prayer in ACS, p.42-45**

Resources in ELW and ACS

Confession and Forgiveness – ELW pg.94-96, OR ACS pg.8-10,

Prayer of the Day – can be found with the Lectionary readings in ELW, p.44-46

Prayers of the People - ELW p. 105 offers helpful guidelines for crafting prayers from the assembly. Different themed prayers can be found on p. 72-87 OR in ACS p.46-55

Please note that many of the hymns in ELW can be found on YouTube, sung & played by Tim McNabb from Halifax Lutheran, or

other musicians. Most of the hymns in ACS can also be found on YouTube, either sung by him, by the composer, or various musicians.

June 8 – Day of Pentecost – Celebrating the Church’s Birthday

The celebration of Easter concludes with the Eighth Sunday of Easter, the Day of Pentecost. Just as Sunday is the eighth day, the new day for the Christian life, so Pentecost is the eighth Easter, Christ’s giving over of his Spirit to the church.

Dressing your worship space

Color for Pentecost is **RED**

Use red paraments

Balloons, streamers, and other hangings in flame colors - red, orange & yellow.

Can attach short streamers to a small stick for waving

Light candles – lots of them, and perhaps red ones.

- Pentecost is the last Sunday when the paschal candle is lit , because its symbolism points to Christ’s resurrection.

Children’s message – explain whose birthday it is. Tell the story of Pentecost, with the ending...”The church was born! And that’s what we remember and celebrate today. Let’s sing “Happy Birthday to the church”

Props - Gift opening – could wrap pieces of fruit to refer to the gifts/fruits of the Spirit, and give each fruit a name, ie: love, joy, peace OR you could focus on the Spirit as the wind, blowing in and through us, and there could be items representing the wind ie: wind chimes, flags, streamers, pinwheels, bubbles, etc.

Affirmation of Baptism – can use Thanksgiving at the Font, pg.59 ACS for the Call to Worship in place of Confession for Pentecost, or other celebrations.

- Option to use sand pails with water to pass around and make the sign of the cross on each other.

Readings for Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 *A sound like the rush of a mighty wind. Divided tongues, as of fire rested on each of them. The Holy Spirit filled them and they began to speak in other languages. Peter addresses the crowd.* (Sometimes this lesson is read simultaneously by several people in as many languages as your people can speak.)

Psalms 104: 24-34 *Send forth your spirit and renew the face of the earth.*

Romans 8:22-27 *The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.*

Gospel Acclamation — *Alleluia.* Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in us the fire of your love. *Alleluia.*

Gospel - John 15:26-27; 16:4b. *Jesus will return to the Father and will send the Spirit of truth who will guide you into all the truth.*

Hymn Suggestions

ELW 526 God is Here
ELW 396 Spirit of Gentleness
ELW 399 O Holy Spirit, Root of Life
ELW 400 God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind
ELW 401 Gracious Spirit, Head our Pleading
ELW 800 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart
ELW 406 Holy Spirit, Come to Us
ACS 945 When You Send Forth Your Spirit
ACS 944 O Spirit, All Embracing

Great Thanksgiving for Pentecost

L: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our joy and our delight that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who rose beyond the bounds of death, and, as he has promised, poured out your Spirit of life and power; so that the whole earth might be filled with joy. And so, with the church on earth, with sea and sky and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn as we sing:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power & might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna in the highest.

P: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God who stirs the world with your life and power; hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the world was a formless void, your Spirit hovered across the waters, brooding over your creation coming into being. You spoke and there was light and sea, land and plant and creature. Mountains rose, rivers flowed, creation sang, you formed a people from the dust of the ground. Your Spirit was moving!

C: There was fire! There was breath! There was life!

P: In the wilderness you led your people. You were cloud by day, fire by night, manna in their hunger, water springing from the rock. In the dust of the wilderness you formed your people and led them to the land of your promise. Your Spirit was moving!

C: There was fire! There was breath! There was life!

P: When time and again your people were hungry you gave them bread on a hillside. When hearts sorrowed and bodies ached, when spirits longed for hope and a spark of life; you were healing for the sick and lame, you were comfort to the suffering, hope to the hopeless, Good News to the poor. In the dust of the streets you gave us Jesus your Son, and you formed your people through the cross, in love, in breath exhaled for the life of the world.

*In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.*

P: And once again your Spirit moved.

C: There was fire! There was breath! There was life!

P: O God, you are Breath.

C: Send your Spirit on this meal.

P: O God you are Bread.

C: Feed us with yourself.

P: O God you are Wine.

C: Warm our hearts and make us one.

P: O God you are Fire.

C: Transform us with hope.

Prayer after Communion

P: O God we pray for your Spirit to once again move among us. Stir our hearts, stir our world; create us anew through bread and wine, the body and blood of Jesus your Son Form us as your people and by your Spirit; whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Send us burning with your life, love and justice for all the world, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord, with him, in him, through the power of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, now and forever. Amen.

(SS)

Sending

As we go forth from this place,

Let us move with the SPIRIT!

Let us breathe in the SPIRIT!

Let us sing forth the SPIRIT!

Let us live by the SPIRIT!

Go forth in our God's blessing

to love and serve wherever the SPIRIT moves!

In the name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

June 15, 2025 – The Holy Trinity, 1st Sunday after Pentecost

Color: White

Call to worship (optional)

L: In the beginning, as the spirit hovered over the water;

All: God was there.

L: As light arose and shone throughout earth then faded into the night;

All: God was there..

L: As the waters separated and land was formed; as plants emerged and animals were born; as earth was filled with the color and sound of living things;

All: God was there.

L: Human beings learned to walk and sing and speak and dance and pray;

All: God was there.

L: God was there, looking upon the goodness of creation with love, delighted and so pleased with it all.

All: And God is still looking upon this creation with the same delight, with the same sense of pleasure.

L: And this good creation is still loved and adored by God.

All: Let us worship God

Prayer of thanksgiving (Optional)

L: Creator God, with love earth was brought into being.

All: Together with all the creatures of earth, we are thankful and sing your praise.

L: Jesus, human Son of God, with love you brought salvation to earth.

All: Together with all that lives and breathes on earth, we are thankful

L: Spirit, who with loving breath brings comfort and guides us,
All: we join with the whole of creation to raise our voice, in thanks and sing your praise.
Amen.

Offertory Prayer

All: We encounter you as God, creator, redeemer and peace-bringer, we are reassured that you are active within us, our community and the world, we are grateful for the gifts of your unceasing goodness and loving kindness, we are mindful of your eternal vigilance that calls us to act with justice, and thankful for the ways in which you work with us and within us to reconcile all things back into loving community. Amen. (SS)

Readings

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Wisdom rejoices in the creation

Psalm 8 Your glory is chanted above the heavens.

Romans 5:1-5. God's love poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit

John 16:12-15 The Spirit will guide you into the truth.

Hymn suggestions

ELW 819 Come, all you people

ELW 413 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty

ELW 687 Come to Us, Creative Spirit

ELW 684 Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

ACS 994 The Night you Gave Us, God, Has Ended

ACS 1087 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5HNbZE5ekM>

Sending

People of faith, here we have gathered and reconnected with God the loving Trinity, who has created us, who has lived on earth as we live on earth and who keeps the promise to remain with and sustain us in our living. Here we have gathered as one community of many people, here we have spoken of one faith with many facets. As we take leave from here we journey together though we travel many different pathways. Go in the knowledge that we are loved by God as part of God's good creation, and that we dwell within God's loving goodness always.

Below are resources that can be used for any Sunday:

Gathering

L: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Call to Worship

*God, how majestic is your name.
In him all things came into being;
The birds of the air,
The fish of the sea,
Plants of the earth,
Sheep and oxen,
Moon and stars.
You hold all things together:
And through Christ all things are interconnected.
One Bread, One Body, One Lord All.
In the name Creator, Redeemer,
and Sanctifier. Amen.*

(LWF)

Confession and Forgiveness

*L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
full of compassion and mercy,
abounding in steadfast love. Amen.
Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,
let us confess our sin against God and one another.*

**Eternal God our creator,
in you we live and move and have our being.
Look upon us, your children,
the work of your hands.
Forgive us all our offenses,
and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.
By your grace draw us near to you,
our refuge and our strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*L: Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit given to us.*

*In the mercy of almighty God,
Christ died for us while we still were sinners;
and for his sake, God ~~✠~~ forgives you all your sins. Amen.*

(SS)

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray:

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

(SS)

Sending

*Go forth as one Body, in one Spirit, with one
Hope to love and serve God!*

Amen! Thanks be to God!

(LWF)

June 22, 2025 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Color: Green

Readings

Isaiah 65:1-9 The prophet sent to a rebellious people

Psalm 22:19-28 In the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

Galatians 3:23-29 In baptism, clothed with Christ; no longer Jew or Greek

Luke 8:26-39 Jesus casts out demons possessing a man

Hymn Suggestions

ELW 451	We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus
ELW 445	Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
ELW 843	Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
ACS 978	God Welcomes All
ACS 1038	God, We Gather as Your People
ACS 985	Let Us Enter In

June 29, 2025 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Color – Green

Readings

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21. Elijah says to Elisha, Follow me and do not continue plowing

Psalms 16 I have set the Lord always before me.

Galatians 5:1, 13-25. Love is the whole law, gift of the Spirit.

Luke 9:51-62 Jesus says, Follow me and do not look back.

Hymn Suggestions

ELW 526	God is Here!
ELW 798	Will You Come and Follow Me
ELW 721	Goodness is Stronger Than Evil
ELW 793	Be Thou My Vision
ELW 574	Here I Am, Lord
ACS 903	Freedom Is Coming
ACS 1003	For Such a Time as This

July 6, 2025 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Color: Green

Readings

Isaiah 66:10-14. Jerusalem, a nursing mother giving life to her children

Psalms 66:1-9 All the earth bows down before you and sings out your name.

Galatians 6:1--16 Do what is right now and reap at the harvest time

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 Jesus sends out seventy disciples into the harvest

Hymn Suggestions

ELW 819	Come, all You People
ELW 770	Give Me Jesus
ELW 576	We All Are One in Mission
ELW 659	Will You Let Me Be Your Servant
ELW 674	Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
ACS 1000	God's Work, Our Hands
ACS 991	Go to the World

July 13, 2025 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Color: *Green*

Readings

Deuteronomy 30:9-14 The Lord will take delight in your fruitfulness

Psalms 25:1-10. Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

Colossians 1:1-14. The gospel is growing, bearing fruit in the whole world.

Luke 10:25-37 The parable of the merciful Samaritan

Hymn Suggestions:

ELW 522	As We Gather at Your Table
ELW 526	God is Here!
ELW 708	Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love
ELW 769	If You But Trust in God to Guide You
ACS 993	God Is Here Today
ACS 987	Guide My Feet
ACS 984	May the God of Hope Go With Us

LWF resources are taken from:

Lutheran World Federation, Reconciled and Renewed Assembly Worship –13th Assembly, 2023, Krakow Poland

SS - Seasons of the Spirit resources - discontinued