



Soichi Watanabe (Japanese, 1949–), The Coming of the Holy Spirit, 1996. Oil on canvas, 18 × 13.25 in., <https://artandtheology.org/2016/05/15/pentecost-art-from-asia/>

“Spirit Poured Out: Dare to Dance Again”

Pentecost - Affirmation of Baptism

May 23, 2021

Worship with First Lutheran Church

Welcome! Thank you for accepting the Holy Spirit's invitation to worship God today and dare to dance to the beat of God's heart again. We are thankful for the many ways the Holy Spirit connects us together to be the Body of Christ for the sake of the world. Today, we gather to celebrate with our Confirmands, who will affirm the promise God made to them through the waters of Baptism and the life the Spirit continues to call them to live as the church; Christ's hands and feet, reflecting Christ light in the world.

**Prelude -
Welcome and Announcements**

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Leader: Ezekiel has a vision of a valley full of bones receiving life, breath, sinew, and flesh after encountering the word of God. When they arise, they receive Spirit and they dance! As Easter people we celebrate the Spirit that continues to give life and breath to our dry bones. We dare to dance in the face of fear, in the face of cynicism, in the face of despair. We dare to dance “as long as we live” for we, like the early Christians, are the recipients of the Spirit of God which intercedes even when we think the storms of life will never end.

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

[music continues softly...]

Leader: The day of Pentecost has arrived and calls us to dance – to dance in the wind and fire of the Spirit, to feel, to allow exuberance to fill our bodies and souls. With those in Jerusalem on that day, may we dare to dream – to imagine – to let our breath be taken away – and to dance!

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

Greeting

Leader: This is the call!

The flames of the Spirit are beckoning.

People: We lift up our heads to meet the day.

Our focus is on the future and what we might do together.

We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.

When rain comes again, we will open the umbrellas of joy and set out anyway.

For we are called to dance again!

Prayer -

Let us pray,

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

Praise to you for your indwelling Spirit that moves within our lives.

Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –
so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.

Be with us now, we pray. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: (SING TWICE)

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

The musical score is written for a two-part setting in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The vocal line is written in a simple, accessible style with many chords and some triplets. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic foundation with chords and some rhythmic patterns. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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.

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, “Prophecy 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, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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 prophecy, 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.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - ELW 172**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL: A Reading: from Acts 2 (NRSV, adapted)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they 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? 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, "[People] 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. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

'The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: (Sing refrain, verses 4&3, ref. 2&1, ref.)

We Are the Church

Refrain

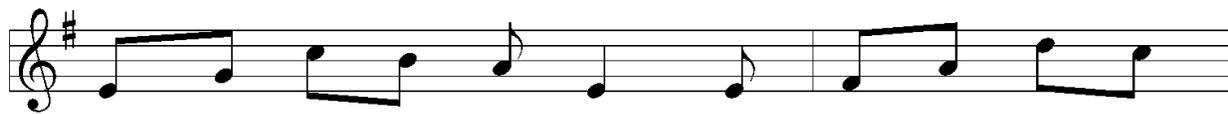
I am the church! You are the church!

We are the church to - geth - er! All who fol - low Je - sus,

all a - round the world, yes, we're the church to - geth - er!



1 The church is not a build - ing, the
2 We're man - y kinds of peo - ple with
3 And when the peo - ple gath - er, there's
4 At Pen - te - cost some peo - ple re -



church is not a stee - ple, the church is not a
man - y kinds of fac - es, all col - ors and all
sing - ing and there's pray - ing; there's laugh - ing and there's
ceived the Ho - ly Spir - it and told the good news



rest - ing place; the church is a peo - ple!
a - ges too, from all times and plac - es.
cry - ing some - times, all of it say - ing,
through the world to all who would hear it.

Refrain

PRESENTATION of CONFIRMANDS

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of *their* baptism.

Those making affirmation are presented by a representative of the congregation:

I present name/s, who *desire* to make public affirmation of *their* baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for *these sisters and brothers*, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You have called *them* to yourself, enlightened *them* with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished *them* in the community of faith.

Uphold your *servants* in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (ELW p. 235)

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may stand and join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I 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.**

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (ELW p. 236)

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support *these sisters and brothers* and pray for *them* in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

As the Confirmand's Name is called, their family gathers around them and places their hands on them as the Pastor offers each this blessing:

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in name the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm *her/his* faith, guide *her/his* life, empower *her/him* in *her/his* serving, give *her/him* patience in suffering, and bring *her/him* to everlasting life.

Amen.

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

***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.

Gracious God, you give the Holy Spirit to your church, filling it with many and varied gifts. In the church throughout the world, strengthen us in our visioning and dreaming, that it may discover anew the Spirit's creative work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, your mighty works are too numerous to count. The earth is full of your creatures, living things both great and small. Open your hand and give them the necessities of this life. Send your fresh Spirit over the face of the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the nations, at the sound of the rushing wind, people speaking different languages proclaimed and heard together your deeds of power. Fill the leaders of nations with your Holy Spirit, so that they exercise your gracious will in the lives of people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of faithfulness, you tend to the needs of your people, even the sighs of our hearts. Hear those who cry out to you in distress. Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, fill this congregation (*name*) with gratitude for the gifts we have received from you. Renew our ministries, heal our divisions, and open us to the needs of our neighbors. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of hope, those who have died in you raise their eternal song of praise. We give you thanks for the many gifts of your people and rejoice in the witness of your saints (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may turn in their places and greet one another with a sign / wave of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you,"

Offering Our Resources and our Energy

Leader: We know that proclaiming resurrection and daring to dance as we have done this season doesn't mean that things are all OK. But it does bring us the energy we need if we are to continue to dance the dance of justice and find the steps of service. So let us continue the dance of generosity.

Offerings may be placed in the plates as you go out from this worship to live in service to God throughout the week.

Or you can give online <https://firstlutheransandpoint.breezechms.com/give/online>.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING: (*Instrumental of Dare to Dance as people reflect upon what they are grateful for that God continues to provide for them.*)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING OF HOLY COMMUNION

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy Living One,

You transformed a whole lot of nothing into this amazing creation.

You breathed life all around and called it good.

You invited us to the wonder of it all

and when we could not face you, you turned us around.

You keep bringing us around and around, time and again,

offering the chance to join the freedom-dance.

And so we join with the glorious chorus of saints past and present,
singing a never-ending hymn of praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy!

God of power and might, everywhere we see your glory!

Blessed are they who come in your name.

Hosanna! Alleluia! May it be so!

Indeed, you are holy!

And blessed is your son Jesus,

Anointed One, Liberator, Dance Partner, Sibling, Friend.

Jesus sat at tables with those who had no place
and offered fulfilling food for bodies and souls.

On the night when he would pour out all God's love for us,

he sat at the table with his disciples—

just as he hosts this table here and now.

He offered the usual prayers of thanks to you, O God,

over bread and cup, and then disrupted the gathering with unusual words:

“Take and eat this bread—it is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

He then, took the cup saying,
“Take and drink from this cup, each and every one of you —it is the sign of a new covenant,
(for business-as-usual is over and done and the resurrection dance goes on).
This promise, in my blood,
is forgiveness poured out for all people.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

And so, my friends, we remember. And we believe:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again!

Pour out your Spirit upon us now!
Pour out your transforming presence on the gifts of this body
and the gifts of this bread and fruit of the vine.
May they be for us your life and love,
uniting us as one body—Christ’s body—
for the sake of loving the world.

**All glory to you, Holy One, Holy God,
through Jesus our Risen Christ and the Holy Spirit our Advocate. Amen.**

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastors will walk around the Assembly to serve you; first the bread and then the wine or grape juice (clear liquid) as you remain in a circle. Indicate with cupped hands, if you would like to receive the sacrament. You may remove your masks as we prepare.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. We give you thanks that this table extends beyond this physical space and into the space of the Spirit that unites us. We pray that this meal may ready us to love, trust, hope, and dance to the beat of God's heart wherever your Spirit sends us. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us to step out in mission for the world.

Praising God, Nurturing Faith, and Serving All

Benediction

Leader: The Day of Pentecost is a turning point for the church – both then and now!
The Spirit lives in us and still calls us to boldness and brilliance,
to be filled with hope and love and joy, and to dance with the rhythm of that Spirit.
May it be so in us and in all the church!

And may the Loving God, Risen Christ, and Dancing Spirit
fill you with all you need for the days ahead.

And all God's people said,
"Amen!"

SENDING SONG *This Little Light of Mine* *(ELW 677)*

This little light of mine, I'm goin' -a let it shine (x3)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2) Ev-'ry - where I go, I'm goin' -a let it shine (x3)

3) Je-sus gave it to me, I'm goin' -a let it shine (x3)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Worship Notes:

Liturgy adapted from “Dare to Dance” www.worshipdesignstudio.com/easterdance

And From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Piano - Colleen Culwell

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Confirmands: Today we see the fruits of the Spirit’s work in and through the families and members of the congregation, who kept their promises to God for these 8th graders’ lives at their baptism. Together, we continue to pray for and nurture their faith as they affirm the promise God made to them, “You are my child, in whom I am well pleased.” The following eighth graders have been discovering what this promise means for their lives in classes with Pastor Lori since the Fall of 2019: Annika Conde, Emele Dillon, Tyler Kurwicki, Hana Luttmann, Grace Matt, Bennett Moran, and Riley Shobe.

Prayer List: Betty Mitchell, Christi Paulsen, Arlen Ojala, Royce Howell, Libby DeLong, Michelle Thurston, George Marker, Lynn Franck, Chris Ingham; Randy Petersen; Charles Shobe Sr., Nicky Schripsema; Wendi Lies; Gerda Burke; Kara Schripsema; Trey Haberlock; Tom Taylor; Hunter Taylor; Eugene Kurwicki; Mike Shobe; Marguerite Suttmeier, Sylvia Greenwood; Janet Merrill, and those on your hearts and minds today.

We include prayers for Luther Park - its staff, residents, their families, and all senior living communities as we continue to learn how to live with Covid-19 as communities, in our worship, and mission as the church.

We pray for Palestinians and Israelis, suffering from the violence unfolding in the region. We pray for India and other parts of the world, who do not have resources to fight Covid-19.

Church Office: Lisa Tyrrell, our Secretary on Council will be working with Pastor Lori to update our infrastructure and prepare for another staff search. In April and May, please be patient with your requests. Pastor Lori will resume working from her church office on Wednesdays and Thursdays. She is also going back to taking Mondays, rather than Fridays off.

Survey: Please fill out the survey on page 16 of the bulletin (if you have not already) and return it in the offering plates or mail to the church office. The bulletin was printed prior to the Council's discussion about the latest CDC recommendations for vaccinated individuals. As a community of faith, who seeks to show the hospitality of Christ to everyone (esp. those in our midst who are not able at this time to be vaccinated), we ask that we respect each other as we navigate this transition back to being together.

Vaccinations: Lutheran Christians, along with several other denominations, have understood Jesus' equipping of the apostles to offer healing, as including science and medicine. Many of the hospitals, mental health care, colleges, and Assisted Living for elders were started and continue to be guided by the Lutheran Church around the world. We believe loving one's neighbor includes using this gift of reason for the good of the whole community. This means seeking the Spirit's guidance and through discussions as the larger church, constantly reevaluating what is faithful and ethically right for us to support. While the church will not tell you what to do medically, it does believe the vaccinations for Covid-19 is one part of helping our neighbors resume a whole life in work, play, and worship of God and supported biblically. If you would like to discuss this more, please talk to Pastor Lori.

Serving All:

We have a couple ministries we have partnered with in the past that could use leadership if we want to live them out this summer: 2nd Harvest Food Truck and One Church One Child.

We give thanks for all those who turned out for the Highway Clean Up on Saturday. Bill Philips and Bob Thurston report it was a great success.

Bags of Blessing - While we are not currently collecting items at church, please do continue to remember the Bonner County Food Bank, either by taking donations there or offering monetary gifts. We will let you know when or if we will resume this collection at the church in the future.

Covid - 19 Protocols for Gathering

Please note the following things to support you in your worship:

- First, thank you for adjusting to and heeding the precautions we have put in place to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus, while we gather.
- In addition to wearing face masks, remaining 6' apart from other family groups or friend cohorts, staying home if you do not feel well, and refraining from shaking hands or hugging:
 - During the passing of the peace, we invite you to wave, show a peace sign, extend your arms in a gesture of blessing, etc. as you remain in your pew.
 - Fellowship is encouraged with social distancing, once you are outside of the building after worship.
 - We requested your name and phone number in case we need to notify you of a potential exposure to Covid-19. We will heed HIPAA laws if or when the need arises.
 - We are thankful the rate of infection in Bonner County continues to drop and everyone over 16 in our congregation can be vaccinated. We also recognize, gathering inside still poses a risk of transmission, so we will record each worship and post for those who worship God with us from home. Yes, the Holy Spirit connects us all together wherever we are, with the saints today, and all those who have gone before us in the faith.

Vaccinations: Lutheran Christians, along with several other denominations, have understood Jesus' equipping of the apostles to offer healing, as including science and medicine. Many of the hospitals, mental health care, colleges, and Assisted Living for elders were started and continue to be guided by the Lutheran Church around the world. We believe loving one's neighbor includes using this gift of reason for the good of the whole community. This means seeking the Spirit's guidance and through discussions as the larger church, constantly reevaluating what is faithful and ethically right for us to support. While the church will not tell you what to do medically, it does believe the vaccinations for Covid-19 is one part of helping our neighbors resume a whole life in work, play, and worship of God and supported biblically. If you would like to discuss this more, please talk to Pastor Lori.

Gathering Survey: The Council's goal has been to follow the guidelines of the CDC and the Panhandle Health department's recommendations for people gathering in groups. We are in a transition time where those who are vaccinated can begin resuming many of their prior activities and interactions with people (who are also vaccinated).

Help us make an informed decision about updating our procedures by filling out and returning this in the offering plate for everyone in your household **if you did not do so before**. We received 45 responses last week. Thank you!

1. Number of people vaccinated in your household _____. How many of your household are actively participating in any ministry of FLC? _____ (worship in person, online, Confirmation, Bible Studies, Quilting, etc.)

2. If anyone of your household is not vaccinated, do they plan to? _____

3. Which of the following are needed for you to feel safe gathering for worship (at this phase of the pandemic)? (If more than one person is in your family unit, write the number of people who feel this way in each blank. Mark all that apply)?

- _____ All wearing masks
- _____ Spaced 6' from another family unit or friend bubble
- _____ Ushers helping with 6' spacing and finding open pews
- _____ Staggering people as we leave the church
- _____ Use of hand sanitizer as people enter
- _____ Signage informing the church's expectations while in the building
- _____ Conversations held outside (not in the sanctuary or narthex)
- _____ No singing inside
- _____ Humming of songs while all wearing masks
- _____ Holy Communion served outside by Pastors masked and wearing gloves
- _____ Holy Communion served inside at one station where people come forward to receive the elements. Those who serve are masked and gloved. Participants masked until they reach the station.
- _____ Have 80% of the community vaccinated
- _____ Have your family unit or friend bubble vaccinated.
- _____ Will attend when there are no restrictions.
- _____ Other.

Name of Household (optional) _____. We are trusting you to turn in only one survey.