





Queen Anne

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Called to Proclaim God's Love in Christ for Every Person*

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✘ *In Worship Today* ✘

Pastor

Cantor

The Rev. Dr. Daniel Peterson

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*This service of worship can also be seen as video online. Go to [queenannelutheran.org](http://queenannelutheran.org) and click on "WORD OUT" to find audio, video, and print resources for worship at home.*

*Many thanks to Todd Bishop for video editing,  
and to Marc Oplinger with recording assistance.*

*Thanks also to the many congregants who shared the peace of God  
with their video contributions.*

## DAY OF PENTECOST

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May 31, 2020

“Word Out #13 audio transcript

### Prelude

*If ye love me,  
keep my commandments  
and I shall pray the Father,  
and he shall give you another Comforter,  
that he may 'bide with you forever,  
e'en the Spirit of truth.*

(John 14:15-17)



*If Ye Love Me*  
Thomas Tallis (c.1505–1585)

### Welcome

- ☐: Welcome, this Day of Pentecost. Wherever you are viewing today's service, we invite you into this space: one where we will hear the good news in proclamation, spoken and sung, a time interspersed with moments where we can be still and know God is God.
- ☐: Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence in the world from the beginning, inspiring thereafter the words of the prophets, and now, residing among us. In the Book of Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are united in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.
- ☐: We begin with a brief order of confession and forgiveness.

## Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**G:** Amen.

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**G:** Amen.

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**P:** Gracious God,

**G:** **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**P:** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**G:** Amen.

## Hymn

*(see next page)*

*O Day Full of Grace*

**ELW 627**

# O Day Full of Grace

1 O day full of grace that now we see ap - pear - ing on  
 2 O day full of grace, O bless - ed time, our Lord on the  
 3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own, when he on the  
 4 God came to us then at Pen - te - cost, the Spir - it new  
 5 When we on that fi - nal jour - ney go that Christ is for

earth's ho - ri - zon, bring light from our God that we may  
 earth ar - riv - ing; then came to the world that light sub -  
 cross was hang - ing; and then he a - rose and moved the  
 life re - veal - ing, that we might no more in death be  
 us pre - par - ing, we'll gath - er in song, our hearts a -

be a - bun - dant in joy this sea - son. God, shine for us  
 lime, great joy for us all re - triev - ing; for Je - sus all  
 stone, that we, un - to him be - long - ing, might join with an -  
 lost, its pow'r o - ver us dis - pel - ling. This flame will the  
 glow, all joy of the heav - ens shar - ing, and there we will

now in this dark place; your name on our hearts em - bla - zon.  
 mor - tals did em - brace, all shame and des - pair re - mov - ing.  
 gel - ic hosts to raise our voic - es in end - less sing - ing.  
 mark of sin ef - face and bring to us all true heal - ing.  
 join God's end - less praise, with an - gels and saints a - dor - ing.

Text: Scandinavian folk hymn; tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921–2001, alt.  
 Music: DEN SIGNEDE DAG, Christoph E. F. Weyse, 1774–1842  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## Prayer of the Day

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**G:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us pray.

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

Amen.

## Gospel Acclamation

*Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest*

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.

## The Holy Gospel

John 20:19-23

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

**G:** Glory to you, O Lord.

**P:** <sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G:** Praise to you, O Christ.

## Sermon

*The Story*

You know the story. Our reading today, John 20:19-23, is the same, absent the part about Thomas, that we heard back on the second Sunday of Easter. Jesus has died. The disciples are in Jerusalem, huddled together behind locked doors “for fear of the Jews” (v. 19)

You know the problem with John’s language, at least as our translation renders it – how talk of “the Jews” implies their collective responsibility as a people for Jesus’ death.

You know that some scholars prefer “Judeans” as an alternative insofar as it more properly restricts the group in question to people living in Judea, not “the Jews” as such.

You recall how other Gospels like Luke specify that “the chief priests and leaders handed [Jesus] over to be condemned to death” (24:20), not the Jews of any place or any time.

Many of you know, perhaps more than you did when you heard today’s Gospel reading back on the second Sunday of Easter, what it’s like to be locked, as the disciples were, behind closed doors. Now more than ever you know the feeling of isolation, the longing to socialize with friends, the total absence of touch, even – in some cases – the inability to leave your home.

It is here, I preached that second Sunday of Easter, in the midst of uncertainty and even fear, that Christ appeared to the disciples. Imagine how they felt, how their grief was instantaneously transformed into surprise and joy, how their anxiety was instantaneously calmed by Jesus saying “peace be with you,” and how their hunkering down was instantaneously transformed into mission – how, after receiving from Christ the breath of the Spirit and given the power to forgive and retain sins, they burst open those doors of discouragement and made disciples of all nations, as Jesus commands his followers to do in Matthew 28:19, “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

You know all this, correct?

Except that it isn’t true.

Yes, Jesus appeared among them and inspired them with the breath of the New Creation. Three times he conveyed to them a message of comfort and reassurance, a message I can only hope that we have felt at times in moments, say, of isolation or in the face of uncertainty. But after Jesus left, I think the disciples were in the same position that we are.

They had no idea what to do.

Other accounts differ. Luke, for example, tells us that the disciples, after witnessing in Bethany the ascension of Jesus, returned to the upper room in Jerusalem. There, “together with certain women, including Mary the Mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers” they constantly devoted themselves to prayer (Acts 1:14). John, on the other hand, says nothing of an ascension in Bethany. Instead, after the disciples encounter the risen Christ in the upper room, all we learn is that they tell Thomas, and then, a week later, they simply return to the upper room.

It seems counter-intuitive, doesn't it? Christ, the man they believed to be the chosen one of God, the one they gave up everything to follow, dies a horrific death, dashing in the process their hopes and dreams for the coming reign of God he promised, yet then *returns from the dead* and all they do is tell Thomas! Then, as if nothing significant has happened, the text merely says, “A week later his disciples were again in the house and Thomas was with them.”

It's here where the disciples depart, baptizing all nations in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, correct? Well, that is what Matthew tells us. But not John. After they encounter the risen Christ a *second* time, the disciples do what any normal group of people would do after they encountered the most life-altering event in world history.

They went fishing.

They go back to life the way it was. Even though they were empowered by Jesus himself and the breath of the New Creation, they left that locked room having no clue what the world they would encounter would now be like. And so, they regressed. First they went back to their room, and then they went back to their previous profession. It was all they knew. That's where we find the disciples at the end of John, fishing, precisely where Jesus found them at the story's beginning.

I think this is where we find ourselves now, too. Like the disciples, we don't quite know what to do. We want things to return to the way they were, which is why churches across the country are clamoring to reopen. Let's go back to normal, they insist. Let's fight for our First Amendment rights, they say. Let's return, as the disciples did, to the way things were.

The trouble is, of course, we can't. Things have changed. As of today, over 100,000 people have died from the coronavirus in the United States. Returning to



in-person worship, particularly in spite of regulation and the warning of countless healthcare professionals, has cost some people their lives. As Kevin Kavanaugh, a medical doctor and member of the ELCA puts it, “this virus has made a church service one of the deadliest places to be in.” We have to proceed cautiously.

It is here that Jesus, for a third and final time in our story, appears to his disciples. Quietly, he breaks bread and eats with them on the shore where they are fishing, and then, after a brief discussion with Peter, he speaks his last in the Gospel. “Follow me,” he says. “Follow me.”

What does it mean to follow Jesus as a church now that we’ve surpassed the death of 100,000 people in this country? It means that in every scenario we put our neighbor’s interest first, as the Apostle Paul observes in Philippians 2:4. It means letting go of our need for the world to consider us “essential,” as if what the world thinks of us “fools for Christ” ultimately matters. And it means, as locked doors begin to open, that we be patient with the fact that for the safety of others the church doors *for now* must remain locked. In the meantime, of course, our worship, as it has from the beginning, continues, and we look forward to the day when our worship in person will resume as well.

You know the story. You know the story of how the disciples huddled in fear behind locked doors, how they regressed, how they (understandably) tried to return, as many of us would probably do, to the way things were, not knowing the way things would be.

But as Christians, you also know – as a former colleague of mine likes to say – the *end of the story*, how life triumphed over death in Jesus Christ, and how Christ, every time we fall back, comes to us, as he did to Peter, and gently says, “Follow me.”

Amen.

**Hymn of the Day**  
(see next page)

*Spirit of Gentleness*  
ELW 396

# Spirit of Gentleness

*Refrain*



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;  
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;  
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;  
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:  
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,  
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,  
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



*Refrain*

“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”  
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.  
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.  
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

## The Apostles' Creed

**P:** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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



## Prayers of the Church

**P:** Holy God on this Pentecost Sunday we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

**P:** Holy Spirit, you are our source of life and hope. We give thanks for your gracious gift of love and life. Embrace us in your love. Sustain us when we feel broken or frightened. Remind us we are enough, and that we are loved. Inspire us to be your hands and voice in your world. Grant us courage and creativity to joyfully share your good news. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P:** In the beginning you swept across the waters. We give thanks for your creation. Enable us to be educated, equipped and inspired to be better stewards of your world. We give thanks this day for Earth Ministry and Lutherans Restoring Creation. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P:** You dwell in our midst. We pray for our world, nation, and local communities, especially those where insecurity, violence and fear are the norm. Help us to bring healing, wholeness and safety to these siblings. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P:** You are the voice for justice. We pray for those who lead. Inspire them and guide us us and to be better advocates for the sake of each member in our community, especially those who have little power and no voice. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P:** We lift up those experiencing anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges. Empower us to reach out to those who need care and support. For those who are in despair, remember you are loved. You are never beyond God's mercy, grace, and love. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for our neighbors who are fearful or in danger in their relationships. We lift up the work of those who protect, support and advocate for people who are experiencing domestic violence. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for those affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Guide those working to improve testing, and those working toward a vaccine, and for our government and health organization leaders as they discern a path forward. Sustain those who are facing financial uncertainty due to loss of income. Help us to share generously. During these days of physical isolation, grant us patience, humor, compassion, and courage. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P:** For who or what else do the people of God pray?

*A silence is given so that your prayers may be offered.*

**P:** Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P:** You raise up the broken-hearted. We pray for those today who are grieving. Loving God, wrap your arms of love and hope around all those who are experiencing any kind of loss, disconnection, or brokenness.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P:** Blessed are you, O God of the Universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, through Christ our Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **Sharing of Peace**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**P**: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C**: **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

## **Announcements**

**P**: We thank you for joining us for today's service. Beginning in July, the first Sunday in each month will be our video service, like the one you see here. We will also feature on this channel devotional and music content in between. Please subscribe below. If you would like to hear our audio-recorded services, which we release weekly, or access the newest edition of our newsletter, *The Quill*, , please go to our website at [queenannelutheran.org](http://queenannelutheran.org).

And now a special message from Rob Stewart of New Horizons ministry:

**RS**: Hi, my name is Rob Stewart; I am the executive Director of New Horizons here in Seattle, and I just want to take a little bit of time to thank you so much, Queen Anne Lutheran Church, for coming alongside of us, for thinking about us, and for advocating for us and the young people that we serve, especially during this really challenging time.

I remember when COVID first came on the scene, I got a call from Dan Peterson. He said, "We just want to help, we just want to come alongside you, we want to support you." And that has been completely true. We've been blown away by the support that you have offered us,

and that you have offered our young people, and just how thoughtful you have been about what it means to partner with us, and we are really grateful.

I know that today is Pentecost Sunday and you are looking at the Spirit infusing its people, and driving them to things like generosity and grace and compassion, and I just want to say that we here at New Horizons and the young people that we serve, we are recipients of that grace, that generosity, and that compassion through you as a congregation. We are so incredibly grateful for all the ways you have stepped up, come alongside of us and believed in us, and in the young people; we are really grateful and thankful.

### **Benediction**

**A:** Let us bless the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**P:** Eternal God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless and preserve you.

**C:** **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

*Chorale and variation on KOMM, HEILIGER GEIST, HERRE GOTT*  
(*Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord, ELW 395*)  
Matthias Weckmann (c. 1616–1674)

