

**SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026**  
**DAY OF PENTECOST YEAR A**



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*Liturgy - Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay*  
*Ushers -*

(NCH) New Century Hymnal - CCLI LICENSE #11164431

\*Please stand if comfortably able.  
Respond with words in bold print.

**SUMMARY OF SCRIPTURE TEXTS**  
From “Preaching Through the Christian Year”  
**Fred Craddock**

Pentecost concludes the Easter Season because the resurrection of Christ has its promise fulfilled in the giving of the Holy Spirit to the church.

***All these are suggested readings from the Common Lectionary.***

*Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Corinthians 12:b-13 or Acts 2:1-21, John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39.*

**Acts 2:1-21** The name of the day itself (Pentecost) and the powerful image of the coming of the Holy Spirit like the sound of rushing wind and the appearance of tongues like fire are given to us in this passage. However, all the other readings , **Psalm 104:24-34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, John 7:37-39**, provide rich and meaningful expressions of the giving of the Spirit of God; “rested on them” (Num. 11:25, 26)” “send forth”, (Ps. 1104:30) “varieties of gifts. But the same Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:4) “breathed on” (John 20:22), and “rivers of living water.”, (John 7:38).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS**

**THE BELL IS RUNG**

**PRELUDE “Breathe on Me Breath of God” Mark Hayes**

**PENNIES FOR MISSION Strengthen the Church**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (INSPIRED BY PSALM 104)**

One: How manifold are the works of the Holy One! In wisdom, God has made them all; the earth is full of God's creatures.

**Many: May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the Creator rejoice in God's works!**

One: How beautiful are the works of the Holy One! In love, God has formed them all; the earth is full of God's beloved.

**Many: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to our God while I have being.**

One: How wonderful are the works of the Holy One! In peace and hope, God has renewed them all; the earth is full of God's redeemed.

**Many: May our meditation be pleasing to Spirit, Rejoice in the Holy One!**

**\*INVOCATION**

Living Water, quench our thirst. Fill us from the wellspring of your love. Refresh us in the unending flow of your grace. Immerse us in the vastness of your kingdom like drops in the ocean. We live in awe of your majesty and in humility at your presence among us. Revive us again as on the Day of Pentecost and drench your church in resurrection power. Amen.

**\*OPENING HYMN 290**

**"Spirit of God, Descend upon my Heart"**

**\*PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

**Spirit of the Living God, draw us together into the place where your Spirit awaits us. Guide us in your direction so that as we gather, we experience the unity that comes from shared hope and mutual understanding. Fill us with more questions than answers and open our minds to visions and dreams of a world transformed in your love and peace and infused with your hope and joy. For your name and glory, we pray for new life in you. Amen.**

**\*WORDS OF GRACE**

Body of Christ, the Spirit is with us as Comforter, Counselor, and Conscience. The Holy One will continue to demonstrate the way and amaze us with deeds of power and grace, strength and mercy, might and compassion. Receive the gift of new possibilities, unity in Christ, and transformation for the world through witness, justice, and love.

**\*GLORIA**

**Glory to the Creator, and the Christ and the Spirit so near. As it was from the start so it shall be forever, One God always here. (repeat)  
(end) One God always here. One God always here.**

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### SECOND TESTAMENT Acts 2:1-21

2 When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

<sup>5</sup> There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. <sup>7</sup> They were surprised and amazed, saying, “Look, aren’t all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? <sup>8</sup> How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!” <sup>12</sup> They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each

other, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup> Others jeered at them, saying, “They’re full of new wine!”

<sup>14</sup> 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! <sup>15</sup> These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! <sup>16</sup> Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> *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.*

<sup>18</sup> *Even upon my servants, men and women,*

*I will pour out my Spirit in those days,*

*and they will prophesy.*

<sup>19</sup> *I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above*

*and signs on the earth below,*

*blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.*

<sup>20</sup> *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.*

<sup>21</sup> *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

**Page 689-690**

**EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 The Words of Paul**

<sup>3</sup> So I want to make it clear to you that no one says, “Jesus is cursed!” when speaking by God’s Spirit, and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup> There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are different ministries and the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup> A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good. <sup>8</sup> A word of wisdom is given by the Spirit to one person, a word of knowledge to another according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> faith to still another by the same Spirit, gifts of healing to another in the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> performance of miracles to another, prophecy to another, the ability to tell spirits apart to another, different kinds of tongues<sup>l</sup> to another, and the interpretation of the tongues to another. <sup>11</sup> All these things are produced by the one and same Spirit who gives what he wants to each person. <sup>12</sup> Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. <sup>13</sup> We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink.

**\*GOSPEL LESSON: John 20:19-23**

**Jesus appears to the disciples**

<sup>19</sup> It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

**MESSAGE: “Receive it and Use it”**

Before I talk about today’s text, I want to clarify something first. In the New or Christian Testament the phrase “the church” is used frequently. What do the author’s mean? What church? Where is the church? What denomination is “the church”?

After Jesus returned to his father on Ascension Day his disciples and followers began to meet together, usually in someone’s home. They not only discussed how they will fulfill their vow to carry on what Jesus started. They also prayed, they had communion, and they repeated the words they remembered that Jesus spoke. As written words were put to parchment and passed around, they

read what others remembered. All of these together were called church. Many times the phrase meant all the followers of Jesus in general, together were called THE CHURCH.

As you can tell from the summary of the scriptures above, the common lectionary suggests 6 scripture texts for the preacher to choose from for today's lesson. That's nice but it's also confusing for a novice preacher like me. How do I put together all these scripture texts to celebrate the sacred and very important gift from the Son of God? The gift of the Holy Spirit for the world and for all of us.

The scripture texts we have today do not include when Jesus tells the disciples he will send them a helper, or an advocate, so they will not be orphans. Remember that message a few weeks ago Jesus has told them they will receive a gift?

Today we have some more of the story, not "the rest of the story" because it continues. Here's SOME MORE of the story and it continues with us. It's called Pentecost.

John 7:37-39 The major portion of the discussion of the Holy Spirit in the Gospel of John is confined to the farewell section; to chapters 14-20. The location of the discussion is appropriate because the coming of the Holy Spirit is consistently presented as subsequent to the

resurrection and exaltation of Jesus. "If I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you." A promise from Jesus.

John 20:19-23 **Jesus appears to the disciples**  
He said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

The disciples have now received the Holy Spirit. What about the rest? We hear about that wonderful occasion that is recorded in the Acts 2:1-21 text.

We should remember that Pentecost completes Easter.

-Without Pentecost, Easter must carry all the sadness of saying farewell to a Christ who rises to return to glory. --

-Without Pentecost, Easter reminds the church that Jesus has now gone to be with God and his followers are left alone in the world.

-Without Pentecost, Easter offers us a risen Christ whose return to glory leaves the church to face the world armed with nothing but fond memories of how it once was when Jesus was here.

-But with Pentecost, Easter's Christ promises to return and has returned in the Holy Spirit as a comforter, guide, teacher, reminder, and power.

-With Pentecost , the church does not simply celebrate but participates in Easter.

-With Pentecost, the risen Christ says hello and not good-bye to the church.

Now we know when all these things happened, but I want to now why and what do we do with this information?

Personally, I believe we all have the Holy Spirit with us. The problem is that too many people have lost the Owner's Manual that goes with it. This gift from God should not be ignored.

I'm fairly new to the Holy Spirit. I'm still stuck on the Holy Ghost and have been looking for Casper the Friendly Ghost. So I bought several books on the "third expression of God" that is usually looked over.

One book was titled "Pneumatology Explained" "The Holy Spirit in scripture, church, and experience." It has one chapter on "why should we study the Holy Spirit. This book is worth reading, but I think I have bored you enough for now. Let's read what's on the slide and I'll put an article in the newsletter. Amen

**CHANCEL CHOIR "Come Holy Spirit" John W. Peterson**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit, we are gathered here to say thanks for the blessings you have given us. We are

grateful for all you have taught us and the guidance you have give us. The Spirit has encouraged us to be faithful in all we do for your people. Guide us to more knowledge of your ways so we can serve others , each of us in our own ways.

We pray for all your people who are under the threat of violence. We pray for those who are in danger of dying from thirst or lack of food. We pray for all those who suffer from mental or physical illness. We pray for those who care for them, faily, friend, technicians, helpers, nurses, doctors.

We pray for those on our prayer list and all those in our hearts.

Keep us in companionship with the Sspirit every day.

WE pray in Jesus' name . . .

### **OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **PRAYER RESPONSE 769**

**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;  
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

### **INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

Psalm 104:27-28 states, "These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things." As your gathered body, we give

and open hands and hearts to share the good things you have given to us. We give in abundance and in sacrifice so that all needs are met. Let us give with thanksgiving and commitment to the church and the world.

**OFFERTORY “Holy Ground” Geron Davis**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING**

**Spirit, receive these gifts for the mutual flourishing of all the creatures of earth and the benefit of your kingdom. Sustain us as caretakers, prosper our work, and stir the gifts in us. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN 288 “Let it Breathe on Me”**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Having been quenched and ignited by Spirit  
And united in the waters of the baptized life  
Let us go from this gathering as members of the Body of Christ— Together even when distant  
Understanding and understood across difference  
Resolved beyond fear and empowered by the Spirit

Joyful in amazement and in mystery  
Visioning, prophesying, dreaming  
As on the Day of Pentecost

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE 571**

**O God of Love, O God of Peace  
Make wars throughout the world to cease.  
The wrath of human wrong restrain;  
Give peace, O God, give peace again!**

**THE BELL IS RUNG**

**POSTLUDE “Echo Fanfare” Lani Smith**

**PRAYER LIST:** Premie Baby James, Bennie Pointer, Ginny Ganschinietz, Patti French, Bruce Wagner, Becky Ballard, Roger Ballard, Mary Lou and Urban Baum, Ronald Bopp, Geralyn Gamon, Russ Hartmann, Lynne Knecht, Marilyn Paul, Pam and Syd Safriet, Yvonne Weber, Jackie Canterbury, our Beloved Country.