

# Pentecost

May 24, 2026

## **WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion towards all who call this place home.

## **COMMUNITY LIFE**

Next Sunday, May 31, we will celebrate Holy Trinity Sunday with Pastor Erin presiding at communion.

May 31 is also the ELCIC's official Day of Action. Everyone is invited to wear their t-shirts – or something white or red, if you wish. It is the last day to bring items for our Spring Food Hamper for the Interfaith Food Bank. And if you enjoy singing, please plan to come Spring Carolling with some of our homebound members and friends. We'll meet at the church at 1:45 to pick up songsheets, form groups and head out.

Our church picnic is on Sunday, June 7 from 10 am to 2 pm at Kin Picnic Shelter in Coaldale. A brief time of worship will begin at 11 am followed by lunch and games. There will be no service at the church or online. A sermon for the day will be sent out via email.

## **INTRODUCTION**

On this day we celebrate the uniting presence of the Spirit. We remember that Spirit, wind, and breath are all part of the same experience and that life itself is a gift from God – a sign of God's goodness and presence in our lives. We share in common the need to breathe; we are impacted by the same wind; we share in the same Spirit.

Let us find ways this Pentecost Sunday to breathe in our unity and celebrate our oneness with God and one another. This is the day God breathed on us.

We take a moment to open our hearts and minds.

**GATHERING**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
 by whose hand we are given new birth,  
 by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

**"Come, Holy Spirit" ACS 940**

Leader  
 Come, Ho - ly Spir-it. Come, Ho - ly  
 Assembly  
 Come, Ho - ly Spir-it.  
 Spir-it. Mar - a - na - tha!  
 Come, Ho - ly Spir-it.  
 Come, Lord, come.  
 Mar - a - na - tha! Come, Lord, come.

- One Holy Spirit, Creator,  
 in the beginning you moved over the waters.
- Two From your breath all creation drew life.  
 Without you, life turns to dust.
- One Come, Holy Spirit.
- Two **(sung with echo) Come, Holy Spirit! (first line only)**

One Holy Spirit, Counselor,  
by your inspiration, the prophets spoke and acted in faith.  
Two You clothed them in power to be bearers of your Word.  
One Come, Holy Spirit.  
**Two (sung with echo) Come, Holy Spirit!**

One Holy Spirit, Power,  
you came as fire to Jesus' disciples;  
Two you gave them voice before the rulers of this world.  
One Come, Holy Spirit.  
**Two (sung with echo) Come, Holy Spirit!**

One Holy Spirit, Sanctifier,  
you created us children of God;  
Two you make us the living temple of your presence;  
you intercede within us with sighs too deep for words.  
One Come, Holy Spirit.  
**Two (sung with echo) Come, Holy Spirit!**

One Holy Spirit, Giver of life,  
you guide and make holy the church you create;  
you give gifts:  
Two the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,  
the spirit of knowledge and piety,  
the spirit of the fear of the Lord,  
One that the whole creation may become what you want it to be.

**Two: Full Song: Come, Holy Spirit!**

One True and only Light,  
from whom comes every good gift.  
Send your Spirit into our lives  
with the power of a mighty wind.  
Open the horizons of our minds  
by the flame of your wisdom.  
Loosen our tongues to show your praise,  
for only in your Spirit can we voice your words of peace  
and acclaim Jesus as Lord. **Amen.**

~ posted on the Oremus.org website. <http://oremus.org/>

"Spirit of the Living God" W&P 129 (with second verse from Renew! #90)

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me,

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line features a steady accompaniment of quarter notes: G2, Bb2, C3, and D3.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The treble staff melody consists of quarter notes D5, E5, F5, and G5, ending with a quarter rest. The bass line continues with quarter notes E2, F2, G2, and A2.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

The third system of musical notation features a more active melody in the treble staff. It begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line continues with quarter notes Bb2, C3, D3, and E3.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece. The treble staff melody consists of quarter notes D5, E5, F5, and G5, ending with a quarter rest. The bass line continues with quarter notes F2, G2, A2, and Bb2.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;  
Spirit of the living God, make us one in love:  
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.  
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

It is our delight to pray. God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, and may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and worship you now and always. Renew us, O God, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### INTRO: TWO STORIES OF PENTECOST

We hear on this Pentecost Sunday, two different stories of receiving the Spirit, two different Pentecosts, two accounts of receiving the Spirit, two sides of our own story, two retellings of our own varied experiences. We begin with the story of the first Pentecost.

### READING: Acts 2:1-21

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? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs — in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 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, "Men 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.

And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.  
The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.  
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

For the Word of God in scripture,  
For the Word of God among us,  
For the Word of God within us,  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **"WHEN GOD CAME DOWN LIKE FIRE"**

[adapted from Discipleship Ministries, Pentecost Sunday

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/when-god-came-down-like-fire/pentecost-sunday-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/pentecost-sunday-year-a-preaching-notes>]

This story may seem overly familiar and somewhat tame from this distance of more than two thousand years. But let's put ourselves in that room again with the disciples. Recall the despair and the fear that soaked through all the layers they sought to cover themselves with; remember the emptiness that gripped them as they tried to avoid thinking about the rest of their lives without his presence among them. They had a taste of life, of living fully, of being alive like they never knew was possible, and now it was gone. They avoided eye contact with the others in that room, afraid of swirling down the drain again into the void that threatened to consume them every time they breathed.

But then, a sound shook them out of their stupor. It sounded like a freight train if they had a clue what a freight train was. Like a desert windstorm, blasting the sand into a scouring force exposing the bones with surprising speed. And yet this sound, this roar sounded different somehow. It was not like an oppressive, angry threat, but rather like hope. Hope? A wind-like hope? It blew through their despair like the wind drying sheets on a line. They were those freshly washed sheets, fluttering in this wind, lifted into a new day, drying their tears. They were kites flying high in the azure sky, tethered only by their faith in the one who was gone and yet still somehow present with them and in them. Remember that feeling, that joyous certainty. Remember flying on the wind of faith and for a moment believing in eternity like you could feel it bearing you up with grace.

And the fire. Remember the fire. Remember the fire in your bones that you had to let out in laughter and movement. Luke writes that it was divided tongues, as of fire, that settled on each of them. Be wary of that word "divided" though. This is not a separation or an individualism. No, this is inclusion; the tongues reach out like octopus arms wanting to gather in, to bind together, to make as one. This was an individual experience that had a corporate reality. They were each in this together. They were all as if they were one. This is a fire that unites, a blaze that leaps from one to another and to all. This is a fire that builds up, not one that destroys. Unless what is destroyed is all that would keep us from leaning into the joy of this day. All of this was glorious and unexpected.

The disciples had gathered for Pentecost, an agricultural festival that took place 50 days after the Passover to celebrate the first harvest of the growing season. It was usually a low-key holiday, but this year they found themselves in an encounter with God that literally blew them away. The Day of Pentecost came like the sound of a violent wind, Luke tells us. It was fire; it was power; it was chaos and noise, but it was also meaning, and it was hope. And then to be filled with the power to be, the power to grow, the power to love as Christ loved.

This new Pentecost experience is not simply a marker along the road, a milestone passed. It is a moment of power, an offering of transformation. Who knows who you might be once you've been windswept by the Holy Spirit?

### SONG – "Veni Sancte Spiritus" WOV 686

*Ostinato (repeated continuously)*

The musical score consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps). The treble staff features a repeating ostinato pattern of eighth notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5. The bass staff features a repeating ostinato pattern of eighth notes: D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.      Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.  
Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.      Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

*Verses (solo)*

Come, Holy Spirit, from heaven shine forth . . .  
Come, from the four winds, O Spirit, . . .  
Most kindly warming light . . .

### "HE BREATHED ON THEM"

There is a second Pentecost, a different Pentecost. Sometimes the breath within us isn't a mighty wind; it is more like a sigh. Of pain or sadness and grief, maybe of uncertainty or fear. Not a gust, but a sigh. Just a sigh.

*Sigh.*

Maybe it is more than weariness and exasperation. Maybe there is a hint of contentment.

Contentment is a rare commodity, often frustratingly just out of reach. If I can just get this done, if I can just accomplish those goals, just acquire these items, just save this amount of money, master these skills, then, maybe then, perhaps then I might find a sense of contentment. But in the meantime, ... work to be done, miles to travel, burdens to bear, struggles to endure, and on and on and on. Contentment isn't a word that speaks into our experience these days. Life is too hectic, too shallow, too empty, too hungry. Except then, maybe sometimes, once in a while, like a breath, like a cool breeze on a hot day, it is just there. From somewhere.

*Sigh.*

Remember this? A pre-Pentecost preparation from John 14, spoken by Jesus on his last night with the disciples:

Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me. I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (John 14:23-27 NRSV)

And then this, from John 20 ... a quieter Pentecost on the day of Jesus' resurrection:

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:19-23 NRSV)

Two words, or rather the same word twice: peace. "Peace, I leave with you." "Peace be with you." It sounds the same really, not much to distinguish between them—except life and death. The first was on the threshold of death. The second was in the glaring light of the Resurrection. That's what separated them: the last breath. "He breathed his last," Luke says. "Father into thy hands I commend my spirit." He didn't speak it; he cried it, Luke says. In a loud voice, a voice choked with pain, a voice gasping in the suffocation of hanging on a cross, somehow in agony, he caught enough breath to cry in a loud voice. Then, Luke says, he breathed his last.

*Sigh.*

Except he didn't. He breathed again. He breathed some more. "Peace be with you," he breathed on them. Breathed peace. Receive the Holy Spirit. The Spirit he commended to God. The Spirit returned to us, in a breath, peace.

*Sigh.*

Breathe on me. In the heat of the moment. In the struggle of living and loving and finding our way in a complicated world. Breathe on me. Give me peace. Not a peace that resolves every issue. Not a peace that fixes everything that is broken, that removes responsibility, that answers every question that removes every doubt. Breathe on me that I might find peace enough to continue on the journey on which I find myself. Peace enough to work toward resolution, peace enough to mend the broken or that allows me to limp with grace and confidence. Peace that breathes through my responsibilities, peace that lifts up and binds together. Peace that casts out fear. Perfect love - peace - casts out fear.

*Sigh.*

Where does it come from, this peace? Is it self-generated? Are there disciplines we can practice, rituals to perform? Well, yes, there are rituals - corporate prayer, sacraments of grace. Yes, there are disciplines - meditations that call us to worship, study that drives us deep into the living Word. These and more. But no. We don't create this peace. We receive it. Like a breath. That comes from elsewhere. From beyond us. The rituals and the disciplines are designed to shape us into vessels better able to hold onto the peace that breathes into us. It is a gift, a joy, an unexpected encounter, a cool breeze that fills the sails and sends us across the horizon into new worlds of love and joy. A promise from one side of life is fulfilled from the other. A description, an image, a story told to a hurting and hungry heart becomes a wind of change in a new world.

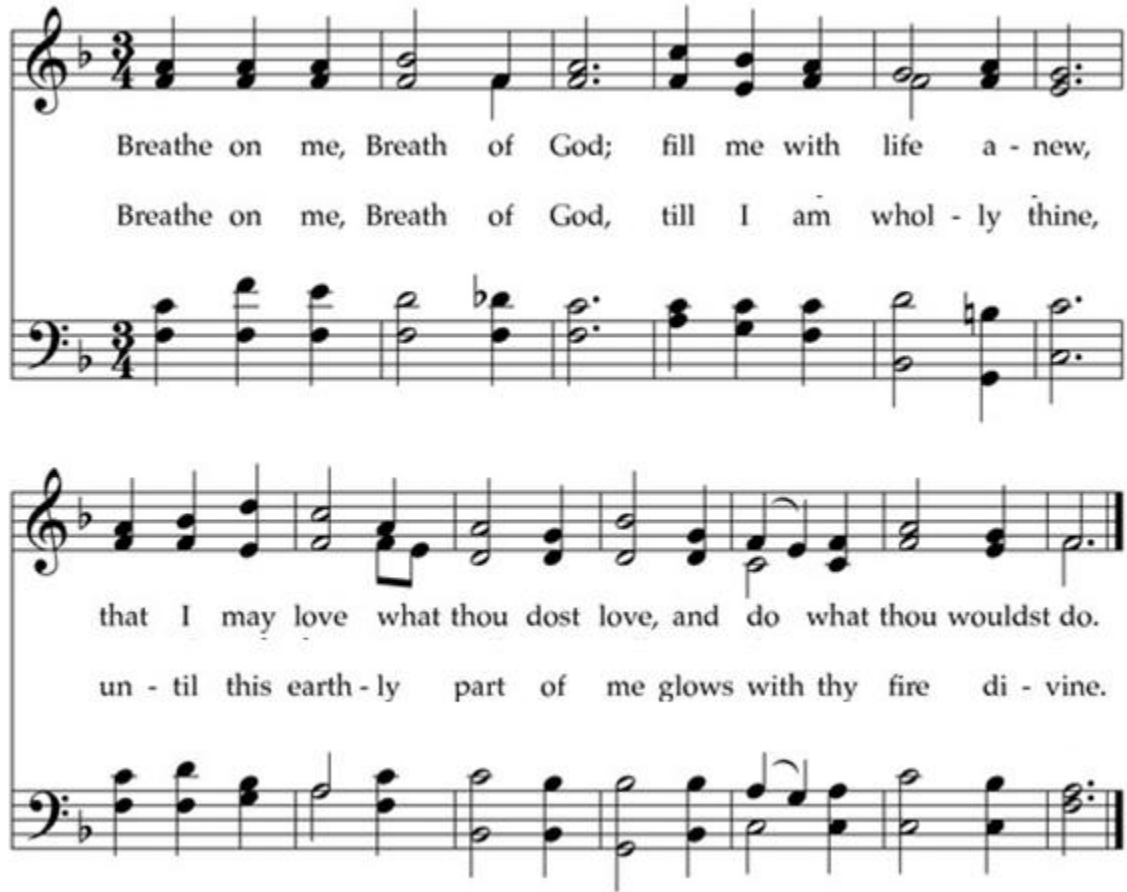
He breathed on them. Peace be with you. Receive the Spirit of holiness, of ordination, of mission and ministry, of love. Receive it and then love. Love from the strong center of peace, from the contentment of faith, of putting your hands in the source of love and joy and peace. Lean into it, trust it, receive it.

*Sigh.* He breathed on them. On you. On me.

Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do. ...

Breathe on me. *Sigh.*

## "Breathe on me, Breath of God" v 1 & 3



Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,  
Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,  
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.  
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.

### THE SPIRIT'S WORK

The Spirit's work continues in our lives and in the church today. We complete our hearing of the Word with Paul's message to the church in Corinth. Paul is exploring the relationship between our Spirit-created diversity and our God-given unity. The Spirit gives each person diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts in our life together and our service to the world.

### READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

For the Word of God in scripture,  
For the Word of God among us,  
For the Word of God within us,  
**Thanks be to God.**

**“Holy Spirit, Gift Bestower” (sing to tune of “Love Divine” ELW 631)**

**Holy Spirit, gift bestower,  
breathe into our hearts today.  
Flowing water, dove that hovers,  
Holy Spirit, guide our way.  
Love inspirer, joy releaser,  
Spirit, take our fears away.  
Reconciler, peace restorer,  
move among us while we pray.**

**Holy Spirit, Christ proclaimer,  
wisdom bringer, light our way.  
Fire that dances, wind that whispers,  
Holy Spirit, come today.  
Ease disturber, comfort bearer,  
move among us while we pray.  
Truth revealer, faith confirmer,  
rest within our hearts today.**

## **PEACE**

The risen Christ breathed on them: “Peace be with you.”  
We offer a sign of Christ’s peace to one another now.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of wind and flame: set us on fire this morning. Thank you for the gifts you gave to your people on that first Pentecost: the gift to speak in different tongues and also the gift of hearing and comprehension. May your Holy Spirit keep us attuned to the voices all around us, to those who need us to be bearers of your love and compassion, and may these gifts we give help us, through your church, meet those needs. In the holy name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United by the Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Passionate God, you sent your Spirit through the gifts of fire, wind, and word. As you equipped the disciples for their work, equip us to bring the good news to all those who long for you. God of life, **breathe in us we pray.**

Restoring God, wind and flame bring life and destruction throughout the world. We pray for protection for lands facing destructive fire, for forestry managers and firefighters, and for those who work with wind energy. Renew the face of the earth. God of life, **breathe in us we pray.**

Ever-present God, your spirit embraces all. Send your spirit of understanding to immigrants, refugees, and any experiencing language barriers. Bless the work of translators, language teachers, ambassadors, and those who work for peace. Guide to safety those fleeing war and danger. God of life, **breathe in us we pray.**

Merciful God, you anoint us with your spirit. Bless nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for all who seek your comfort and healing especially Alice, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Janet D, Dave, Tiffany, Corrie, Patrick, Linda H, Carol, Murray, Shirley J., Isobel, Hugh and Ally, Jim N., Donna, Doreen, Clayton and Margaret, Sheila, Ray, Nancy, Alan T, and those we name silently now... [silence]. God of life, **breathe in us we pray.**

Generous God, you impart a variety of gifts. Set aflame the desire to learn from one another, especially those who differ from us. Make your presence known through missionaries, peace workers, and through the outreach ministries of our synod and community. God of life, **breathe in us we pray.**

We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will and bless the Soup Kitchen volunteers. We pray, too, that you will be with Doreen Raftery and Lindsey & Sharon Reid and encourage them in their walk with you. We ask your blessing too on Pastor Joel, Vanessa and Hans. God of life, **breathe in us we pray.**

Life-giving God, we give thanks for those who have died to new life in you. Comfort all who mourn. Strengthen us with the eternal peace of your promises. God of life, **breathe in us we pray.**

Receive our prayers, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Made one by the power of the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 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.**

## **BLESSING**

We leave this space of worship.  
And while so much of the road ahead is uncertain,  
and the path is constantly changing,  
we know some things that are as solid and sure  
as the ground beneath our feet,  
and the sky above our heads.

We know God is love.  
We know Christ's light endures.  
We know the Holy Spirit is here,  
found in the space between all things,  
closer to us than our next breath,  
binding us to each other,  
until we meet we again.

We go out now with this blessing:

May the God of all,  
who raised † Jesus from the dead,  
bless us by the power of the Holy Spirit  
to live in the new creation. Amen.

SENDING SONG "We All Are One in Mission" ELW 576



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,  
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.  
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var-ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:  
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem-ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris-ing grace,  
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
our var-ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

**SENDING**

Go in peace. God is with you.

**Amen. Thanks be to God!**

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8. **HE BREATHED ON THEM: WHEN GOD CAME DOWN LIKE FIRE.** Pentecost Sunday notes from Discipleship Ministries. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/when-god-came-down-like-fire/pentecost-sunday-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/pentecost-sunday-year-a-preaching-notes>
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