



**Worship Service Theme: Pentecost**

**Helpful elements:**

Red tablecloth

Extra electric candles to line the table

Optional: strawberries, sliced vertically (see page 4)

Whiteboard or chalkboard (see page 5)

**Welcome:** Welcome! Thank you for coming to our service today. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'll be leading our worship time. According to the church calendar, today [or this week] is **Pentecost Sunday**, which means we have now ended the Easter season when we celebrated Jesus' resurrection.

Pentecost is the traditional celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised his followers. Some people call Pentecost "the birthday of the church." At Pentecost, the Spirit of God gave new spiritual life to the early believers, and they formed the very first churches to learn about God and to spread the good news of Christ.

The color for worship today is red, signifying the fire kindled within the first groups of believers. Please pray with me as we open our time together.

**Opening Prayer:** This is from the Book of Common Prayer:

O God, who on this day  
taught the hearts of your faithful people  
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:  
Grant us by the same Spirit  
to have a right judgment in all things,  
and evermore to rejoice in God's holy comfort;  
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Savior,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the same Spirit,  
one God, world without end. Amen.

## **Opening Hymn: Doxology**

**Statement of Faith:** Let us affirm our statement of faith by reciting Psalm 23, “The Lord is My Shepherd,” together:

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## **Hymns:**

**We Gather Together**

**For the Beauty of the Earth**

**Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

**First Reading:** Acts 2:1-13. This is the story of Pentecost from the book of Acts, which records what happened to Jesus’ followers after the resurrection:

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost arrived, Jesus’ disciples were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup>And all the people were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing Jesus’ followers speak in [another] language. <sup>7</sup>And the crowd was amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians and Medes and Elamites ... and visitors from

Rome, <sup>11</sup> both Jews and [Gentiles], Cretans and Arabians—we hear these people telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” <sup>12</sup> And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup> But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

**Hymns:**

**Jesus Loves Me**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Second reading:** This continues the story of Pentecost from the book of Acts (chapter 2):

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven other disciples, lifted up his voice and addressed the people: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. <sup>15</sup> For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. [That is, about 8-9am!] <sup>16</sup> But [what is happening here is] what was uttered through the prophet Joel<sup>1</sup>:

<sup>17</sup> ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams;

<sup>18</sup> even on my male servants and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> And I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below, ...

before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

<sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

**Hymns:**

**Softly and Tenderly**

**Leaning on the Everlasting Arms**

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<sup>1</sup> Joel 2:28-29

**Interactive Homily:** Let's think about the story of Pentecost that describes God's Spirit appearing like **wind** and **fire** to the first believers in Christ. Let's talk a little more about wind and fire.

- What is wind like? Can you see it? What can it do? Can you control it?
  - Invisible but powerful; strong, uncontrollable
  - What happens when a big tree is in a windstorm?
    - Sways wildly! If it's not well rooted, it can even fall over
  - I wonder what types of wind you've seen in your life?
    - Gentle breezes to a mighty hurricane
- The words used for the Spirit of God in both Hebrew and Greek are meaningful: *ruach* [roo'-achh] in Hebrew and *pneuma* [new'-mah] in Greek. Both words have three meanings: "wind," "breath" and "spirit."
- Everyone take a deep, slow breath. [In ... and out...] Can you live without breath? Where does breath have to go to keep you alive?
  - Inside you! Doesn't do any good outside your body.
- Now let's think about fire: what are some qualities of fire?
  - Heat
  - Light
  - Fire changes things. What happens when a log catches fire? What does the log turn into after it burns?
    - Turns to ash; looks and feels completely different
- I wonder why God's Spirit is described with both qualities, breath and fire? How might you describe the Spirit of God?
  - Strong, powerful, effective, invigorates us, gives us life, makes us look and act differently than before
- Many people call Pentecost the birthday of the church. I wonder why it's called a birthday? What happens on a birthday?
  - We celebrate! Why and how do we celebrate birthdays?
  - Gifts are given and received. That's why we have strawberry slices today! They're meant to look like little flames 😊 **[Start passing out strawberry slices]**
  - What do you think are the gifts that we receive from God?
    - Life; health; joy; other people [generate more ideas]
    - The gift of God's Spirit, which is in each of us and is all around us. We are able to do far more than we might otherwise believe, with God's power within us.

Let us pray together in thanksgiving for God's Spirit in and among us.

**(Silent Prayer)** ... Lord, hear our prayers. Now let us pray the Lord's prayer together:

**Lord's Prayer:** 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, the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

**Hymns:**

**Breathe on Me, Breath of God**  
**He's Got the Whole World in His Hands**

**Third Reading:** *[Have words in **bold** written on a chalkboard or white board. Point to each word as you read it during the prayer.]*

This is a Prayer to the Holy Spirit written by St. Bonaventure, a medieval Franciscan monk.<sup>2</sup> As I read and pray this prayer, think about which of these gifts you would most love or desire.

Lord Jesus, as God's Spirit came down and rested upon you,  
May the same Spirit rest on us,  
Bestowing his gifts.

First, grant us the gift of **understanding**,  
By which your precepts may enlighten our minds.  
Second, grant us **counsel**, by which we may follow  
in your footsteps on the path of righteousness.

Third, grant us **courage**,  
by which we may ward off the enemy's attacks.

Fourth, grant us **knowledge**,  
by which we can distinguish good from evil.

Fifth, grant us **piety**,  
by which we may acquire compassionate hearts.

Sixth, grant us **fear of the Lord**,

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers\\_Pentecost.htm#ixzz4igXJGWDB](http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Pentecost.htm#ixzz4igXJGWDB); see Isaiah 11.

by which we may draw back from evil  
and submit to what is good.  
Seventh, grant us **wisdom**,  
that we may taste fully the life-giving sweetness of your love. Amen.

I wonder which of these gifts you'd most like to receive today?

**Hymns:**

**I Surrender All**

**Amazing Grace**

**Fourth Reading:** "The Wind," by Robert Louis Stevenson

I saw you toss the kites on high  
And blow the birds about the sky;  
And all around I heard you pass,  
Like ladies' skirts across the grass—  
    O wind, a-blowing all day long,  
    O wind, that sings so loud a song!

I saw the different things you did,  
But always you yourself you hid.  
I felt you push, I heard you call,  
I could not see yourself at all—  
    O wind, a-blowing all day long,  
    O wind, that sings so loud a song!

O you that are so strong and cold,  
O blower, are you young or old?  
Are you a beast of field and tree,  
Or just a stronger child than me?  
    O wind, a-blowing all day long,  
    O wind, that sings so loud a song!

**Hymns:**

**Abide with Me**

**This Little Light of Mine**

**Closing Blessing:** (Strike bell as you say the word "Lord")

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his to face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Closing Hymn: Doxology, Reprise**

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#### **Extra Material:**

#### Prayer for Pentecost<sup>3</sup>

For the Spirit of Peace  
that calms our mind  
and stills our life,  
we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Love  
that touches hearts  
and reaches out,  
we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Joy  
that lifts our soul  
and gives us faith  
we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Power,  
that gift of grace  
for this your church,  
we give you thanks.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers\\_Pentecost.htm#ixzz4igYRyquB](http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Pentecost.htm#ixzz4igYRyquB)