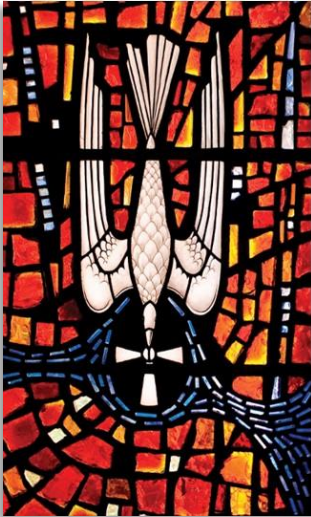




DAY OF PENTECOST

MAY 28, 2023

9:30 AM



RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

JOHN 20:22

Bethel Lutheran Church
1009 18th Avenue SW
Great Falls, MT 59404
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Email: bethelgf.church@gmail.com
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Pastor Jessie Obrecht

A congregation of the Montana Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Large print bulletins are available, please see the ushers for a copy.

As we gather for worship and prepare our hearts, we would ask that you please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.

INTRODUCTION

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 within and among us. In 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 unified 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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST COMMUNION OF RENEE DELORIT AND SAMANTHA SEIDEL

GATHERING SONG

ELW 807 Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

Dakota Road Kyrie Eleison

*R. Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way.
Kyrie Eleison ev'ry day.*

*1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity
of all. For this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us
pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! R.*

*2. That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry
and the poor. That we may live out truth and justice and grace, let
us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! R.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God,
**on this day you open the hearts of your faithful
people by sending into 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,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:1-21

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.

When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] 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.' ”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 104:24-34, 35B

How manifold are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number, living things both small and great.

There go the ships to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

**All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.**

You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.

**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

You look at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

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

May these words of mine please God. I will rejoice in the LORD.
Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:3B-13

Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Dakota Road Alleluia

R: Alleluia, alleluia, I am the light of the world. Alleluia, alleluia, I am the light of the world.

P: Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, those who follow me will have the light of life. R.

The holy gospel according to John the twentieth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-23

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

The gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Pastor Jessie Obrecht

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 396 Spirit of Gentleness

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE

**The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Dakota Road LH 135 Everybody's Got Something to Offer

R. Everybody's got something to offer young and old the prince and the pauper, everybody's got something to offer in the name of the Lord.

1. To the lost and lowly ones the message it is clear, we have all got a gift to give, our hands, our hearts, our tears. R.

2. To believers gathered here the message it is true, we have all got a gift to give in all we say and do. R.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Let us pray. Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Dakota Road LH 136 Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy tender, gentle God. Heaven and earth of full of You. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in Your name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first 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.

First Communion Congregational Response

Invitation to Communion

The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. We believe that Christ comes to us in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of sins and new life. Gluten free wafers are available, please let your server know. Choice of red wine and white grape juice offered.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

LH 228 *Lead Me, Guide Me*
LH 208 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*
ELW 461 *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*
ELW 465 *As the Grains of Wheat*

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

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

SENDING HYMN

ELW 723 *Canticle of the Turning [1,2]*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
Thanks be to God

And all God's children said: **Amen.**

SERVING TODAY

Accompanist Mary Seim, piano;

Lay Assistant	John Blank
Usher	Patty Braget
Tech	Adam Elkin
Children's Church	Addi Carlson and Julia Elkin
Hospitality	Sandy Pepos
Counters	Patty Braget and Greg Grosenick

Flowers are given by Daren and Patty Braget in celebration of Stetson Stubbs' birthday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We celebrate the **Day of Pentecost**.

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion for **Renee Delorit and Samantha Seidel**. May this life-giving Bread always feed your soul and nourish your spirit. As you receive your First Holy Communion, embrace the joy that comes from knowing Jesus.

Mark your calendars for a **special Congregation Meeting June 11, 2023** after worship to discuss and vote on replacing the chairs in the sanctuary.

THIS WEEK

Monday 5/29

- Memorial Day Holiday, Bethel Office is closed

Tuesday 5/30

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

Wednesday 5/31

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am
- First Communion class in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

Friday 6/2

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 6/4

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person and live stream 9:30 am.

Tuesday 6/6

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am

- ELCA Youth Gathering information meeting in the sanctuary
7:00 pm

Wednesday 6/7

- Bible Study on Zoom 10:00 am

Thursday 6/8

- Exec Board Zoom meeting 5:30 pm

Friday 6/9

- Bethel office is closed.
- Tami out until 6/13

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Worship Songs: Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing, Spirit of Gentleness and Cantic
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