



**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*May 24, 2026  
Sunday of Pentecost*

*Pastor Ben Cherland*

**Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church**  
Sunday of Pentecost | May 24, 2026

**GATHERING**

**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.*

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> '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.

- <sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,  
and they shall prophesy.
- <sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
- <sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
- <sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' ”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gathering Hymn ELW 400 *God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind***

**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.**

***ELW 407 O Living Breath of God***

**Prayer of the Day**

**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.**

**WORD**

**Children Sermon**

## **Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

*Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 104:30)*

<sup>24</sup> How manifold are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

<sup>25</sup> **Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,  
living things both small and great.**

<sup>26</sup> There go the ships to and fro,  
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

<sup>27</sup> **All of them look to you  
to give them their food in due season.**

<sup>28</sup> You give it to them; they gather it;  
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

<sup>29</sup> **When you hide your face, they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

<sup>30</sup> You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;  
and so you renew the face of the earth.

<sup>31</sup> **May the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
O Lord, rejoice in all your works.**

<sup>32</sup> You look at the earth and it trembles;  
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

<sup>33</sup> **I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will praise my God while I have my being.**

<sup>34</sup> May these words of mine please God.  
I will rejoice in the Lord.

<sup>35b</sup> **Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
Hallelujah!**

## **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.*

<sup>3b</sup>No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

<sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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

### Listen Now for the Gospel

972

*Refrain*  
Leader

All

Lis - ten now for the gos - pel! Al - le - lu - ia! It is

God's word that chang - es us! Al - le - lu - ia!

### John 20:19-23

The holy gospel according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord**

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

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, 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.”

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

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *ELW 401 Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading***

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

### Prayers of Intercession

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need and all of God's creation.

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Knowing that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### Peace

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

## MEAL

### Offering

## Every Time I Feel the Spirit

942

*Refrain*

Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing

The image shows a musical score for the refrain of the hymn 'Every Time I Feel the Spirit'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics 'Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing' are written below the treble staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The word 'spir' is hyphenated as 'spir - it'.

in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the

spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,  
 2 . . . All a - round me looked so fine,  
 3 . . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

*Refrain*  
 out of his mouth came fire and smoke.  
 asked . . . my Lord if all was mine.  
 chills the bod - y but not the soul.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: African American spiritual; arr. Melva W. Costen, b. 1933  
 Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

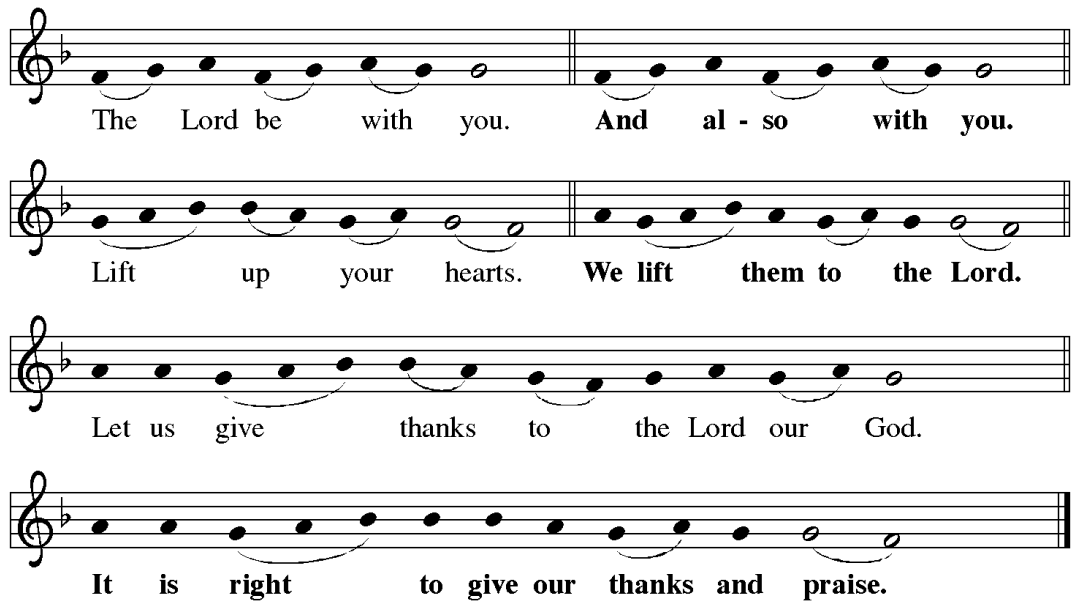
PENTECOST  
 Irregular

## Offering Prayer

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

# Great Thanksgiving

## Dialogue



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

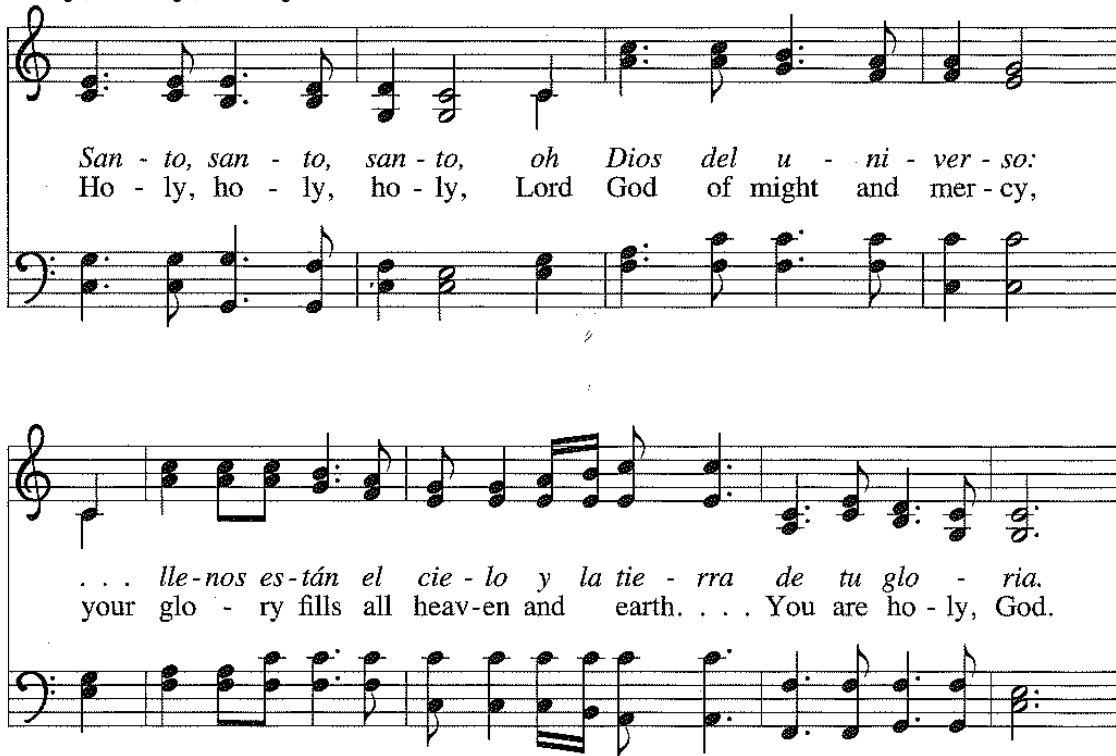
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Preface (*Pastor*)

### Holy, Holy, Holy



San - to, san - to, san - to, oh Dios del u - ni - ver - so:  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of might and mer - cy,

... lle - nos es - tán el cie - lo y la tie - rra de tu glo - ria.  
your glo - ry fills all heav - en and earth. . . . You are ho - ly, God.

Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en nom - bre del Se - ñor. . . .  
 . . . Bless - ed be the Sav - ior, the one who comes in your name.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo. San - to, e - res, oh Dios.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Traditional; English text, hymnal version  
 Music: Argentine traditional  
 English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

ARGENTINE SANTO  
 Irregular

## Thanksgiving at the Table

### The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

# Invitation to Communion

## Communion

HOLY COMMUNION

## In This Feast of Love

*Tässä pöydässä*

962

*Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä,* *täs - sä*  
1 In this feast of love, in this  
2 In this bread and wine, in this  
3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

*pöy - däs - sä* *syn - ti - sil - le*  
feast of love, Lord, you share your  
bread and wine, you have prom - ised,  
peace, O Lord; fill us with the

*it - se - si an - nat,* *Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!*  
blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.  
Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.  
joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

## *ELW 496 One Bread, One Body*

### Prayer After Communion

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

## SENDING

### **Blessing**

May our Glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn *ELW 399 O Holy Spirit, Root of Life***

### **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## Delving Into the Bible

### **I Corinthians 9:19-23**

<sup>19</sup> Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Throughout my 29 years as a pastor who, with my wife Nancy, ran the Bull'n Bear Saloon, this passage of Paul's came to be both a comfort and a calling to me.

It was a comfort because there were those Christian brothers and sisters who thought that being in a bar was no place for a Christian to be, much less own and operate one. (I was once asked by a wonderful older woman in a congregation studying my book "Crossing the Bar" whether we sold "real" alcoholic drinks at the Bull'n Bear.). That Paul said that there is no place where we should not go with God's Word of love and grace provided me a great deal of comfort.

These words of Paul also became a calling. After years of myself wondering If that is where I should really be, I came to understand that it was exactly where I was called to be. And for some of the “bar people” whom I came to love, it worked out rather beautifully, for they encountered a God who came to “eat” with sinners; To seek and save the lost. (Luke 15. You should read it!)

It is not only within the boundaries of a church that we are called to serve the gospel. It is wherever we find ourselves to be, for whatever reason. God’s love seems to travel a lot of gravel roads.

*Jim Johnson*

### **Announcements**

Thank you to all who participated in leading worship today, including:  
Readers, Ushers, Communion Assistants, and Tech Booth Attendants.

If you'd like to participate in leading worship, speak to Martha Crofts - there is always a need for more faces in these roles.

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Rogation Sunday Worship at 10 am on May 31st

Our service will begin at 10AM at the Tuell Ranch. Here are the directions:

Our address is 46 Scilley Mountain Vista Road

Take highway 78 towards Rosco and go past the upper Luther road. Between mile marker 9 and 10 you will see Scilley Mountain Vista on your left (there is a yellow Billings Gazette mailbox and blue dumpster) We are the first house on the right about 1/2-mile up Scilley Mountain Vista Road. For those who are walking challenged please park by the house or barn. For the more lively, parking is in the field on your right - remember it is a pasture not a parking lot.

Please plan to bring a camp chair, wear layers according to the weather forecast, bring your own bottle of water/beverage of choice, and a potluck dish to share.

**The Special Offering  
For May is  
Christikon**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

For prayer requests, contact the church office at 406-446-2430 or redlodgemessiah@gmail.com or write your requests in the Prayer request book with specific information and permission from the person you are adding.

The people of Messiah are praying for

Claudia B, Hannah Gonzales, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Jim Kyner, Mary Lair, Lois Miller, Misty Milligan, Bob Pollock, Chandra Rameriz, Carlos Ramalho, Sadie Sceva, Garrett Shellenberger, Guynema Terry, Josh Winter, and Judy Yasi,

The unspoken prayer requests of our congregation.

**Messiah Lutheran Church**  
**912 Lower Continental Dr, P.O. Box 1330**  
**Red Lodge, MT 59068**  
**redlodgemessiah@gmail.com, 406-446-2430**  
**Administrative Assistant Hours**  
**Monday – Thursday, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm**

In an effort to make Messiah comfortable and welcoming for everyone, we ask that you refrain from using strong personal scents or perfumes. Thank you.

*Live by faith . Share Christ's Love . Be a Voice for Hope*