

Celebration of Pentecost - Sunday May 24, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We come to celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church.
Send forth your Spirit, O God, and renew us with all your creation.

P: **Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

OPENING MUSIC "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" (#334)

**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.
Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us,
Filling us with your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this
place.**

(Repeat)

OPENING PRAYER (in unison): **God of wind, word, and fire, we bless your name this day
for sending the light and strength of your Holy Spirit. We give you thanks for all the
gifts, great and small, that you have poured out upon your children. Accept us with
our gifts to be living praise and witness to your love throughout all the earth;
through Jesus Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for
ever. Amen.**

(Prayer written by Don E. Saliers and taken from The United Methodist Book of Worship)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE FIRST LESSON Acts 2:1-21

L: This is the word of God for the people of God.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM Psalm 104:25-35, 37

L: O Lord, how manifold are your works!

P: **in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.**

L: Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number,

P: creatures both small and great.

L: There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan,

P: which you have made for the sport of it.

L: All of them look to you

P: to give them their food in due season.

L: You give it to them; they gather it,

P: you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

L: You hide your face, and they are terrified;

P: you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.

L: You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;

P: and so you renew the face of the earth.

L: May the glory of the LORD endure for ever;

P: may the LORD rejoice in all his works.

L: He looks at the earth and it trembles;

P: he touches the mountains and they smoke.

L: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;

P: I will praise my God while I have my being.

L: May these words of mine please him;

P: I will rejoice in the LORD.

L: Bless the LORD, O my soul.

P: Hallelujah!

THE NEW TESTAMENT 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL John 20:19-23

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

P: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

MESSAGE

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (from the Book of Common Prayer)

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **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.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

We believe this is God's table, and all are welcome.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

WORDS OF PARDON

L: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of your Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

P: **And also with you.**

ANTHEM “Spirit Song” words and music by John Wimber; choral setting by Tom Fettke

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant: ... All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD’S PRAYER (in unison): **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. Amen.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Spirit of the Living God” (#393)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

“I Come with Joy” (#617)

I come with joy to meet my Lord,

forgiven, loved and free,

In awe and wonder to recall

his life laid down for me,

His life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near

to find, as all are fed,

the new community of love

in Christ’s communion bread,

in Christ’s communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,

each proud division ends.

The love that made us makes us one,

And strangers now are friends.

And strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord.

His presence, always near,

Is in such friendship better known;

We see and praise him here,

We see and praise him here.

Together met, together bound,

We’ll go our different ways,

And as his people in the world,

**We'll live and speak his praise
We'll live and speak his praise.**

*DOXOLOGY #95

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

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND COMMITMENT (in unison): **Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us here with spiritual food. Accept our thanks and the offering of our gifts and ourselves to you. Unite us as your faithful people. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*BLESSING

L: Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey with us. So be quick to love, make haste to be kind. See the face of Christ in everyone you meet and let everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you! And the Blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you this day and evermore. Amen.

*CLOSING MUSIC "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

*DISMISSAL

L: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the unity and power of the Holy Spirit.

P: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*RESPONSE "Irish Blessing" arr. Moore

**May the road rise to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun
shine warm on your face. The rain fall soft on your fields. And until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.**

*SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD

Welcome to our celebration of Pentecost hosted by Salem United Methodist Church and St. John's Episcopal Church. We are thankful you have chosen to worship with us today. All are welcome to stay for a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

Katy Stevens, Director of Music, Salem United Methodist Church

Nancy Heinold, Director of Music, St. John's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Mark A. Lobb, Priest in Charge, St. John's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dr. Stacey E. Nickerson, Pastor, Salem United Methodist Church