



**May 24, 2026**  
**Pentecost**  
***Bethany Lutheran, Long Beach and Cypress***

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**OPENING SONG: “Free to Worship”**

**Verse 1**

We have gathered to sing these songs  
Wretched sinners and desperate frauds  
Fully covered in Jesus’ blood  
Free to worship the Three In One  
Free to worship the Three In One

**Chorus**

Holy is the Lord  
Holy is the Lord Almighty  
Holy is the Lord our mighty God

**Verse 2**

We have gathered to sing these songs  
Sons and daughters of every tongue  
Bound together in Jesus blood  
Free to worship the Three In One  
Free to worship the Three In One

**Bridge**

The curtain was torn through  
We stand before You  
And mercy is all you speak

**OPENING PRAYER:**

**Leader:** Prior to the first Pentecost, Jesus told His disciples that they would receive the Holy Spirit’s empowerment to go into the world as His witnesses.

Father of Your children and Lord of Your Church, grant us Your people  
anguish over the lost and the erring; and hearts that yearn to share the love  
You have for all with all we know and meet,

**People:** **so that we may be vehicles through which faith and freedom in Christ are received and experienced.**

**Leader:** Amen.

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: As the Church we worship and serve the God whose name we bear:

**People: God the Father,**

Leader: Who sent His Son to be our Savior and Brother and Friend.

**People: God the Son,**

Leader: Who gave Himself for us on the cross, rose from the grave, ascended into heaven and lives within us.

**People: God the Holy Spirit,**

Leader: Who gave birth to the church and through baptism has brought us into a living faith.

**People: Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Let us confess that we have not always embraced the new life the Spirit has given, nor with zeal sought the renewal of the church to which the same Spirit gave birth.

**People: Gracious God, we confess that we have failed to love You above all things, and we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to share Your love as we ought, let alone as You have commanded us to do. For the sake of Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins, restore us to Yourself, kindle in us the flame of Your Spirit, and move us to proclaim Your goodness and graciousness in the Crucified, Risen and Ascended Lord. Amen.**

Leader: Through the power of the Spirit, God has made you alive in Christ, when you were dead in your transgressions. As a called servant of Christ and by His authority I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Now that same God fill this room as He filled that room on the first Pentecost with His Spirit of power and transform us, the body of Christ here, to reflect and share the love of Jesus. Amen.

## **RESPONSIVE SONG: “Ignite”**

### **Verse 1**

Lord you call us—To be people of peace  
To reconcile, And to redeem  
Lord we're willing  
But we are weak  
Give us strength to serve—All we meet

### **Pre-Chorus**

To the weak and the poor made known  
May your love through us be shown

### **Chorus 1**

Spirit of God ignite our hearts  
To burn bright for yours  
Let us be the light to all—All the dark

### **Verse 2**

Lord you call us—To be people of love  
Living sacrifice, To your glory oh Lord  
Transform us  
By the blood of your Son  
Bringing justice and mercy  
Walking with you God

### **Pre-Chorus**

To the weak and the poor made known  
May your love through us be shown

### **Chorus 2**

Spirit of God ignite our hearts  
To burn bright for yours  
Let us be the light to all—All the dark

### **Bridge**

Ignite in us pure holiness  
Cleanse us from all selfishness  
Lead us in paths of righteousness  
To the work You prepared in advance for us

### **Chorus 3**

Spirit of God ignite our hearts  
To burn bright for yours  
Let us be the light to all—All the dark

## THE ACCOUNT OF THE FIRST PENTECOST:

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ***All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.***

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, ***I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.***

I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

***And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’***

## CONFESSION OF FAITH: ***Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed & Meaning according to Luther’s Small Catechism***

**ALL:**           **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Leader:        What does this mean?

**ALL:** I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **HOLY GOSPEL: *John 7:37-39***

On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus was standing in the temple courtyard. He said loudly, "Whoever is thirsty must come to me to drink. As Scripture says, 'Streams of living water will flow from deep within the person who believes in me.'" Jesus said this about the Spirit, whom his believers would receive. The Spirit was not yet evident, as it would be after Jesus had been glorified.—GW®

### **SERMON SONG: "Spirit of the Living God"**

#### **Verse**

Spirit of the living God  
Fall afresh on me  
Spirit of the living God  
Fall afresh on me  
Melt me mould me  
Fill me use me  
Spirit of the living God  
Fall afresh on me

## **MESSAGE**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY: “Instruments of Your Peace”**

### **Chorus**

Lord make us instruments of Your peace  
Where there is hatred let Your love increase  
Lord make us instruments of Your peace  
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease  
When we are Your instruments of peace

### **Verse 1**

Where there is hatred we will sow His love  
Where there is injury we will never judge  
Where there is striving we will speak His peace  
To the people crying for release  
We will be His instruments of peace

### **Verse 2**

Where there is blindness we will pray for sight  
Where there is darkness we will shine His light  
Where there is sadness we will bear their grief  
To the millions crying for release  
We will be His instruments of peace

## **OFFERING:**

*The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Andria at [arosas@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:arosas@bethanylutheran.org) or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

### **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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**\*\*\* For our 8:00 & 11:10 a.m. worshippers, the service continues on page 10 with Announcements.**

**\*\*\* For our 9:30 a.m. worshippers, the service continues with the Celebration of Holy Communion:**

## ✠ Holy Communion ✠

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.

*To prepare for communion you can find prayer prompts on the front page of our hymnal. Or simply pray: "Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation, You invite me to come to You; to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacred meal. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts. Amen."*

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*For those communing, who so desire, center cups in each tray are alcohol free.*

*The wafers next to the Christ candle are gluten free:*

*for those with dietary restrictions, please take a gluten free wafer.*

*In our 9:30 a.m. service we will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we will join the procession of saints and come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.*

### DISTRIBUTION SONGS: "Holy Spirit, Light Divine"

LSB 496

- 1 Holy Spirit, light divine, Shine upon this heart of mine;  
Chase the shades of night away, Turn the darkness into day.
- 2 Let me see my Savior's face, Let me all His beauties trace;  
Show those glorious truths to me Which are only known to Thee.
- 3 Holy Spirit, pow'r divine, Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;  
In Thy mercy pity me, From sin's bondage set me free.
- 4 Holy Spirit, joy divine, Cheer this saddened heart of mine;  
Yield a sacred, settled peace, Let it grow and still increase.
- 5 Holy Spirit, all divine, Dwell within this heart of mine;  
Cast down ev'ry idol throne, Reign supreme, and reign alone.

### "Take Me with You"

#### Intro

Where are You going  
Where are You leading  
Take me with You  
Can I come with You

**Verse 1**

You were over the waters  
Over dark and deep  
Even before the light  
All was still asleep  
When I was in that water  
You were over me  
Even before I knew  
You pursued me

**Chorus 1**

You are the Holy Spirit  
My counselor and friend  
You've always been at work  
Beginning 'til the end  
We may not see You now  
But it won't stop what You'll do

**Verse 2**

You were in that room  
Descending in fire  
And tongues broke out  
Like a gospel choir  
You are in this room  
Oh Spirit You're moving  
Show us Lord  
What You're doing

**Chorus 2**

You are the Holy Spirit  
My counselor and friend  
You've always been at work  
Beginning 'til the end  
We may not see You now  
But it won't stop what You'll do  
You are the Holy Spirit  
My comforter and peace  
When I'm in times of trouble  
You intercede for me  
We may not see You now  
But it won't stop what You'll do

**Bridge**

Where are You going  
Where are You leading  
Take me with You; Can I come with You

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **THE BLESSING:**

Leader: Now God Himself, Who through the resurrection of His Son has won life for you, by His Holy Spirit, kindle in you the fire of His love, empower your life for service and witness and give you a tongue to declare His praise, through Jesus Christ, your Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **CLOSING HYMN: "Send Me"**

##### **Verse 1**

Here I am  
Send me  
Your grace has set me free  
I will go where You lead  
Be Your hands and feet

##### **Verse 2**

To the hurting and weak  
To all of those in need  
We will go where You lead  
Be Your hands and feet

##### **Chorus**

Jesus lead on  
We are listenin'  
Jesus lead on  
We have heard  
Savior we'll follow  
Where You're leadin'  
To the ends of the earth (REPEAT)

##### **Verse 3**

As we go  
Lord lead  
May Your path be at our feet  
As we live move and breathe  
Spirit of God fall afresh on me

##### **Bridge**

Whom shall I fear  
You are God yeah

You are God so  
Whom shall I fear  
You are God yeah  
You are God so  
Whom shall I fear

**Tag**  
Here I Am  
Send me

## POSTLUDE



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Liturgy (or the appropriate portion thereof) from *Lutheran Service Book*

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"Free to Worship"

CCLI Song #6318781

Kip Fox

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"Ignite"

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"Spirit of the Living God"

CCLI 23488

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"Instruments of Your Peace"

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"Holy Spirit, Light Divine" LSB 496

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"Take Me with You"

CCLI Song #7212768

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"Send Me"

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**SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:**

Liturgist...Karl Fink  
Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley  
Children’s Message...Kayleigh Lopez

Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer  
Keyboard...Pat Gagan  
Sound & Production ...Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann



**Pentecost Readers:**

8:00 am  
Elsie Rivera...Spanish  
Chris Cale...French  
Emily Chartier...Filipino  
Brian Cleven...Norwegian

9:30 am  
Dyna Sao...Khmer  
Mike Riordan...Latin  
Mariam Albers...Suret  
Cheryl Soriano...Filipino

11:10 am  
Emily Chartier...Filipino  
Jon Armenta...Spanish  
Katie Armenta...German



**Today’s Flowers are given to the glory of God:**

*~ for Jan Coontz celebrating her 84<sup>th</sup>*

*birthday on May 27 ~*

*Love, Jim*



**If You’re a Visitor**, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany’s fillable information form.



**Parents of Young Children:** We are so glad you and your children are here! Children are a joyful part of worship—after all, God created them with curiosity, energy, and yes, a few wiggles. Please don’t feel pressure to keep them perfectly still in God’s house. Their presence is truly a gift to our church family.

Worship is where we learn, together, how to listen and speak to God alongside our brothers and sisters in faith. You are welcome to quietly explain parts of the service and what our worship leaders are doing—children learn how to worship by watching and imitating you.

If it would be helpful, “worship bags” are available in the Narthex at both of our campuses, with items designed to support children and families during worship. Childcare is also available at our Long Beach Campus Nursery for children from birth through age five. Our caring and qualified staff look forward to welcoming your little one into a safe and loving environment. Please feel free to ask an usher if you need directions—we’re happy to help.