# Day of Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020



### Welcome to Our Savior's Lutheran Church!

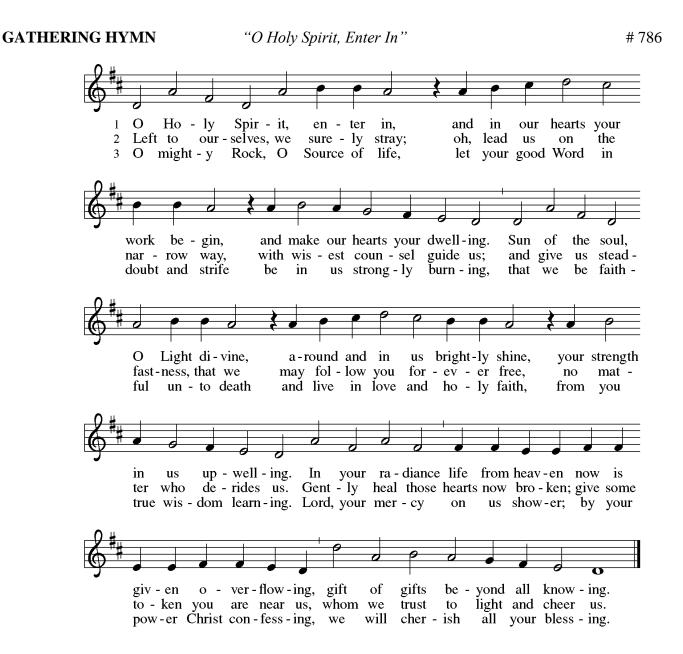
We are "a worshiping and caring Christian community, sharing God's compassion and grace with all people in need of love and acceptance within this congregation, the community, and the world!"

#### **PRELUDE**

#### 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**



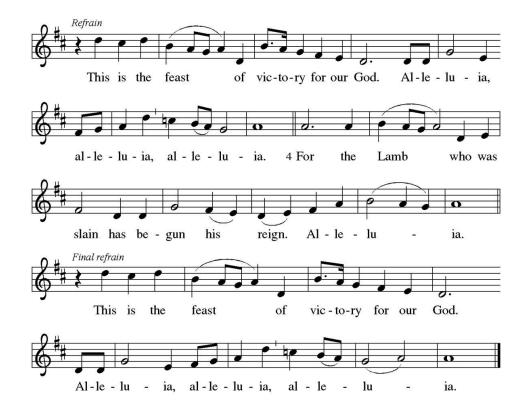
Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–1673; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt. Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

#### 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.** 

HYMN OF PRAISE p. 140-141





#### 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.** 

#### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

# Word

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. A reading from Acts.

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. 5Now 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. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8And 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, <sup>10</sup>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." <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, "Men of Judea 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.

**PSALM** (read responsively)

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

<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.

35bBless 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. A reading from 1 Corinthians.

<sup>38</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 miracles, 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.



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

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Αl

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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ia,

The holy gospel according to the 20th chapter of St. John. Glory to you, O Lord.

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GOSPEL John 20:19-23

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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 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." <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**

And there came a time when one of the churches that I had been serving decided to try something a little different on Pentecost Sunday. It happened during the reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Just after the lector had read this line: "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability," another member of the congregation stood up in the midst of the assembly and continued on with the reading in another language. They were followed very quickly by another member, standing up and reading in yet another language. And then they were followed by another, and then another, and then another after that. Pretty soon, the entire worship space was full of the word of God being read, not only in English, but also in German, Swedish, Norwegian, Spanish, and even a bit of Icelandic.

I know that those who weren't expecting anything like this to happen were thinking, "What the heck is going on here?" And honestly, it did end up sounding like a big ol' chaotic mess. You couldn't really understand much of anything from the reading in any language, because of all the different voices. But it was intended, of course, to provide just a small taste of what it might have been like on the very first Pentecost.

Can you imagine it? Wind and flame and people all coming together to praise God. People so joyous that they almost seemed drunk. Speaking in all sorts of languages. It's honestly hard to hear this passage and not get at least a little caught up in the excitement and wonder of it all.

And yet, perhaps, hearing it this year, we can't help but feel a little sadness, too. After all, so much has changed and our hearts are tired. And even beyond that, we may have thought of how many other things have changed, as well. How certain kinds of churches seem to be doing okay, while others have to struggle. How the world sometimes seems cold and indifferent to any sign of the Spirit among us. We've heard the dire predictions of what the church is going to look like in 20, 30 years. And we wonder if maybe the Spirit has withdrawn from us.

If this is the case, if our church doesn't really resemble what we read about in the Acts of the Apostles, we still might find some comfort in the gospel reading we shared today. The disciples all locked in by fear. The risen Lord appearing to them anyway, not held back by doors or locks or bolts. The risen Lord giving them the gift of peace, breathing on them and giving them the Holy Spirit. It certainly sounds a lot less dramatic than

the Acts reading. And yet, this gentle breath gives them real power—power to heal brokenness through the forgiveness of sin.

And that can be a reminder to us that the Spirit is still very much with us. I'd like to invite you to make it a part of this day, to take a little time and reflect on some of the ways that the Spirit has touched your own life. And maybe you're not used to thinking in this way, but I'd like to suggest that you try it. You might try remembering times when your own fear and anxiety were replaced by a feeling of serenity. Maybe there was a time when you were praying and you felt peace descend upon you. Maybe just watching the dawn break, or the sunset, or the stars come out filled you with stillness. Maybe the Spirit's peace reached you when you were washing the dishes or pulling weeds, or watching one of your pets asleep on your lap. You might remember instances of receiving the Spirit in the forgiveness of another, when you received communion, when you walked out of church feeling like a burden had been lifted from you. Perhaps you've experienced the Spirit in understanding parents, accepting friends or a loving spouse. Or what about a time when you were able to offer the gift of healing and forgiveness to someone who had wronged you? Or a time when you felt you were really able to move beyond your own concerns and really connect with another person? There are lots and lots of ways that the Spirit is with us.

In the wonderful psalm that we shared today, we were reminded all over again about what happens when God sends forth the Spirit. The face of the earth is renewed, and the wonders of God's creation are seen and felt. I've met people here who have downplayed the beauty of our state, who have bought into the notion of how flat and uninteresting we are. But if you take the time to really look at a growing field of wheat, or corn, if you look at the intricacy of a flower growing in the garden, or the leaves on a tree, if you watch the colorful birds that come into your yard, you can find a lot of beauty. Even the smaller signs of life and beauty that are all around us can draw us closer to the presence of the Creator. And the Spirit is present there.

We believe that the life-giving Spirit of God is with us throughout our lives, guiding us and helping us along the way, opening our hearts to the holiness of God. We are empowered by the breath of God, along with the entire Christian community, so that we can express our faith, saying that "Jesus is Lord." We are enlivened by this Spirit, who helps us to bring our own unique gifts to share in service with the community. It is the Spirit who helps us to be strong, who guides us towards understanding. It is the Spirit who sets us on our way to new life, who renews our life in the presence of God.

Whether our own experience of Pentecost is more like the passionate wind and fire of Acts, or more like the gentle breath and growth of the gospel, we are all able to witness God's deeds of power as the apostles did. My prayer for you this day is that you will continue to experience the movement of the Spirit in your own life, and that you will be empowered to share peace with all whom you meet and offer forgiveness in the name of Christ. Now that's how you celebrate this day. Amen.



#### **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 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

- Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.
- We call on your spirit of unity, giving thanks for our different vocations. Activate and utilize the diverse gifts present in your church, that they reveal your love for all. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- We call on your spirit of life, present in air, wind, humidity, storms, and oxygen in our atmosphere, breathing energy into all things. Heal with your breath the whole creation, especially those who struggle to breathe due to air pollution. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- We call on your spirit of righteousness. Wherever we as a people are divided, unite us. Wherever we are prideful, humble us. Give each one of us a heart for justice and empathy. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- We call on your spirit of healing. Bless nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for all who long for comfort, especially those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- We call on your spirit of friendship. As Elizabeth welcomed Mary to her home, give us a spirit of welcome to those whom we meet in this congregation and outside these doors. Surprise us daily with unexpected grace, that we rejoice in every blessing you send. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We call upon your spirit of strength. Guide our leaders and all who are working towards the re-opening of our country. Help us stay safe as we move forward. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

We call on your spirit of hope. As you have led your saints in all times and places, stir in us the desire to follow their example, leading us from death to new life in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

#### **PEACE**

OFFERING "Send Us Your Spirit"

#### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

#### LORD'S PRAYER

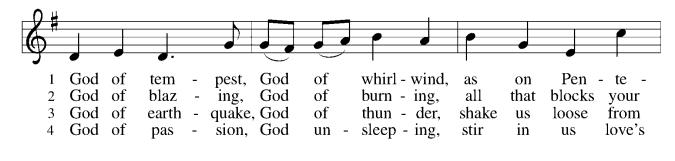
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

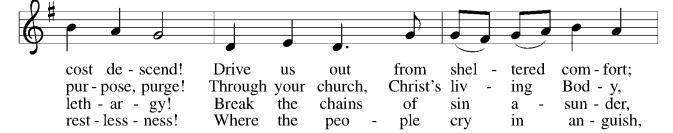
# Sending

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **BLESSING**

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.** 







past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de-ceit con-ceals in-jus-tice, us free! Crum-ble walls that still for earth's heal - ing set di - vide us: may we share your heart's dis-tress. Rouse us from con-tent with e - vil;



there with Christ to bear there with Christ to the cross, bear the kin - dle kin - dle us to speak your truth, to speak your truth! us make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord! for your king-dom's work, claim us claim us for your king-dom's work!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932 Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com

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#### **DISMISSAL**

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

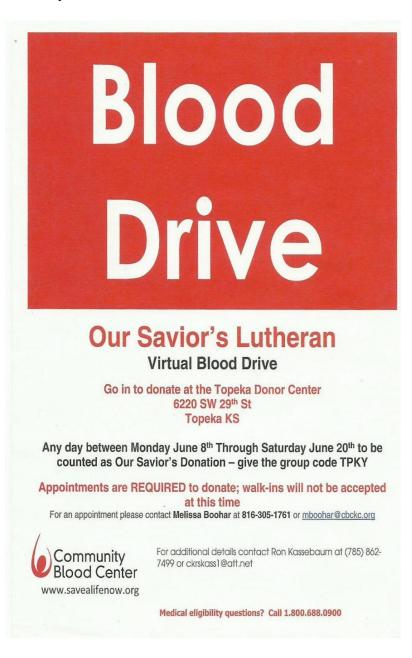
#### **POSTLUDE**

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#### **Announcements**

- Remember that, if you wish, you are invited to **borrow a hymnal from church** for use in your own times of devotion and worship. Hymnals are available on one of the tables near the entrance to the fellowship hall. Just stop by and sign one (or more than one) out! Alternately, you may call Pastor Jim and he will drop one off at your home. If you live in a facility where access may be restricted, please check and make sure that a hymnal may be dropped off for you.
- Lorene Bruntzel has been busy making face masks, and she has graciously provided a box of them for the church! The masks are available in the church's fellowship hall, on the same table as the hymnals. Stop by and pick some up at your leisure (you might want to call ahead if you don't have a key and let us know that you're coming). Alternately, if you don't want or are unable to go out, you can call the office and Pastor Jim would be happy to deliver some masks to your home. Just let us know! And a big thank you to Lorene for providing this wonderful service for our congregation! One final note: Lorene says to be sure and launder the masks before using.
- Pat Dunavan has placed several **Thrivent T-shirts in the Fellowship Hall**. They were provided through a Thrivent Action Team Grant. If you would like one, please feel free to pick one up next time you are at the church. They are available in assorted sizes.





Jesus sends out his disciples with the Holy Spirit.

### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 20:19-23	Jesus appears to his disciples
Monday	Acts 2:1-21	The coming of the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	Spiritual gifts
Wednesday	Titus 3:1-8	Doing helpful deeds
Thursday	Genesis 2:4b-9	God creates a living being
Friday	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
Saturday	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	God the creator

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Matthew 28:16-20

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." John 20:21-22 (NRSV)

Sending of the disciples

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Creator God, through the Holy Spirit you create a new people chosen to speak, forgive, and give peace in the name of Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit, help us to bless the world with your love. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Sunday

Gracious God, thank you for giving food to all you have created; open your hand and fill us with good things. Amen. (Psalm 104:27-28)

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with gifts of the Spirit for the benefit of all. (1 Corinthians 12:7)



## MAY 31, 2020 HYMN OF THE WEEK

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song





#### WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### **CARING CONVERSATIONS**



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something that worries you and gets in the way of enjoying life?
- What would help you get over your worries?
- How does the Holy Spirit strengthen you to overcome your fears and doubts so you can be a servant of God's love to others?

#### **DEVOTIONS**



Read: John 20:19-23.

The disciples were fearful and huddled in a locked room. We all have our reasons to be fearful and want to hide away. Jesus knows this. He is about to send his followers out to change the world with the power to forgive sins so that people will believe in Jesus and "have life in his name" (20:31). It will take a God moment for this to happen by Jesus giving them peace and breathing on them so that his disciples will receive the Holy Spirit (v. 22). This moment is reminiscent of the creation story in Genesis 2 when God breathed into the dust to create a human being. Jesus breathing on his disciples is an act of God to create not just a new human being but a new people, those who will believe in Jesus and have life in his name. Life can be scary. We can be afraid to act. On the Day of Pentecost we remember the giving of the Holy Spirit and are reminded that we have been created into a new people who can act with mercy, peace, love, and faith. How has the Holy Spirit moved you to act?

*Pray:* Dear Jesus, breathe on us your holy breath that we may go forth into the world to share your peace and the power of forgiveness. Amen.

### **SERVICE**



"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord" (1 Corinthians 12:4-5). God blesses us with the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, faith, and healing through the Spirit. Through our God-given gifts, we are called to serve others. What are your gifts? How do you use them to serve others?

### **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**



When we recite the Apostle's Creed, we say, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church...". With the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the holy catholic church with a small "c"—meaning the whole Christian church on earth—we are reminded of the gifts of faith we are given through the Spirit. We celebrate this day as the day the church received the Holy Spirit. Read or recite the Apostle's Creed and talk about what it means to you.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org