

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

1669 Arcade Street North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55106
651-774-5954
www.gachurch.org
Day of Pentecost
May 19, 2024 • 10:00 am

The Rev. John Hierlinger,
Senior Pastor
The Rev. Ruthie Mhanga,
Associate Pastor
Andrew Parr,
Director of Worship and Music
Judy Hitchcock, *Cantor* • Don Young, *Lector*

WE ARE AN ELCA CONGREGATION WHO SEEK TO BE A GATEWAY OF FAITH FOR OUR COMMUNITY.
DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE, **THE CONGREGATION JOINS IN RECITING THE BOLD TEXT.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Jubilate

arr. Barbara Kinyon

Gustavus Adolphus Handbell Choir

WELCOME

The assembly is invited to rise in body and/or spirit.

GATHERING HYMN

Gracious Spirit Heed Our Pleading

ELW 401

Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.
1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.
3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.

Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.
It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.
Bless the faith - ful, may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.

Refrain

Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment,
doubt into certainty.

5 Keep us fervent in our witness,
unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness,
which you alone assure.

Text: Wilson Niwagila, b. 1940; tr. Howard S. Olson, 1922-2010
Music: Wilson Niwagila; arr. Egil Hovland, 1924-2023

BLESSING FOR RETIREMENT
HONORING SHERRIE NORDQUIST

L The Apostle Paul writes: I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

(Philippians 1:3-5)

L: Your ministry among us has embodied a Christ-like spirit. Sherrie, today we give thanks for the ways you have kept baptismal promises for so many people in this congregation: Encouraging imagination; affirming questions; inviting prayer; holding boundaries; blessing the chaos; and helping others experience safety, challenge, and the love in the body of Christ. For all of this, we thank you, Sherrie.

L: We pray: Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant Sherrie, who has enriched this community and brought gladness to friends and family. Now bless and preserve her at this time of transition. Day by day, guide her and give her what is needed, friends to cheer her way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling her. By your Holy Spirit be present in Sherrie's season of change, that she may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: You have been a blessing to the world. We release you from your work here at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. We now bless you as you enter a new phase of life.

L: Creating God, who makes all things new, prepare your heart and mind for new beginnings. Jesus the Christ, whose story makes us whole, knit your love for this call into the fullness of who you are. Spirit of Mystery, who comes beside us with power, guide your discernment and delight from this day on and forevermore.

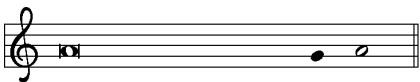
C: Amen

-Adapted from Speak it Plain by Meta Herrick Carlson

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



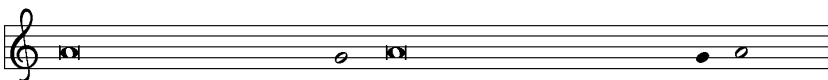
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



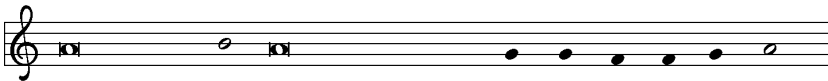
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray. Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world.

C: Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:1-21

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.'

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The congregation joins in reciting the bold text.

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!**

The assembly is invited to rise in body and/or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 Repeat alleluia
 Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

L: A reading from the Gospel of Saint John, the fifteenth and sixteenth chapters.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.



Refrain




Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness




call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,




stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.




then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
 and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
 then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
 From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
 and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
 and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
 our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.

Refrain



“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”
 then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
 when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
 With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940
 Music: James K. Manley

The assembly is invited to rise in body and/or spirit.

THE NICENE CREED

C: 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 THE PEOPLE

L: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Each petition ends with

L: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

*You may also say **Peace be to you** or use similar words.*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

Your offering here is an act of worship that support's Christ's mission through Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. In addition to our ministry of worship, your gifts teach the story to all ages, keep the lights shining bright, serve our neighbors in need, and support our partners in mission. These partners include Merrick Community Services, Every Meal, Lutheran Social Services and many others. This month's special concern giving supports Camp Onomia.

OFFERTORY

ANTHEM

Beautiful Savior
Gustavus Adolphus Handbell Choir

arr. Anna Laura Page

The assembly is invited to rise in body and/or spirit.

OFFERTORY

RESPONSE

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 188

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

L: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

C: We praise you, O God.

L: Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

C: We bless you, O God.

L: We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C: We thank you, O God.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: In the night in which he was betrayed...remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

L: We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

The assembly is seated.

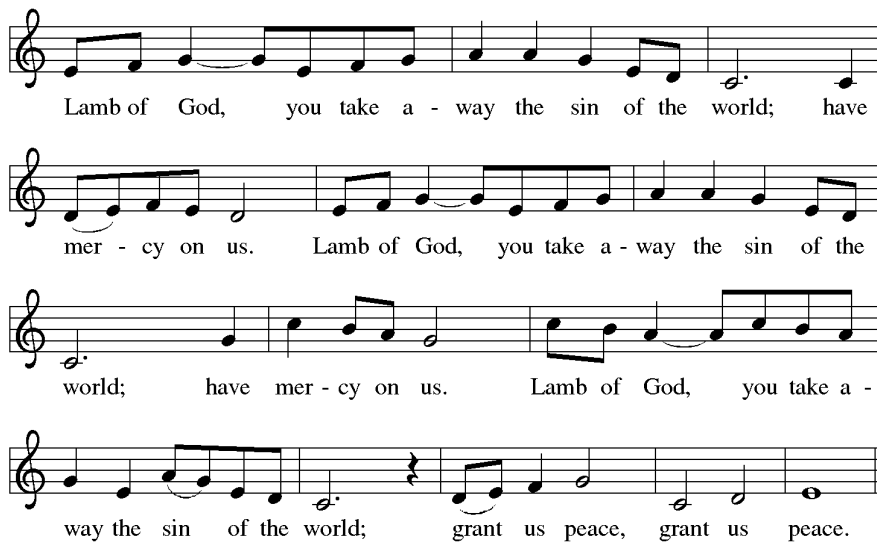
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All are welcome to join in this meal of God's mercy for all people...as Lutherans, we simply set the table. The invitation to share in this meal comes from God. The ushers will direct you to a serving station. If going forward is difficult for you, please remain seated and a pastor will come to you.

DISTRIBUTION
HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW page 154



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

ANTHEM

I Will Sing With the Spirit
Gustavus Adolphus Chancel Choir

by John Rutter



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wear it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling,
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croley, 1780-1860
 Music: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Shepherd God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is invited to rise in body and/or spirit.

COMMISSIONING OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

L: Holy, loving, merciful God, we ask you to bless and assist these ministers who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are homebound.

C: In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

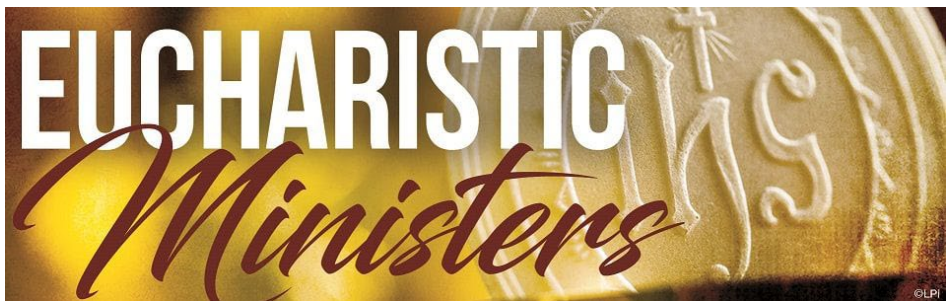
BENEDICTION

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.



Refrain

Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing
 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, 1933-2023

DISMISSAL

L: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

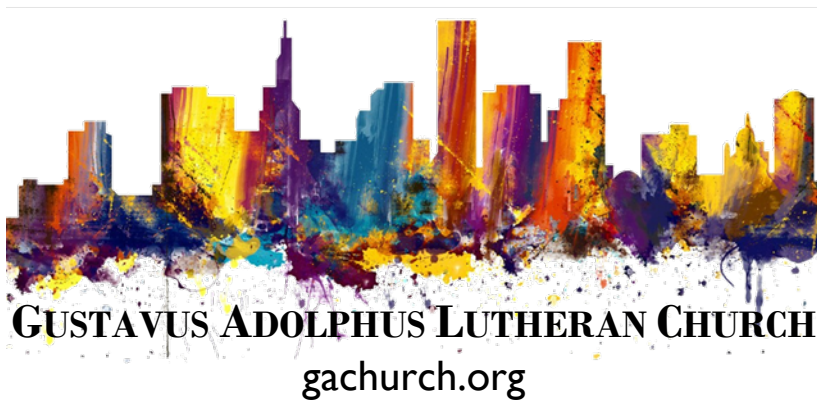
C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on *Veni Creator Spiritus*

by Andrew Parr





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