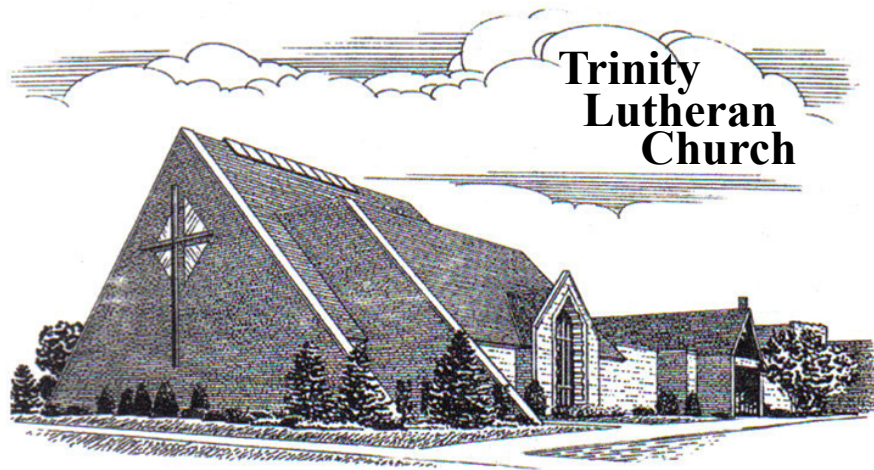


Pentecost Sunday



May 18-24, 2026

Weekly Outline

Invocation

L: O Lord, open my lips.

C: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

L: Almighty, everlasting God, Lord, heavenly Father, whose Word is a lamp to our feet and a light on our way: Open and enlighten my mind that I may understand thy Word purely, clearly, and devoutly, and then, having understood it aright, fashion my life in accord with it, in order that I may never displease thy majesty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Scripture

May 18: Numbers 11:24-30

May 20: Acts 2:1-21

May 22: John 7:37-39

Devotion

Closing Prayer

L: Faithful God, whose mercies are new to us every morning, we humbly pray that you would look upon us in mercy and renew us by your Holy Spirit. Keep safe our going out and our coming in, and let your blessing remain with us throughout this day.

Preserve us in your righteousness, and grant us a portion in that eternal life which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

Monday

This Sunday is the celebration of Pentecost, the day when Christ poured out the Holy Spirit on the first believers. Like all the events of Jesus' life, Pentecost is prophesied in the Old Testament. Though not exactly a prophecy, our Old Testament reading points to a time when God would relate to his people in exactly this way, by giving them the Spirit.

The people of Israel have left Egypt and are wandering through the wilderness. They have proven to be stubborn, rebellious, and just a bit whiny, not so different from a large group of small children packed into a van for a 12 hour drive. Moses is the man in the driver's seat, and he has had enough. He complains to God, saying, "I cannot carry all these people by myself; it is too burdensome for me. If this is how you are going to treat me, please kill me right now—if I have found favor in your eyes—and let me not see my own wretchedness." God then tells him to bring to him 70 of the elders of Israel, and he will give his Spirit to them. They can share the burden of leadership with Moses under God's direction. 68 of the leaders go to the appointed place with Moses and receive the Spirit. Two remain in the camp, but they receive the Spirit anyway. Joshua demands that the two men stop prophesying. He is concerned that Moses' unique position of authority will be threatened since the two weren't at the tent of meeting with Moses when they received the Spirit. But Moses says, "Are you jealous on my account? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would place his Spirit on them!"

If only Moses could have seen Pentecost, he would have rejoiced at God's generosity. Not only have we received the forgiveness of sins through Jesus, but from him, we have also received God's Spirit. Whenever we think of spiritual gifts, we should think first of the spiritual gift, the Spirit, who is given by Christ to all who believe. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Wednesday

Different seasons are good for different things. For example, young adulthood is a great season to have kids. A man has a much easier time handling late nights and years of interrupted sleep in his twenties and thirties than in his forties and fifties. In Acts, Peter alerts us to the particular season we are in according to God's time, and the good thing for this season.

It is Pentecost. The Holy Spirit has just descended on the first believers as a tongue of fire. A crowd gathers to see the sight, and they are amazed at what they hear. The crowd is composed of people from all over the Mediterranean world, but each one hears the good news of Jesus in his own language. Peter sees an opportunity, and he begins to preach. Quoting from the prophet Joel, he says, "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people." Then he adds, "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." At the beginning of his quotation from Joel, Peter announces the time. It is the last days, as proven by the fact that God has poured out the Spirit, just as Joel said would happen in the last days. And this time is good for something very important, salvation, for "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

The last days began at Pentecost, and they will continue until the day of Christ's return. When Christ returns, there will be the great judgment Jesus himself prophesies in Matthew 25, where the world is divided between the sheep and the goats, the sheep receiving an eternal reward and the goats receiving eternal punishment. But that isn't today. Today is the day of salvation. It is the time where the Spirit is poured out for the forgiveness of sins and the creation of faith. It is the time where God invites us to find peace with him through repentance and faith in his Son. So as long as this time continues, we continue to joyfully call on the name of our Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Friday

The problem with water is that you always need it. A man can go weeks without food (Jesus fasted 40 days in the wilderness). But water? Dehydration will set in after a few hours, and after only a few days, death. Because of that, water has always been associated with life. It is a constant need upon which our bodies are utterly dependent. No wonder that Jesus often links faith in him with water. Just as we are completely dependent on water for physical life, we are completely dependent on him for spiritual life.

In John 7, we find Jesus in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. During the seven days of the feast, a priest would take a golden flagon, leave the temple to draw water from the Pool of Siloam, and then return to the temple to pour the water into a silver basin by the altar. The ceremony recalled Isaiah 12:3, "With joy you will draw water from the well of salvation," and also Numbers 20 (water from the rock) and Ezekiel 47 (the river of life flowing from the temple). The whole point of the ceremony was to connect life with God. So when Jesus gets up on the last day of the feast and says, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink," he is claiming to be the source of eternal life. As John 1:4 says, "In Him was life, and that life was the light of men."

We are blessed to live in a time and place where water is always present. Whenever we are thirsty, we can turn on the water and get a drink. But we have an even greater blessing because Jesus has given us true water, living water, water that will well up in all who believe in him and overflow to eternal life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Evening Prayer

You may pray one or more of the following after dinner or before bed:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray you that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.



Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to keep; if I should die before I wake, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to take; and this I ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.



Visit, O Lord, our home, and drive from it all the snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell in it to preserve us in peace, and may your blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

A Parent's Blessing

You may place your hand on the head of your child before kissing them goodnight and say:

My loved one, rest securely,
for God this night will surely
from peril guard your head.
Sweet slumbers may he send you
and bid his hosts attend you
and through the night watch o'er your bed. Amen.

Memory Verse



MEMORY VERSE

*To all who did
receive Him,
who believed
in His name,
He gave the
right to become*
**CHILDREN
OF GOD.**

JOHN 1:12


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