Welcome to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to this faith. Welcome to friends new and old. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; every socioeconomic and marital status, political conviction, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners, and questioning believers. Welcome.

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.

Ebenezer Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. You are welcome here.

This worship booklet is digital! Zoom in for larger print.

Please use phones and other devices frequently, to offer and receive encouragement.

Remember to wash your hands and clean surfaces frequently.

Postures are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; but can still be practiced at home!

Children are always welcome in worship at Ebenezer. If there are children in your house, invite them to worship with you.

1650 W. Foster Ave. Chicago IL 60640
(773) 561-8496 + ebenezerchurch.org
Gathering
Consider lighting a candle, or putting a cross in your field of vision.
Throughout the liturgy, you may sit, stand, or kneel as you wish.

Words of Welcome
Prelude

Kjell Johnson, percussion

Pentecost
Jesus Mafa from Cameroon
Gathering Hymn

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

Njo-o kwe-tu, Ro-ho mwe-ma, M-fa-ri-ji we-tu.
1 Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading, fashion us all anew.

Tu-fu-ndi-sha ya mbi-ngu-ni, tu-we wa-tu wa-pya.
It’s your leading that we’re needing, help us to follow you.

Refrain

Njo-o, njo-o, njo-o, Ro-ho mwe-ma.
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

Njo-o, njo-o, njo-o, Ro-ho mwe-ma.
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
not rootless liberty;

5 Keep us fervent in our witness,
unswayed by earth’s allure.

Text: Wilson Niwagia; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
Music: NJOO KWETU, ROHO MWEMA, Wilson Niwagia; arr. Egil Hovland, b. 1924
English and Swahili text and tune © Lutheran Theological College, Mekumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Arr. © Egil Hovland. Used by permission.
Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

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.

Prayer of the Day

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.
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.’”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.
Psalm 104

When You Send Forth Your Spirit

Refrain

When you send forth your Spirit,
we are renewed, we are renewed.

1 Manifold your works, O God of might:
2 When we look to you to give us food,
3 May the glory of our God endure.
4 Now may evil cease upon the earth;

maker of the earth, the air, the light.
you open your hand, fill us with good.
May our God be glad, be strong, be sure.
wickedness no more shall be of worth.

Waters great and wide and all there in,
When you hide your face, we are dismayed;
Unto you, O God, our praise we give:
Pleasing God shall be our only goal.

creatures that abide, let life begin.
when you take away our breath, we fade.
We will sing your glory while we live.
Al-le-lu-ia! Bless-ed be God, my soul.

Text: Ray Makeever
Music: PSALM 104, Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1987 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress
The Second Reading    First Corinthians 12:3b-13

No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 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. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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. 13 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.

The Gospel    The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 20:19-23

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.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 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. 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    Silence for reflection follows.
Hymn of the Day

O Spirit of Life

1 O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God,
in every need you bring us aid,
proceeding forth from heaven's throne,
from God, the Father and the Son;

2 O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God,
increase our faith in our dear Lord;
unless your grace the power should give,
none can believe in Christ and live;

3 O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God,
make us to love your sacred word;
the holy flame of love impart,
that charity may warm each heart;

4 O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God,
enlighten us by that same word;
teach us to know God's radiant love,
lead us to Christ who reigns above;

O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God.

Music: O HEILIGER GEIST, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750
Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
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. Amen.

Affirmation of Baptism / Welcoming a New Member

Karen Snow is received this day as a member of Ebenezer Lutheran Church by Affirmation of Baptism.

I present Karen, who desires to make public affirmation of her baptism.

Let us pray.
Merciful God, we thank you for this sister,
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.
You have called her to yourself,
enlightened her with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished her in the community of faith.
Uphold your servant in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.
We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.
You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
  to live among God’s faithful people,
  to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,
  to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
  to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
  and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Karen responds in these or similar words:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support this sister and pray for her in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.
Stir up in Karen the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and awe of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Children’s Message

Prayer

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.

A brief silence.
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). 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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.
Lord's Prayer

You may pray this prayer in these words; or, in language close to your heart.

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.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Pentecost
Unknown artist, Philippines
As the Wind Song

1. As the wind song through the trees, as the stirring of the breeze, so it is with the Spirit of God,
   as the heart made strangely warm, as the voice within the storm, so it is with the Spirit of God.

2. As the rainbow after rain, as the hope that’s born again, so it is with the Spirit of God,
   as the green in the spring, as a kite on a string, so it is with the Spirit of God.

Never seen, ever known where this wind has blown bringing making worlds that are new, making peace come true, bringing life, bringing power to the world, as the dancing tongues of fire, as the soul’s most deep desire, so it is with the Spirit of God.

gifts, bringing love to the world. as the rising of the yeast, as the wine at the feast, so it is with the Spirit of God.

Offertory

Sending

Benediction

May God bless us and keep us. May God’s face shine on us with grace and mercy.
May God look upon us with favor, + and give us peace. Amen.
Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen

1 Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,
from this meal of love and grace;
whose we are, and whose, our praise.
Alleluia, alleluia;

2 Rise, transformed, and choose to follow
after Christ, though wounded, whole;
to release and to console.
Alleluia, alleluia;

3 Rise, remember well the future
God has called us to receive;
Spirit it ed then let us live.
Alleluia, alleluia;

4 Service be our sure vocation;
courage be our daily breath;
from this day and unto death.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: SURGE ECCLESIA; Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958
Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress,
Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.
Dismissal

Go in peace. Filled with the Spirit. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

The Ebenezer Choir  
_Thee We Adore_

Text: Thomas Aquinas, 1227-1274; tr. James R. Woodford, 1820-1885
melody: plainchant arr.: Ralph M. Johnson

Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, thee,
who in thy sacrament art pleased to be;
both flesh and spirit in thy presence fail,
yet here thy presence we devoutly hail.

Fountain of goodness, Jesus, Lord and God:
cleanse us, unclean, with thy most cleansing blood;
increase our faith and love, that we may know
the hope and peace which from thy presence flow.
O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see:
may what we thirst for soon our portion be,
to gaze on thee unveiled, and see thy face,
the vision of thy glory, and thy grace. Amen