

A Service for Pentecost

Living in the SPIRIT



Living in the Spirit

A SERVICE FOR PENTECOST

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for a special service for Pentecost called “Living in the Spirit.” This service reminds us that we are made alive by the Holy Spirit, who entered into Jerusalem 50 days after Easter to change the world forever. In word and song, we will celebrate living in the Spirit day by day in what we do and say, directed by the divine.

BULLETIN NOTICE

Welcome to this special service for Pentecost called “Living in the Spirit.” We are made alive by the Holy Spirit, who entered into Jerusalem 50 days after Easter to change the world forever. In word and song, let us celebrate living in the Spirit today in what we do and say.

Living in the Spirit

A SERVICE FOR PENTECOST

Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

[shutterstock.com/image-photo/doves-fly-sky-christians-have-faith-2207940923](https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/doves-fly-sky-christians-have-faith-2207940923)

- This **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
Galatians 5:25

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Wie Schön Leuchtet 887 887 4444 8, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

O Holy Spirit, enter in, and in our hearts your work begin,
 Your dwelling place now make us. Sun of the soul, O Light divine,
 Around and in us brightly shine, to joy and gladness wake us
 That we may be truly living, to you giving prayer unceasing
 And in love be still increasing.

Give to your Word impressive pow'r, that in our hearts from this good hour
 As fire it may be glowing, that in true Christian unity
 We faithful witnesses may be, your glory ever showing.
 Hear us, cheer us by your teaching; let our preaching and our labor
 Praise you, Lord, and serve our neighbor.

O mighty Rock, O Source of life, let your dear Word, in doubt and strife,
 In us be strongly burning that we be faithful unto death
 And live in love and holy faith, from you true wisdom learning.
 Your grace and peace on us shower; by your power Christ confessing,
 Let us see our Savior's blessing.

- The **Invocation and Opening Litany** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

C Amen.

P On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came into the world, and the Church on earth began.

C Let us live as vessels of the Holy Spirit and vital members of the Church.

P On Pentecost, tongues of fire rested on the heads of the disciples.

C Let us live our lives on fire for the Spirit and ready for action in Christ's name.

P On Pentecost, a mighty wind blew through the place where the disciples were.

C Let us live our lives moved by the Spirit and energized by his might.

P On Pentecost, the disciples preached the Gospel in many languages.

C Let us live our lives spreading the Good News in different ways to many people.

- The **Hymn of Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune O Gott, Du Frommer Gott 67 67 66 66, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

O God, my faithful God, true fountain ever flowing,
Without whom nothing is, all perfect gifts bestowing:
Give me a healthy frame, and may I have within
A conscience free from blame, a soul unstained by sin.

Grant me the strength to do with ready heart and willing
Whatever you command, my calling here fulfilling;
That I do what I should while trusting you to bless
The outcome for my good, for you must give success.

Keep me from saying words that later need recalling;
Guard me lest idle speech may from my lips be falling;
But when within my place I must and ought to speak,
Then to my words give grace lest I offend the weak.

Lord, let me win my foes with kindly words and actions,
And let me find good friends for counsel and correction.
Help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small
And by your Spirit's might to live in peace with all.

- The **Psalm, Psalm 51:10-12**, is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Create in me a clean heart, O God,

C and renew a right spirit within me.

P Cast me not away from your presence,

C and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

P Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

C and uphold me with a willing spirit.

- The **Confession and Forgiveness** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P O God, you sent the Holy Spirit to enliven us in your Word and inspire us to serve as witnesses of your salvation through your Son. But we have failed to live up to your plans laid out for us to live.

C **Forgive us, dear Lord, for living only for ourselves and not for you. We have been selfish and not been willing to help others. We have been short-sighted and not seen the grand plan that you have in place for our lives. We have lived in sin rather than in your Spirit. We have chosen sadness over joy in the Lord. We are truly sorry for what we have done. Renew our devotion to the Holy Spirit, and increase in us a desire to listen to and follow your will for our way in this life, we pray.**

(Please observe a time of self-examination to reflect on our sins.)

P I have great news to share with you all: Your sins are swept away, and your new life in the Spirit is restored through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are free to live in the Spirit and be guided by the Spirit as God's forgiven and loved children.

C Amen.

- The **Hymn of Praise** is sung by the congregation to the tune Herr Jesu Christ, Meins LM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Renew me, O eternal Light, and let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace that issues from your holy face.

Remove the pow'r of sin from me and cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will temptations of the flesh to still.

Create in me a new heart, Lord, that gladly I obey your Word.
Let what you will be my desire and with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only you may love and seek those things which are above
Till I behold you face to face, O Light eternal, through your grace.

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ Holy Spirit, stir up in us a desire to live for the Lord by loving others, granting forgiveness and encouraging all people to come to the knowledge of Christ, who suffered, died and rose again, that we might live a new life modeled after him. Keep our minds fresh and free from distractions so that we might fully focus on the mission we were created by God for fulfilling, which is being ambassadors for Christ until he returns to take us home to be with him in heaven. Amen.

- The **Children’s Sermon** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

(Needed: a fan)

☐ Happy Pentecost Day, children. What do I have here? *(Show the fan and turn it on, if you are able to do so, and allow the children to respond.)* That’s right! It is a fan. What does a fan do? *(Allow the children to respond.)* That’s right! It blows air onto us. This fan reminds me of this verse from the Book of Acts in the Bible about the day we are celebrating today. It says, “And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting” (Acts 2:2). Imagine if this room was filled with a blowing wind all of a sudden. That would be pretty dramatic, wouldn’t it? And it would certainly get your attention about something big that was happening.

The mighty wind was just one of the signs that the Holy Spirit had entered into the world that Pentecost Day. Another sign was tongues of fire that rested on the heads of the disciples of Jesus. Imagine if you had little flames flickering over your head right now. You would know that something very special was occurring, wouldn’t you? The other thing that happened on Pentecost was that the disciples started talking in different languages so that all the people there from different countries could understand them. Imagine if I started talking in French or Spanish or German right now. You would wonder what was going on.

Well, all of these signs were ways in which God was telling the people then and telling us now that the Holy Spirit had come and that our lives would never be the same. The wind reminds us that the Holy Spirit is always moving around us. And it is pushing us to move as well, to be on the move for God, witnessing to people about the love of Jesus, telling everyone we see that “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”

The flames are a way of helping us to understand that we have a holy fire of the Holy Spirit inside of each one of us because we believe in Jesus. We are on fire for him. Our hearts are burning to follow Christ’s example and be a blessing to others in word and deed. We are excited to help people, forgive people, listen to people and love them as Christ loves us.

Talking in different languages is a way for us to remember that there are many ways in which we can communicate our faith in Jesus. We can write letters or send notes about Jesus to loved ones in the mail. We can draw Christian pictures to give to people we know at church or in our neighborhood. We can write messages from the Bible in chalk on the sidewalks in front of our houses. There are lots of ways for us to make the story of Jesus and his salvation known to people in ways that they can understand. The Holy Spirit helps us to be creative in our telling of the Gospel. This is what it means to live in the Spirit. May you be alive with the Spirit this week.

Let us pray: Dear Holy Spirit, thank you for giving our lives meaning, purpose and direction. Keep us moving for Jesus, keep burning within us to focus on him and keep inspiring us to share the Good News of Jesus in new and different ways. Amen.

- **The Old Testament Reading**, Ezekiel 37:1-14, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

P The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

- The **Epistle Reading**, Acts 2:1-39, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and 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 Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on 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 on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants

on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”’ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

- The **Gospel Reading**, John 16:5-15, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. 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 authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune All Ehr Und Lob 88 88 88, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Creator Spirit, by whose aid the world's foundations first were laid,
Come, visit ev'ry humble mind; come, pour your joys on humankind;
From sin and sorrow set us free, may we your living temples be.

O Source of uncreated light, the bearer of God's gracious might,
Thrice holy fount, thrice holy fire, our hearts with heav'nly love inspire.
Your sacred, healing message bring to sanctify us while we sing.

Giver of grace, descend from high, your sev'nfold gifts to us supply.
Help us eternal truths receive, and practice all that we believe.
Give us yourself that we may see the glory of the Trinity.

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

☐ Grace, mercy and peace to you, my dear Christian friends. As you have most likely gathered in this service thus far, the Day of Pentecost marks the beginning of living in the Spirit. As Christians, living in the Spirit is not just something we say. It is something that we are actively engaging in. It is not just lip service. It is real service to the people around us. It is not just a concept on paper but a way of life in practice. St. Paul gives us a clear picture of what living in Christ looks like in Romans 8:1-17:

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”

This passage constitutes a working blueprint for what living with Christ entails. It begins, of course, with the foundation of Christ. Our release from sin and our reconnection with God the Father are accomplished only through the death and resurrection of Christ. Nothing can start to

happen in our living in the Spirit without the sacrifice of Christ for our sake. The Spirit never operates independently from the person of Jesus Christ and him crucified and risen from the dead. After all, the Spirit only entered into the world after Jesus rose. Therefore, the life of Christ is embedded in the life of the Spirit.

In many ways, the Holy Spirit is like the greatest PR agent who ever lived. The driving force of all the Holy Spirit does is the example of Christ and making his example known to every person in every country in every corner of the globe. And we are like the agents out in the field, letting the news of our salvation in Jesus be heard and understood by all. So I say to you now, “Look to Christ in your living in the Spirit. Be imitators of him. Lift him up as the top priority of your life of faith. The focus should always be on him.”

Speaking of what we focus on, what we think about overall should be a hallmark of living in the Spirit too. Paul tells us that keeping our minds on the Spirit and not on things of the flesh is life-sustaining and life-renewing. Focusing only on the things of the flesh—our physical bodies and desires and the earthly materials of this world—is a recipe for disaster and destruction. Why? Because all the physical things of life are not dependable and are not long-lasting and will one day disappear. We can only be certain of what is spiritual. Only what is of God and of the Spirit is eternal and indestructible.

That is why living in the Spirit is so important. As St. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 4:16: “Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.” Living in the Spirit is about refreshment, being made new and living life to the fullest. How is this possible? Though the Holy Spirit, who reminds us daily that we are dead to sin but alive in Christ. Our physical bodies reflect our sinful nature, but our inner souls reflect the righteousness that we have received by grace through faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus. Being alive in Christ is about forgiveness and love and moving past what once tied us down in our selfish ways. We now live for Christ and serve him only. We have a Spirit that energizes and excites us in our actions and activities. We have a life inside us that is ready to be shared with others so that they may know the “reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15).

The hope that we have within us is the assurance that we are children of God. Through Christ’s death and resurrection, we are made part of the family of God. We have a place at the table, not because of anything we have done but because of what Christ has done. Our identity is forever connected with Christ and with God, and that reality is made known to us again and again through the work of the Holy Spirit, who comes to “guide you into all the truth” (John 16:13). It is a constant growing and learning process that the Spirit helps us with as our faith is expanded and deepened according to God’s plan for us.

The fact that we are children of God opens up the door for us of an inheritance in heaven that awaits all the sons and daughters of God. We are not on our own in this life, the Spirit helps us to see. We are heirs of the kingdom of God. We have a future that is being prepared for

Tune..... Wie Schön Leuchtet 887 887 4444 8

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- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Wie Schön Leuchtet 887 887 4444 8, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

O Holy Spirit, enter in, and in our hearts your work begin,
Your dwelling place now make us. Sun of the soul, O Light divine,
Around and in us brightly shine, to joy and gladness wake us
That we may be truly living, to you giving prayer unceasing
And in love be still increasing.

Give to your Word impressive pow'r, that in our hearts from this good hour
As fire it may be glowing, that in true Christian unity
We faithful witnesses may be, your glory ever showing.
Hear us, cheer us by your teaching; let our preaching and our labor
Praise you, Lord, and serve our neighbor.

O mighty Rock, O Source of life, let your dear Word, in doubt and strife,
In us be strongly burning that we be faithful unto death
And live in love and holy faith, from you true wisdom learning.
Your grace and peace on us shower; by your power Christ confessing,
Let us see our Savior's blessing.

Living in the Spirit

A SERVICE FOR PENTECOST

Contemporary Music Song Suggestions

- The following song suggestions can be used for a more contemporary worship service in place of the more traditional hymns included in this kit. Rights to use these songs in the service must be purchased by your parish through CCLI or other copyright licensing agencies.

“Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God” by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

“Spirit of the Living God” by Daniel Iverson

“Step by Step” by David (Beaker) Strasser

“We Walk by Faith” by Marty Haugen

“Fill the Room” by KJ Scriven, Michael Paul Bethany, Zachary Bradon Rowe

“The Dove” by Andrew Holt, Austin Davis, Cody Carnes, Josh Silverberg, Kari Jobe

“Spirit Fall (Dove)” by Colin Moore, Jess Steer

“Holy Spirit” by Bryan Torwalt, Katie Torwalt