

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP May 31, 2020

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness (*stand*)

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

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

All: O, God, I know the wrong I have done, and my sin is always before me. I have broken your laws and done what is evil in your sight. Have mercy on me, according to your unfailing love. Wash away all my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a pure heart and renew a faithful spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has sent His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

C: Grant this, Lord, unto us all. Amen.

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

HYMN LSB 502 Holy Spirit, The Dove Sent From Heaven

Holy Spirit, the dove sent from heaven,
Ever one with the One who is Three,
From the Father You came,
Words of peace to proclaim,
Come and comfort us, speak tenderly.
You, the fragrance of life we are seeking;
Fill Your temple, Your altar make clean.
Joyous shelter of love,
Gracious friend from above,
In Your care we are resting, serene.

Holy Spirit, the fire celestial,
Who on Pentecost came as foretold,
To descend from on high
And the Church occupy
As the cloud filled the temple of old;
All the baptized You seal with Your promise,
All believers Your gift there receive,
So that all the elect—
All in Christ—may expect
To enjoy what by grace they believe.

Holy Spirit, the unction of blessing,
Sacred oil of the green olive tree,
Giving heat, giving light,
As the tent lamps ignite
And as Aaron praised God joyfully.
Blessed living and life-giving water,
Now preserve us from evil within;
For in Jesus, God's Son,
All believers are one
In this washing that cleanses from sin.

Holy Spirit, the wind of great power,
Source of strength and of peace and of love,
Truest Comforter, plead,
As You bring all our need
To the throne of God's glory above.
Be the light that enlightens the Scriptures;
Keep our feet from each devilish snare;
Only You can make whole
All that troubles our soul;
By Your chrism, Christ's triumph we share.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth." But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel —because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Psalm 32

(Read Responsively-Reader=unbold **Congregation=BOLD**)

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found;

surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.

You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.

Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

Acts 2:1-12

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 7th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

John 7:37-39

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ

HYMN LSB 496 Holy Spirit, Light Divine

**Holy Spirit, light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away,
Turn the darkness into day.**

**Let me see my Savior's face,
Let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me
Which are only known to Thee.**

Holy Spirit, pow'r divine,
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
In Thy mercy pity me,
From sin's bondage set me free.

Holy Spirit, joy divine,
Cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Yield a sacred, settled peace,
Let it grow and still increase.

Holy Spirit, all divine,
Dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down ev'ry idol throne,
Reign supreme, and reign alone.

Sermon- Spirit, Word, Truth & Life!

“Now there were staying in Jerusalem god-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.” (Acts 2:5-6) The festival of Pentecost began during the time of Moses and is still observed by orthodox Jews today. In the books of Moses Pentecost is referred to as the Shavuot, which means “the feast of weeks.” It was called the feast of weeks because it marked the end of the annual seven-week grain harvest that began the day after the Passover. Since it came on the fiftieth day after the Passover it was called Pentecost—which simply means “the fiftieth.” It was also called the “ingathering of the firstfruits of the harvest,” and to celebrate it the Israelites would sacrifice a grain offering to God and renew their covenant vows to obey all of his commands. So Pentecost had been around for fifteen hundred years when the Pentecost described in the *Book of Acts* took place—the Pentecost we are celebrating today. On that day of Pentecost God gave new meaning to the words “firstfruits of the harvest.” God sent great signs to signal the occasion: a roaring wind, tongues of fire and a new language which could be understood by people from many different nations who spoke many different languages. The Old Testament prophets had spoken of this day. Isaiah had written, “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland...to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise!” The prophet Joel called it “the great and glorious day of the lord,” and god said, “even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth...and everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance...” To grasp the significance of what God was doing on this day of Pentecost we need to go back to the beginnings of human history—to a place called Babel, where God came down from heaven to keep man from destroying himself. At Babel, which later came to be known as Babylon, men decided to pool all their resources and work together in a coordinated effort to overthrow God. God had given them two commands: to call on his name in prayer and to be fruitful and multiply and fill the entire earth as stewards of his creation. But the men of Babel had a different plan. “Come on,” they said, “let’s build ourselves a city with a tower that reaches to the heavens so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the whole earth.”

Instead of glorifying God by calling on his name they decided to “make a name for themselves”—to glorify themselves rather than God. And instead of spreading out and filling the earth they decided to gather together in a city and build a tower that reached to the heavens. It was an ambitious undertaking, driven by pride and rebellion. But God saved them from their self-destructive pride by throwing a monkey wrench into their plans. He ruined their synergy by turning their common language into many different languages so that they couldn’t understand each other. Then he set them wandering so that they would spread out over the entire earth. As always, God’s will was done. As they spread out and settled in various places, different cultures and societies and formed around their different languages. The formerly homogenous human community was splintered into many different communities where people spoke different tongues. And since sin abides in the human hearts and sin has a synergy of its own, as the communities grew into nations, they began to harbor suspicions about each other. A dynamic of mutual antagonism sprung up—a dynamic which determined the pattern of human history from that time forward. For human history is the history of nation against nation: of war and genocide and espionage and assassination. Jesus called it “wars and rumors of war.” And as science and technology increased the nations’ ability to engage in wars and rumors of war, they got better and better at destroying each other. This continued up to the present day, with the result that more people perished through war, genocide, espionage and assassination in the 20th century than in all previous centuries combined. It’s hard to call that “progress.” But on the day of Pentecost we are celebrating today, God offered a new dynamic, a new pattern to mankind to replace the pattern of wars and rumors of war. He reversed the curse of Babel by giving mankind a new language that all men could understand, and by inviting them to take up residence in a new kingdom: the kingdom of God. This was the kingdom God had promised to Abraham and which had been proclaimed by Old Testament kings and prophets from David to Malachi. On that great and glorious day, the church was born. We are told that as the disciples were gathered together, “suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.” This “wind from heaven” was none other than the Holy Spirit of God. Tongues of fire came to rest on each of their heads and, “all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the spirit enabled them.” A huge crowd gathered comprised of Jews from every nation on earth who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Pentecost. Jews from Asia and Arabia and Egypt and Greece and Rome all heard what the disciples were saying in their own native language. And so language, which had divided mankind, now would be the means of reuniting mankind. “We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues,” they said. A beautiful new synergy was born. In the church—the kingdom of God—there would be perfect fellowship in one spirit and one language. The spirit was the Holy Spirit and the language would be the word of God. And at the heart of the word of God was the message of God’s love for mankind in the good news of salvation in the name of Jesus Christ. And that message, carried by the church, would go out from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth and turn the hearts of men from selfishness and suspicion to faith and love. One spirit, one word, one truth would bring light and life where there had been darkness and death. One language—the word of God—would ignite love and fellowship and unity where there had been dissension and war. God had come to dwell with mankind—first in the person of his son and now in the person of the Holy Spirit. Man would no longer need to glorify himself by building towers: he could learn to glorify God through serving others—even as Jesus had glorified himself by serving man. [Story of St. Thomas Aquinas and the pope of Rome] As the signs and wonders continued, Peter stood up and spoke to the crowd. He explained to them that when they crucified Jesus Christ, they crucified their own savior. They were “cut to the heart,” and asked Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter's reply is the first proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the Bible: "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. This promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." About three thousand people believed Peter's message and were saved that day. And the rest is history. The Gospel did go out from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth, but not in the way that anyone expected. The church had begun with the persecution of its Savior and it grew through the persecution of his followers. In Jerusalem, the Apostles and the new believers were persecuted—jailed and flogged and even stoned to death. It was not long before the Christians were driven out of Jerusalem by the roman and Jewish authorities. The goal was to wipe out the Christian faith, but the result was just the reverse. Like sparks fly out from a smoldering campfire if someone stomps on it and start new fires wherever they land, wherever the persecuted Christians ended up, they started new fires of faith. Christianity swept the ancient world like a forest fire driven by a great wind and the more it was persecuted the faster it grew, until it came to be said that the blood of the martyrs was the seedbed of the church. Two and a half centuries later, Christianity was the faith of the Roman Empire. The firstfruits of the new Pentecost did indeed yield a mighty harvest. You and I can start fires of our own, you know. All it takes is twenty-six words that Peter spoke to the crowd on that day in Jerusalem: "repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Amen.

APOSTLE'S CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Father in heaven, Please draw close to Glenda Colburn and give her peace upon the death of her husband, Milt. Comfort the entire Colburn family with the knowledge that Milt is even now rejoicing in heaven with Jesus Christ. For Donna Mattmullers sister, Jane Burns with ovarian cancer, now in hospice. Father, draw near to Sue Dunbar's brother who has advanced cancer. Strengthen him in faith and give him peace. Father, guide and sustain us as we recover from the Covid 19 pandemic. As we emerge from isolation and return to our normal way of life, remind us to conduct ourselves safely. Bless and guide those who are conducting research that they may soon find a cure.

In Jesus' name,

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

HYMN LSB 700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver;
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.**

**Finish then Thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.