

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

of Wausau, Wisconsin

Pentecost Sunday

May 24, 2026

GATHERING

** Please rise in body or spirit where indicated.
Text in **bold type** is to be spoken or sung in unison*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Atkinson/Whitworth

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God sent forth the Spirit, and all creation rejoiced.
God's breath filled the skies, the sea, the land, and all creatures.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever!

Let us sing to the Lord as long as we have breath.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

*OPENING PRAYER

God of all creation, we come at last to be united in the Spirit, your gleaming fire among us, setting our hearts ablaze. We praise you with our whole being. Live in us, that we may love with your love, speak with your truth, and serve with your mercy. Keep us faithful until the very end, through Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

On Pentecost They Gathered

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1 On Pentecost they gathered
quite early in the day,
a band of Christ's disciples,
to worship, sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing,
filled all the swirling air,
and tongues of fire aglowing
inspired each person there.

2 The people all around them
were startled and amazed
to understand their language,
as Christ the Lord they praised.
What universal message,
what great good news was here?
That Christ, once dead, is risen
to vanquish all our fear.

3 God pours the Holy Spirit
on all who would believe,

on women, men, and children
who would God's grace receive.
That Spirit knows no limit,
bestowing life and power.
The church, formed and reforming,
responds in every hour.

4 O Spirit, sent from heaven
on that day long ago,
rekindle faith among us
in all life's ebb and flow.
O give us ears to listen
and tongues aflame with praise,
so folk of every nation
glad songs of joy shall raise.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God pours out the Spirit upon us, but we do not always welcome God's gifts.
Let us confess our doubts and fears, that we might find forgiveness and newness of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Infinite God, you come to us in many colors, shapes, and languages. You speak to each of us in the way we can understand. You reach out to us and meet us where we are. But we are quick to limit you to what we can understand and control.

Forgive us, and set your Spirit loose among us. Challenge us, surprise us, and open us to your power, that we might know you more deeply, follow you more faithfully, and love more fully.

Please continue in silent reflection and your personal prayer of confession.

SUNG RESPONSE

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

286, v. 2

**Breathe on me, Breath of God; until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Scripture is clear: everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
God draws us together, offering salvation, forgiveness, and new life to all.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

SUNG RESPONSE

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy

437

**You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of power and grace, fill us with the wisdom of your Word and the understanding of your Spirit so that we may be your church: a people with dreams and visions at work in all the world;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Numbers 11:24-30, OT p. 129

²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord, and he gathered seventy of the elders of the people and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵ Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders, and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

²⁶ Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷ And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” ²⁸ And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men,^[a] said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” ²⁹ But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!” ³⁰ And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

VOCAL DUET

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Medema/Larson

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 1:12 – 2:4, NT p. 118

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶ “Brothers and sisters, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus, ¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle, and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ “For it is written in the book of Psalms,

‘Let his house become desolate,
and let there be no one to live in it’;

and

‘Let another take his position of overseer.’

²¹ “So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us— one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” ²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

² When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² 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. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

MESSAGE

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*HYMN

As the Wind Song

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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.
Never seen, ever known
where this wind has blown
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.

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,
making worlds that are new,
making peace come true,
bringing 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.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

adapted from Confession of 1967, 9.20

God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation in human life.

The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which people are reconciled to God and to one another.

The Spirit enables people to receive forgiveness as they forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as they make peace among themselves.

In spite of their sin, the Spirit gives people power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and his gospel of reconciliation to all.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world.

OFFERTORY

You are invited to use the time of offering to reflect on how you show your gratitude to God, whether through acts of service or through sharing of resources. Offering plates are available at the doors to leave a gift before or immediately after the service, or you may give online at www.firstpreswausau.org or through your Realm login.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Spirit, Open My Heart

692, refrain

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love, may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty God, we have opened our hands to you, and our hands have been filled with good things. Receive the gifts we bring in gratitude for your care for us, and help us to bless you with dedication of our lives; through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING OUT

*HYMN

O Day of Joy and Wonder!

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1 O day of joy and wonder!
Christ's promise now fulfilled:
the coming of the Spirit
that holy love has willed.
Our Lord in human body
to mortal eye is lost,
yet comes in flame upon us
at blessed Pentecost.

2 The world, in sheer amazement,
the truth must now declare:
that those who once were cowards
are brave beyond compare;
and tongues, which could not utter
their faith in Jesus' name,
defy all persecution
God's glory to proclaim!

3 We too may know your power;
your courage makes us strong.
Your love, your joy, your patience
can all to us belong.
Come now and dwell within us,
O Comforter divine.
Come to our hearts, and keep them;
there let your brightness shine.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

arr. Gordon Young

Following worship, all are invited to the Parlor for a time of refreshment and fellowship.

Thank you to those who helped us with worship today:

Rev. Rachel A. Wann, senior pastor
Mary Anderson, liturgist
Susan Schaefer, guest organist/pianist
Barbara Lattimer & Nancy Lazar, special music
Buzz Schranz, sound and video
Bethel Team, hospitality
Steve Martinson, doorkeeper
Mary Anderson, bulletin assembly