

4C

Today we remember this is an invitation to enter a new covenant, with God and with all creation -- a covenant to celebrate God's presence in all of life, to live with respect in creation and with our neighbours, to love and serve others, both human and not, to seek justice for all life, and to resist evil wherever we encounter it.

Holy Spirit, Holy Breath, pour out your life giving power on us and on these gifts of creation, that we might be signs of life and love to one another and to all creation.

That we might surrender ourselves to earth's intelligence, a wisdom woven through all creation by the Source, that in the sharing of this wisdom, of this remembering, we might rise up, rooted like the trees. That in this simple act of remembering, our love for God and our love for neighbour might find nourishment to grow in bigger and bolder ways. Amen.

(sharing of the elements.)

This is the body of Christ, the bread of life.

This is the blood of Christ, a cup of blessing for a new covenant

Let us pray:

Ever creating God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who seek Christ and seek to follow Christ's way, that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; so we pray through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.



Resources: (LeAnn Blackert, Gathering Pentecost 1, 2022)

Sunday, September 13, 2026



Communion

As we gather, we remember. That's what this ritual is about: remembering. Today we remember creation: skies, sun, moon and stars, water, land, plants and trees, birds, fish, animals, all of creation. We remember each of them as our neighbor.

It is grace that brings us together, and it is grace that invites us to this table - this simple symbolic place of remembering the Jesus story and the love of God and neighbour revealed in the Jesus story and in all of creation. And so we remember:

God is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

They are lifted in sacred celebration.

Let us give thanks to God, Creator of all.

It is right and good to offer thanks to the Holy One.

Holy indeed is the Creator, and holy is God's creation. Each part of creation greets us as neighbour and invites us to see, to hear, to taste, to touch, to experience the wisdom. The skies proclaim the glory of God, the wind continues to move across the face of creation, spreading new life as it blows. Birds cry out in songs of praise, the grass dances its gratitude, whales leap in joy, the trees rise up in awe and wonder. And the grains of wheat or rice become the bread, a lesson in brokenness opening the way into a new way of being. And the grapes of the vine become the juice, the wine, a lesson of the sweet union found in community.

2.C

We gather in this sacred space, in awe of God's presence surrounding us, filling us, holding us, working in and through us. We remember God, the Source, whose breath animates all of life; we remember Jesus, the one who walked on the land and on the water, teaching from boats and from boulders, the one who commanded us to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves; we remember the Spirit, blowing across the watery chaos, bringing life, offering us the same new life today.

As we gather in celebration of God's love and grace, each in our own way, we reach down and touch the earth, (feel free to touch the ground, or nod towards the ground.) and raise our hands, heads, or spirits to the sky (feel free to lift your hands, heads, or spirits.) offering these as signs of love to the Creator, lifting up our neighbours in creation that they may be present with us in this time of remembering:

the various microbes that allow all life to flourish, the waters, the lands, the air, and the flames, the wildflowers painting the mountain meadows, the trees cleaning the air we breath, the cats, dogs, gerbils, hamsters, fish, birds, snakes, lizards, and other creatures who live in our homes and become our companions, the bears, the salmon, the deer, the marmots, the eagles and osprey -- all those other-than-human beings who populate this earth.

In our gathering, we remember that we are guests of this land, joining our voices with the voices of the circle with our many and varied cries of praise, singing, Holy, Holy, Holy God, Creator of All, Source of Life, Heaven and Earth - all Creation - is full of your glory!

We remember. We remember how in the beginning, God created. And all creation lived together in right relationship, in the garden. We remember relationship broken by greedy humans wanting more than what was necessary for life -- now, as then, we have failed to live into the wisdom of creation.

3.C

We remember Jesus -- the One who reminds us of the beginning: the way of loving God and loving neighbor, the way of sharing resources and of caring for creation. We remember his words: "Consider the lilies of the field, consider the sparrow, unless a grain of wheat falls..." Jesus reminds us that wisdom is all around us.

We remember his life, his love for God, his love for neighbour, and we fall silent before his example, remembering...

(silence)

We remember the words he taught us, what we now call the Lord's Prayer. We pray these words now saying

"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

At his last meal with those we called friends, Jesus took breads made from those grains of wheat he referenced in his teachings, and he broke it, saying that this bread was like his own body, an offering of self designed to restore all creation to right relationship. He also took a cup and blessed it, saying that the juice of the grapes was like his blood, a pouring out of his life that a new covenant, a new relationship with God, and with neighbor, might be possible.

These are the gifts of God. We offer our thanks to God for these gifts, and for the many ways creation offers us life and health: for fruit and vegetables, for seeds and nuts, for fish and birds and animals who give their lives so we may be fed, and for the waters and watersheds that support and nurture every living, breathing presence on this earth-- from microorganisms to plants and trees and all living beings, both human and not.

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