

# † Pentecost XXVI †

“Jesus Returns Through His Spirit”



“Come Out of Babylon!”

Jeremiah 50—51

# ✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠

“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”  
Saint Luke Lutheran Church | November 19, 2023

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## Invocation

Father, Creator of all heaven and earth, ✠ **you save us from our selfishness and make us your children through Baptism, Repentance, and Communion.** ✠ Through your Son Jesus, who is your Word embodied in flesh, ✠ **we die to Civilization's Way of arrogance, fear, and violence.** ✠ Through your Holy Spirit, who dwells among us and within us, ✠ **we are reborn in Jesus's Way of faith, hope, and love.**

## Processional Song ✠ GC2 718 “World Peace Prayer”

REFRAIN: ♪ *Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our lives, let peace fill our universe.* ♪  
♪ *Still now the angry cries, still now the angry guns, still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters. Let justice roll, let mercy pour down, come and teach us your way of compassion.* ♪ (REFRAIN)  
♪ *So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives, longing for love to break into their darkness. Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of compassion.* ♪ (REFRAIN)  
♪ *Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth, let us begin to grow into your people. We can be love, we can bring peace, we can still be your way of compassion.* ♪ (REFRAIN)

## Pentecost Litany

Jesus has ascended to the Father, ✠ **but he has not left us as orphans.**  
He has begun to return as he promised, ✠ **by pouring out his Spirit upon us.**  
He dwells among us and all creation ✠ **and he has made us the Body of Christ.**

## † Baptism — The Way of Faith †

### Surrendering to the Creator

Jesus says, “You must be born again through water and the Spirit ✠ **to enter the Creator's Kingdom.**” ✠ Father, Son, & Holy Spirit ✠ **I surrender to you all of my mind, all of my heart, and all of my body and soul.**

(we make the sign of the cross—touching forehead, heart, and shoulders)

Jesus says, “If you love your self, family, or nation more than me, ✠ **you cannot be my disciple.** ✠ If you hold onto your life, you will destroy it, ✠ **but if you let go of your life, you will save it.**” ✠ Father, into your hands ✠ **I commit my spirit.** ✠ Father, not my will, ✠ **but your will be done.** ♪ *Take my life and all my heart, take my whole soul ev'ry part. Take my mouth and let it be, filled with your truth and mercy. ♪ Take my hands and let them love, with compassion from above. Take my feet and let them go, on the Way that Jesus showed. ♪ Take my money and fam'ly, give me faith and set me free. Take my life and teach me how to love all creation now.* ♪ (LSB 783)

## Prayer of the Day

Jesus says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them."

(the Christ candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is coming among us)

*♩ We are filled with the Spirit, and we follow the Lord, We are filled with the Spirit, and we follow the Lord, And we pray that all creation may one day be restored. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love. ♪ (GC2 728)*

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Let us pray. Heavenly Father, help us to see that the works of human hands are not righteous in your eyes. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

## Listening to the Creator

Jesus says, "Come to me, all of you who are tired and burdened. Learn from me and practice my teachings and you will find rest for your souls. Those who listen will live." ♪ *Listen to what Jesus teaches, listen to him every day. Listen as you walk and follow, listen also as you pray. Listen to him every moment, listen with an open mind. Listen to find peace and patience, listen so you will be kind. ♪ (LSB 770)*

## Remembering the Saints & Martyrs ✠ Martin of Tours

Father, we give you thanks for the great cloud of saints and witnesses who have gone before us and have embodied the Way of Jesus. Today we remember Martin (316-397 AD) who was forced to join the Roman army as a teenager but encountered Jesus in a dream telling him to follow. From that point on he refused to fight saying, "Put me in the front of the army, without weapons or armor; but I will not draw a sword again. I am a soldier of Christ." He was released from the army and became notorious for releasing slaves and captives as well as treating the poorest people as if they were kings. Help us learn from his faith and example, **Amen.**

## Chanted Psalm ✠ *Psalm 54*



*♩ Save me, O God, | by your might.*

*\* Listen to the words | of my mouth.*

*The Lord is the one who | sustains me.*

*\* The Lord is the one | who helps me.*

*I will sacrifice my | life to you.*

*\* I will praise your name, Lord, for | it is good.*

*You have saved me from all | my troubles.*

*\* I will find victory through | you alone. ♪*

## Law & Prophets ✠ Jeremiah 51:36-57

The Prophets reading comes from Jeremiah 51. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.**  
We do not live on bread alone, ✠ **but on every word from the Lord.**

## Epistle ✠ Romans 15:1-13

The Epistle reading comes from Romans 15. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.**  
We do not live on bread alone, ✠ **but on every word from the Lord.**

† Holy Gospel † Matthew 25:31-46

We stand for the word of Jesus. ♪ *We praise our Lord Jesus who comes with healing in his hand. He frees us who are slaves of death, he raises us to stand. He fills us with his love and truth, he gives us all we need. We come to listen now and on his living word to feed.* ♪ (tune: LSB 444)

The holy Gospel comes from Matthew 25. ✠ **Blessed are those who listen to Jesus.**  
If you have ears to hear, then listen! ✠ **Lord Jesus, help us to practice your Word.**

## Message

### † Repentance — The Way of Hope †

#### Confronting Our Past

Jesus says, “I know everything you do. Pay attention and remove the log from your own eye. I have called you out of Civilization. Repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”

(silence for reflection)

For placing our self, family, and nation above you, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For trusting the technology and works of human hands, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For being hypocrites who misrepresent your name, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For not living in restful peace with land, animals, and each other, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For not respecting our fathers and mothers in Christ, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For being violent to our bodies and your creation, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For not keeping our sexuality within marriage, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For trying to possess and control your creation, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For not being vulnerable and truthful with others, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For competing with others and not being content with our lives, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

Father, turn us back to walking in your Spirit. ♪ *Lord Father we have wandered and hidden from your face. Rescue your whole creation with your almighty grace. From trust in wealth and weapons and blindness to your Way, save us and all creation with your own hands, we pray.* ♪ (LSB 449)

Jesus says, “I discipline those I love. Come out of Civilization, my people, so you will not share in its sins and plagues. Not one stone will be left standing, it will all be torn down.” Will you turn away from Civilization’s Way of arrogance, fear, and violence and reaffirm your Baptism into Jesus’s Way of faith, hope, and love? ✠ **Yes, I renounce Civilization’s Way and pledge to follow Jesus.** ✠ Jesus says, “Put your sword away. If you live by the sword, you will die by the sword. But if you forgive others, your heavenly Father will forgive you.” Will you release all debts and grudges that you hold against anyone—including yourself and every member of this church? ✠ **Yes, I forgive all those who have hurt me, frustrated me, or owe me anything.** ✠ Jesus says, “Your sins are forgiven. Get up and walk. Go and sin no more.” ✠ **Amen.**

#### Song of the Day ✠ “By the Streams of Babylon” (tune: LSB 397)

♪ *By the streams of Babylon we sit weeping bitter tears. Here so many hopes are gone; now we're filled with countless fears. Yet, O God, you tell us: "Rise! Follow me with faith-filled eyes!"* ♪

♪ *We will rise and seek your Way, knowing love will one day win. We won't let fear*

*rule the day; we will welcome strangers in. Every day, we'll seek and find countless ways to be more kind. ♪*

*♪ By your grace, we'll rise above even in this troubled hour. Where there's hate, we'll choose to love; we will speak your truth to pow'r. With the poor and refugee we will build community. ♪*

*♪ We will pray for those who lead, trusting they are in your hand. We will walk with those in need, knowing evil fills this land. We will flee from Babylon, knowing she will soon be gone. ♪*

*♪ We will rise and live your peace; we will care for your good earth. All our violence we will cease; we'll see every creature's worth. God, now give us faith-filled lives as we heed your call to rise. ♪*

### Waiting on the Creator

*♪ Our Father, bring your Rule and will to earth. Give what we need for worry-free rebirth. Bring peace among us and forgive us too, as we forgive and love in all we do.*

*♪ Protect us from all things that will mislead. Keep us from selfishness, violence, and greed. We place our lives into your hands this day. Teach us to listen and to walk your Way. Amen. ♪ (LSB 637)*

(incense is lit to symbolize our prayers ascending to God and as its smell fills this space we are reminded of his presence among us)

Jesus says, "Learn from the birds. They do not store up for tomorrow and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Do not fear or worry about tomorrow. Not a hair from your head will be destroyed. Seek only your Father's Kingdom and he will give you everything you need." *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

Father, set us apart from Civilization in all our thoughts, words, and deeds. Take charge of our lives and all those in authority. Use everything that happens to bring your good judgment and healing upon all creation. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪* Father, provide for us, protect us, and heal our brokenness. Especially this day we remember Charlene Sargent, Jan & Paul Zugelder, John Espino, Kathy Polzkill, Yvonne Brown, the birthday of Sonia Gardner, and those we name in our hearts... Father, give us exactly what we need this day and teach us to be content with that. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪* Father, forgive us and free us from all that enslaves us. Help us to walk away from our anxieties, traumas, and addictions to Civilization's Way, so we may walk in Jesus's Way. Empower us to love and forgive everyone, even our enemies, in the same way you have loved and forgiven us. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪* Father, humble us and remind us that we have no strength apart from you. Stay with us in times of difficulty and save us from our selfishness. Comfort us in the certain hope that all your creation and children will be renewed and raised from the dead. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

Father, help us to let go and surrender everything into your loving hands, trusting that you are working all things to the good of those who love you. **Our Father in heaven, may your name be holy, may your Kingdom come, and may your will be done—on earth as in heaven. Give us this day what we need for today. Forgive us in the same way that we forgive others. Do not abandon us when we are tempted, but pull us away from what is evil. For all authority, power, and glory are**

yours—now and forever. Amen.

## † Communion — The Way of Love †

### Sharing the Lord's Peace

Jesus says, “Make peace with each other ☩ **before you come to the Lord's altar.**  
By this all people will know that you are my disciples: ☩ **if you love each other.**”

### Offering

Jesus says, “Do not store up things on earth. To be my disciple you must give up everything you own. Sell your possessions and give to the poor.” We offer all we have to the Lord, while also offering gifts to support this communion.

### Musical Offering

### Pledge of Allegiance

♫ *We come before you, Lord, to bow. We lay our lives at your feet now. All things are yours, we own nothing! Our lives are in your hands this day. Give what we need, O Lord, we pray. Please protect us, provide for us! Watch over us, ever with us, always love us!* ♫ (LSB 816) Jesus says, “If you pledge your allegiance to me before others, then I will pledge my allegiance to you before my heavenly Father.”

**I pledge allegiance to one God, the all-powerful Father, who is the Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**I pledge allegiance to one Lord, Jesus Christ, who is God's only Son. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He loved and he suffered. Under Pontius Pilate, he was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day he was raised from the dead. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He is coming to judge the living and the dead. His Kingdom will not end.**

**I pledge allegiance to the Holy Spirit, who is the giver of life, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the baptism for forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life in the age to come. Amen.**

### Thanksgiving

The Lord Jesus be with you. ☩ **And also with you.** ☩ Lift up your hearts! ☩ **We lift them to the Lord!** ☩ Let us give thanks to our Creator! ☩ **It is right to give him thanks and praise!** ☩ Praise and thanks are due to you, Father, ☩ **for you provide, protect, love, and renew us and all creation!** ☩ We are grateful that you bring heaven and earth together through Jesus's love for all creation!

♫ *Joyful, joyful we adore you, Creator of all that lives! Earth and heaven praise and thank you, for your love and all you give! Fields and forests, fruit trees and birds, thunderstorms and starry skies, seas and mountains, and grazing herds, praising you who never dies!* ♫ (LSB 803)

### † Words of Our Lord Jesus †

On the night before our Lord Jesus was crucified, he revealed his Way of rescuing all creation from the Way of Civilization. Before supper, Jesus humbly washed the feet of

his students and enemies. Jesus said, ✠ **“Follow my example. Love each other, even your enemies, in the same way I have loved you.”** ✠ During supper, Jesus then took the bread and broke it. He gave it to them, saying, “This is my body which is being given for you. Do the same for each other in my memory.” After supper, Jesus then took the cup and gave thanks. He said, “This is my blood which is being shed for you, for the forgiveness of all of your sin. Do the same for each other in my memory.”

♫ *Oh come Lord Jesus come and dine and give yourself through bread and wine. Feed us so we may have new birth, and bring your rule ov'r all the earth. Come now, come now! Our Lord Jesus and bring your healing love to us!* ♪ (LSB 357)

### Invitation to the Table

Jesus says, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood is united with me and will be raised from the dead.” We gather around Jesus’s table, ✠ **trusting that he is truly giving his whole self to us through this bread, wine, and communion.** ✠ As we receive the Lord’s gifts, ✠ **we commit to laying down our lives for each member of this church in the Way that Jesus has laid down his life for us.** ✠ We invite all Baptized members of the holy universal Church, who give their undivided allegiance to Jesus and are at peace with their brothers and sisters in Christ, to join us in this mysterious communion between the Creator and his creation. ♫ *We fall down now before you, Jesus you are the Lord. We lay our crowns before you, by all the earth adored. We give you all of our lives, we will hold nothing back. For you gave us everything, there is nothing we lack. You are the true Lamb of God, you gave your life for all. Teach us now to live like lambs, to trust you as we fall.* ♪ (LSB 941)

### Sharing the Bread & Wine

#### Sent to “Do the Same in My Memory”

Christ Jesus, as we feed on you ✠ **we are made members of your Body.** ✠ We no longer live for ourselves ✠ **but you, Lord Christ, live within us.** ✠ As you have laid down your body and blood for us, ✠ **help us to do the same for each other in your memory.** ✠ Jesus says, “Go and live this truth: ✠ **The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!** ✠ Heal the sick, raise the dead, ✠ **cleanse the unclean, and cast out evil spirits.** ✠ Freely you have received from the Lord, ✠ **now freely you must give.** ✠ I am sending you like sheep among wolves, ✠ **but do not fear, take up your cross and follow me.”**

♫ *Give us mouths to sing your glory, hearts your teachings to obey, hands that live your love that fills us, feet to walk your holy Way. Holy Spirit, light-creator, may the truth which you do send, fill our lives with loving mercy and trusting peace without end!* ♪ (LSB 578)

### Blessing

Jesus says, “Blessed are you in your poverty and suffering, for you are in the Creator’s Kingdom. Blessed are you in your humility, for you will inherit the earth. Blessed are you when you are merciful and peaceful, for you will find mercy and peace.” ✠ **Amen.**

#### Recessional Song ✠ **“Abraham Journeyed to a New Country” (tune: LSB 789)**

♫ *Abraham journeyed to a new country; Sarah went with him, journeying too. People in Egypt fled Pharaoh's slavery. They left the home and lives that they*

knew. ʘ

- ʘ *Mary and Joseph heard Herod’s order; Soldiers were coming! They had to flee. Taking young Jesus, they crossed the border; So was our Lord a young refugee. ʘ*
- ʘ *They heard the promise — God’s hand would guide them, no matter hunger, famine or pain! They left Babylon that had enslaved them; they trusted God and started again. ʘ*
- ʘ *They did know hardship, they did know danger. Who shared a home or gave them some bread? Who reached a hand to welcome the stranger? Who saw their fear and gave hope instead? ʘ*
- ʘ *God, you provided all that they needed. We are just strangers, “aliens” too. May we step out and leave it all behind, As we have been called to follow you. ʘ*

Saint Luke’s Mission Focus

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Fasting    | Communing    |
| Observing  | Healing      |
| Listening  | Resting      |
| Letting-go | Imitating    |
| Obeying    | Sharing      |
| Working    | Thanksgiving |

- \* Faith & Film: “Magnolia” Nov 20 @ DG  
                                   “Women Talking” Nov 27, Dec 4 @ DG  
                                   “To the Wonder” Dec 11, 18 @ DG
- \* Scripture Study: “Ecclesiastes” Wed, 6 pm

**Weekly Calendar | November 19 - 26, 2023**

<b>Sun, Nov 19</b>	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy   “Come Out of Babylon!”   Jeremiah 50—51
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship   Text-of-the-Day Study
<b>Mon, Nov 20</b>	6:00 pm	Faith & Film: “Magnolia” @ DG
<b>Wed, Nov 22</b>		
<b>Thurs, Nov 23</b>		
<b>Sat, Nov 25</b>	7-9 am	Breakfast & Devotion
<b>Sun, Nov 26</b>	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy   “The Gospel”   Mark 1—16
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship   Text-of-the-Day Study

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