

A Service of Holy Communion for the Day of Pentecost

10:30 a.m. | June 8, 2025 | *Year C*



University Lutheran Church
66 Winthrop St., Cambridge, Mass.
unilu.org

PRELUDE “Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove” [KOMM, GOTT
SCHÖPFER] — Tune from Joseph Klug’s *Geistliche Lieder*
(1543); setting by Johann Gottfried Walther (1684–1748);
see ELW 578

GATHERING

BELL AND WELCOME

LITANY FOR PENTECOST

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

(*Genesis 1: 1-2*) **The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, upon many waters.** (*Psalm 29: 3*)

The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (*John 3: 8*) **The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in God’s temple all cry, “Glory!”** (*Psalm 29:9*)

When you send forth your Spirit all living things are created; and you renew the face of the earth. (*Psalm 104:30*) **The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it.**

(*Psalm 24:1*)

I baptize with you water; but one more powerful than I is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. (*Luke 3:16*) **The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.** (*Psalm 29: 7-8*)

May the Lord give strength to the people! **May the Lord bless the people with peace!** (*Psalm 29:11*)

GATHERING HYMN ACS 944 “O Spirit All-Embracing”

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are yours.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun to reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING Acts 2:1–21

A reading from Acts.

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jewish-born and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “You Judeans and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning.

¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷“In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your children shall prophesy,
and your youth shall see visions,
and your elders shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon all of my slaves,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 104:24–34, 35b

The congregation sings all the psalm verses, and also sings this response at the beginning and where indicated below.

Response

Bruce Brolsma

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Hal - le - lu - jah!

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Hal - le - lu - jah!

Verse



²⁴How manifold are your | works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full | of your creatures.

²⁵Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
with its swarms too man- | y to number,
living things both | small and great.

²⁶There go the ships | to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the | sport of it.

²⁷All of them | look to you
to give them their food | in due season. **Response**

²⁸You give it to them; they | gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled | with good things.

²⁹When you hide your face, | they are terrified;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return | to their dust.

³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they | are created;
and so you renew the face | of the earth.

³¹May the glory of the LORD en- | dure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in | all your works. **Response**

³²You look at the earth | and it trembles;
you touch the mountains | and they smoke.

³³I will sing to the LORD as long | as I live;
I will praise my God while I | have my being.

³⁴May these words of | mine please God.
I will rejoice | in the LORD.

³⁵^bBless the LORD, | O my soul.
Hal- | lelujah! **Response**

SECOND READING Romans 8:14–17

A reading from Romans.

¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with Christ so that we may also be glorified with Christ.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL John 14:8–17, 25–27

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁸Philip said to Jesus, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but it is the Father who dwells in me who does these works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, who will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees nor knows that Spirit. You know that Spirit because that Spirit abides with you, and will be in you.”

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *Carrie Ballenger*

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 1093 “In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness”

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father,
through whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made human; who, for our sake,
was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
suffered death and was buried;
on the third day rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
who will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead;
and whose kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Individuals will be invited to offer prayers aloud or write them in the book found at the entrance to the worship space. Prayers may also be typed in the Zoom chat box to be read by the intercessor.

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Each prayer petition may be concluded with one of these (or similar) responses:

God, in your mercy,

Bless we the Holy One!

or

Hear our prayer.

Thanks be to God!

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC “Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit” — Black Spiritual (pre-1860); arrangement: William L. Dawson (1899–1990)

Ev’ry time I feel the Spirit, moving in my heart, I will pray.

Upon the mountain my Lord spoke,
out of His mouth came fire and smoke;
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,
till I asked my Lord if all was mine.

Ev’ry time I feel the Spirit, moving in my heart, I will pray.

Jordan river is chilly an’ cold,
it chills the body but not the soul;
There ain’t but one train upon this track,
it runs to heaven an’ right back.

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Many people in our community already give online. Visit unilu.org/giving/ if you would like to set up an electronic funds transfer, or a credit card donation on a recurring or one-time basis. You can also give by mailing a check to: 66 WINTHROP ST, CAMBRIDGE MA 02138 (there may be a slight delay in processing donations received by mail).

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Musical notation for 'The Great Thanksgiving' in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, which are connected by slurs. Each staff ends with a double bar line.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

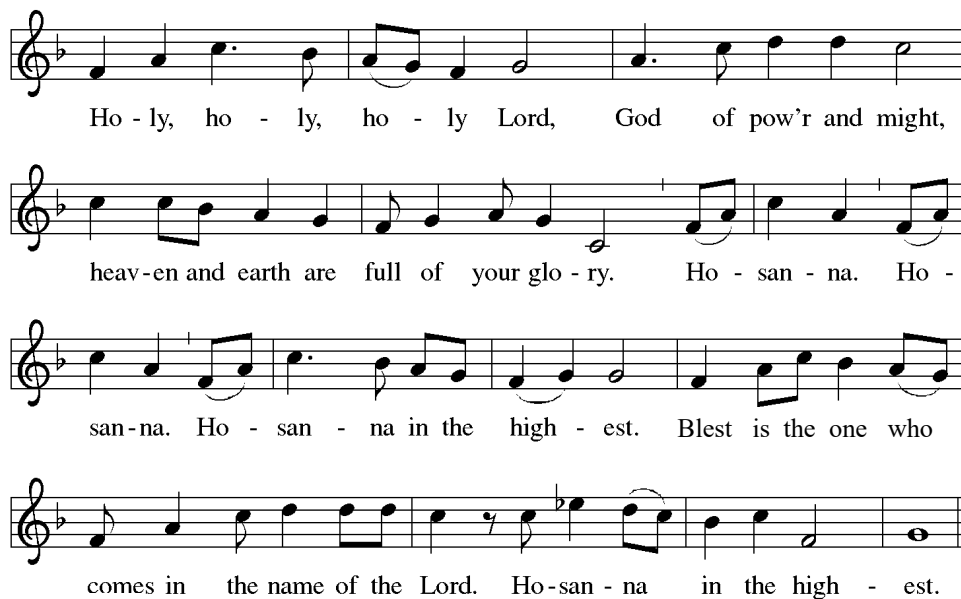
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . .

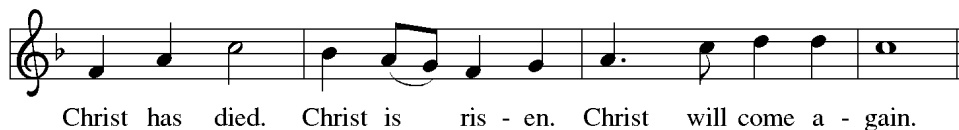
. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blest is the one who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

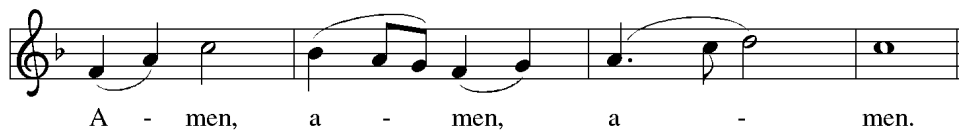
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The thanksgiving may include this acclamation:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

The thanksgiving may conclude:



A - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

In the Bible, Jesus often speaks of God as “Abba,” Father, reflecting a profound intimacy with the creator of all worlds. Here, we extend that intimacy to name God as our Mother.

Friends, it gladdens the heart of Jesus when we pray:

**God our Mother, God our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO RECEIVE AND SHARE COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

For those worshipping via Zoom, individuals may commune themselves and households may serve one another with the same words.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

TFF 109 “I’m Goin’ -a Sing”

I’m Goin’-a Sing



1 I’m goin’ - a sing when the Spir - it says sing. I’m goin’ - a
 2 I’m goin’ - a pray when the Spir - it says pray. I’m goin’ - a
 3 I’m goin’ - a moan when the Spir - it says moan. I’m goin’ - a
 4 I’m goin’ - a shout when the Spir - it says shout. I’m goin’ - a



sing when the Spir-it says sing. I’m goin’-a sing when the Spir-it says
 pray when the Spir-it says pray. I’m goin’-a pray when the Spir-it says
 moan when the Spir-it says moan. I’m goin’-a moan when the Spir-it says
 shout when the Spir-it says shout. I’m goin’-a shout when the Spir-it says



sing, and o - bey the Spir - it of the Lord.
 pray, and o - bey the Spir - it of the Lord.
 moan, and o - bey the Spir - it of the Lord.
 shout, and o - bey the Spir - it of the Lord.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: I'M GOIN'-A SING, African American spiritual

ELW 399 “O Holy Spirit, Root of Life” (*please see hymnal*)

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING AND SENDING OF 2024–2025 MINISTRY INTERN

Laurel, at the beginning of this academic year, University Lutheran Church invited you to serve among us as our ministry intern. You have preached, led worship, organized volunteers, and reworked our hospitality ministry to run in a more efficient manner. You have led Food and Faith suppers and have gathered the Young Adults and Graduate Students for monthly brunches. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you and Adam have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world.

As a beloved member of UniLu, we know that you are not leaving us, but we honor the completion of this particular time of ministry among us as intern, and we pray for God's blessing as you continue your studies at the Boston University School of Theology.

The leader addresses the assembly with these or similar words:

People of God, members of UniLu, do you release Laurel from service as your ministry intern?

We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

The leader addresses the person whose call is concluding:

Laurel, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry as intern with UniLu?

Response: I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

The presiding minister leads the assembly in prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service. We give you thanks for the ministry of Laurel among the people of God in this place.

You watch over our going out and our coming in: bless this time of ending and beginning. You surround your people in every time and place: keep us close in your love. You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial: prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together; heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us. Help Laurel and all of us to live with courage and gladness in the future you give to us.

As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 400 “God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind”

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE CWM RHONDDA (“God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind”) — Tune by John Hughes (1873–1932); setting by Paul Manz (1919–2009)

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preacher: Carrie Ballenger;

Assisting Minister: Laurel Oberstadt-Petrik;

Reader: Anne Howarth;

Intercessor: TBA;

Musicians: Imogene Stulken, Carrie Ballenger,
Lorraine Fitzmaurice, and the UniLu Choir;

Hospitality: Ann Ferentz, Chris Porter, and Laura Tracey.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE are asked for:

Cheri Agaskar — UniLu member
Ellen Bartlett — sister of Gail Bucher
Margrit Betke — UniLu member
Lorraine and Roland Blanchard — friends of Gail Bucher
Ed Bucher — UniLu member
Gail Bucher — UniLu member
Alice Conway — sister of Karin Kutrieb
Solveig Ericson — UniLu member
Bob Flannery — UniLu member
Barbara Frank — mother-in-law of Anne Howarth
Kenton Goldsby — UniLu member
George Gordon — UniLu member
Nancy Gould — UniLu member
Charles Jaferian — grandson of Nancy Gould
Jorge G. Miranda — friend of Ricardo A. Pulgar
Mark Nichols — son of UniLu member Karen Nichols
Duncan McCoy Norton — son of Megan McCoy
Anne Minton — colleague of Imogene Stulken
The Ralston-Lamb family — UniLu members
Jeanette Searson — sister of Imogene Stulken
Judy Steele — sister of Phyllis Steele

For our siblings at Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge and their pastor, Robin Lutjohann.

For our siblings in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, including the staff of Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives and all those for whom they provide care.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we remember the peoples of Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Eswatini.

For all who are seeking refuge, who are facing immigration challenges, who have been deported to homes that are not home, and who have been separated from their families.

(revised 6/4/2025)

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Carrie Ballenger, *Pastor*

Gracious Moyo, *Associate Pastor*

Kristian Kohler, *Office Administrator*

Lorraine Fitzmaurice, *Music Director—Choir / Building Manager*

Imogene Stulken, *Music Director—Organ*

Hanqi Zhang, *Tech Verger*

Mary Pederson Metelmann, *Council President*

Ed Bucher, *Treasurer and Bookkeeper*

Gail Bucher, *Service Deacon*

Chris Porter, *Financial Secretary*

Susan Worst, *Webmaster*

Joyce DeGreeff, *Lutheran Chaplain at Northeastern University*

Andrew Heisen, *Lutheran Chaplain at MIT*

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Welcome to University Lutheran Church, a Christian witness and ministry of and to members of the academic and wider communities in Cambridge-Boston — and, virtually, across the world! We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We are also a member congregation of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO).

Land Acknowledgment: *University Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pawtucket and Massa-adchu-es-et (Massachusetts) peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have called, and who continue to call, this land their home.*