

the seventh sunday after pentecost | july 12, 2026



We are in the season of the Church Year after the day of Pentecost. Pentecost (from the Greek pentekoste, the 'fiftieth' day of celebration) has its roots in the Jewish Festival of Weeks, which was completed on the fiftieth day after Passover. In the Christian tradition, Pentecost is the seventh Sunday after Easter and commemorates God's sending the Holy Spirit to empower the church, the followers of Jesus, on a mission of healing, liberation, and love. It emphasizes that the church is understood as the body of Christ which is drawn together and given life by the Holy Spirit. The speaking in tongues, which was a major effect of having received the Spirit, is interpreted by some to symbolize the church's worldwide preaching, and many understand Pentecost to be the origin and sending out of the church into the world and refer to it as the birthday of the church! Pentecost reminds us that God comes through all modalities and to and through all people, from all ethnicities, races, and backgrounds. God's Spirit transcends all human-

made boundaries. God can be experienced in fire and wind, dreams and visions, prophetic words and preaching. We invite you to notice the presence of the Spirit of God moving in your life and in the world around us this day.

The Noon Service

at Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati, OH

Inclusivity Statement

Jesus' ministry invited people from all walks of life, and we strive to do the same.

You are welcome and celebrated here exactly as you are—bringing your faith, race, class, sexuality, gender identity, nationality, immigration status, life experiences, housing, abilities, age, personal history and all the qualities that make you who you are. It is important in this community to treat everyone the way they want to be treated. If there is an accommodation that would help you experience the service more comfortably, please let us know by contacting Kirsten Marron at kmarron@cccath.org.

Jesus showed love, healing, and reconciliation in different ways to each of his

followers, and we strive to do the same. Practices that some might find comforting might inspire discomfort in others. For that reason, everything at the Noon Service is an invitation—if you don't feel comfortable with a part of it, you can always step away, no explanation required. Concerns brought to leadership will be heard without judgment and considered seriously.

Jesus called people of every kind to serve God through the gifts they were given, and we strive to do the same. We believe everyone has wisdom and gifts from God worth sharing, whether it's friendship, unique perspective, prayer, volunteering, financial support or something else. In God's eyes there are no small gifts. The Noon Service is collaborative and participatory. If you want to be a more active part of this community, we welcome you—and we welcome you to contribute in the way that you uniquely can.

Gather in the Lord's Name

Welcome

Community responses are in bold.

Creator of the world, eternal Light, **We have come from many places.**

Redeemer of humanity, God-with-us, **We have come seeking common ground.**

Spirit of unity, sustaining God, **We have come on journeys of our own.**

So here, in this place where journeys meet, let us take time together. For when paths cross and pilgrims gather, there is much to share and celebrate.

In your name, God, the three-in-one and pattern of community, Amen.

Invitation to Silence

Gathering Song

I wish that I could show you

Please stand as you are comfortable, in body or spirit.

I wish that I could show you

I wish that I could show you

**Whenever you are lonely
or walking in the dark**

I wish that I could show you

I wish that I could show you

The astonishing light of your being

Opening Prayer

God be with you.

And also with you.

Divine sower, scattering seed, never hoarding, give us the depth to receive the gift so freely given and the maturity to revel in love's abundant, reckless growth; through Jesus Christ, the grain of life. **Amen.**

Please be seated

Proclaim and Respond to the Word of God

The First Reading

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 55:10-13 (NRSV)

Hear the stories of God active in the world.

Thanks be to God.

The Gradual

Read responsively.

It is good to praise you, God,
And to honour all our promises to you
because you answer our prayers.
With refreshing rain, you care for the ground
making it rich and fertile.

**Streams fill with water
and earth brings forth its harvest.**

How rich is the harvest you provide,
how abundant the fruit.
Pastures are covered with flocks.
The valleys sway with wheat.

**The whole earth sings a big thank you.
Yes, it is good to praise you, O God.**

Psalms 65, paraphrased by Duncan Wilson

The Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Romans 8:1-11 (NRSV)

The Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia

Please stand as you are comfortable, in body or spirit.



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The Gospel

The Holy Gospel of Jesus according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them

up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NRSV)

The Gospel of our Savior.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Community Reflection

Please be seated.

In community, we exchange our thoughts and reflections on scripture. The noon service community is a place where doubts and questions are honored and encouraged. This is also a multi-generational community so we ask that comments are shared in a manner appropriate for all ages. Examine your own assumptions and perceptions; be sensitive to differences in communication and cultural styles; tolerate ambiguity and difference. What is shared in our community is vulnerable and sacred – please do not share or refer to someone else’s sharing outside of this holy space. Part of the strength of this community is that we listen as well as speak: we encourage you to give space for holy silence and space for everyone to reflect. Listening is a spiritual act.

Affirmation of Faith

This is the first and the great commandment:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

The second is like it:

Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Pray for the World and the Community

God, we know you hear our cries and concerns as you hear the prayers of all who suffer around our world.

Today we particularly remember in prayer those countries destabilized by war and violence that we name aloud or in our hearts.

God of transformation, **hear our prayer of hope.**

We remember those in need in our own nation– the hungry, the homeless, those struggling to survive as prices escalate.

God of transformation, **hear our prayer of hope.**

We pray for political leaders around the world including our own government, they might have your wisdom and turn their hearts to caring for the world, its people and all creation.

God of transformation, **hear our prayer of hope.**

We pray for the City of Cincinnati, for Christ Church Cathedral, and for The Noon Service. We pray for the church universal. Help us all be worthy witnesses of our faith.

God of transformation, **hear our prayer of hope.**

In this silence, we share with you both our concerns and our joys, those things that weigh us down and those things that lift us up.

You are invited to speak names of people, places, joys or concerns you have either silently or aloud.

God of transformation, **hear our prayer of hope.**

God, you are our hope for the transformation of the world. Open our hearts in compassion and receive these petitions on behalf of the needs of the church and the world. **Amen.**

Ask for Forgiveness Where We Have Failed

While nothing can separate us from God's love, in confession, we examine the places in our lives where our actions or thoughts have caused harm and left us feeling distant from God, our community, or ourselves.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God, hear our prayer:

For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness;

For the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us;

For the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist;

For the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us;

We pray for the courage to admit our fault,

The strength to amend our actions,

And the hope that your grace awaits us.

Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.

Amen.

Exchange the Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

During this time, the community may greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace and may say "peace be with you!" or something similar. You may remain at your seat and greet those around you, or make your way around the room greeting people. If you are feeling brave, you might introduce yourself to someone you don't know!

Announcements for the Community

Please be seated.

Share the Gifts of God

Offering & Song

We Belong to Each Other

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

**Every one, oh every one, oh every one
of these people are ours,
Just like we are theirs.
We belong to them and they belong to us.**

Minneapolis-based community song-leader Annie Schlaefe set these words from Nikita Gill's poem based on a quote from James Baldwin: "Every bombed village is my hometown." Originally sung at protests of the unjust incarcerations and deaths of immigrant neighbors, it is a powerful reminder we are not alone. We are all God's children, and we are all beloved and connected. As we prepare to come to Christ's table to share a meal, sing this as a reminder of the comfort and responsibility belonging to each other brings.

Make Eucharist

The Holy Eucharist (which means 'thanksgiving') is the sacred meal of the church, where we respond to the call of Jesus to continue to break bread and share the cup in his name. It is a way for us to be in communion with God and one another. We pray remembering all that God has done and noticing what God is doing even now.

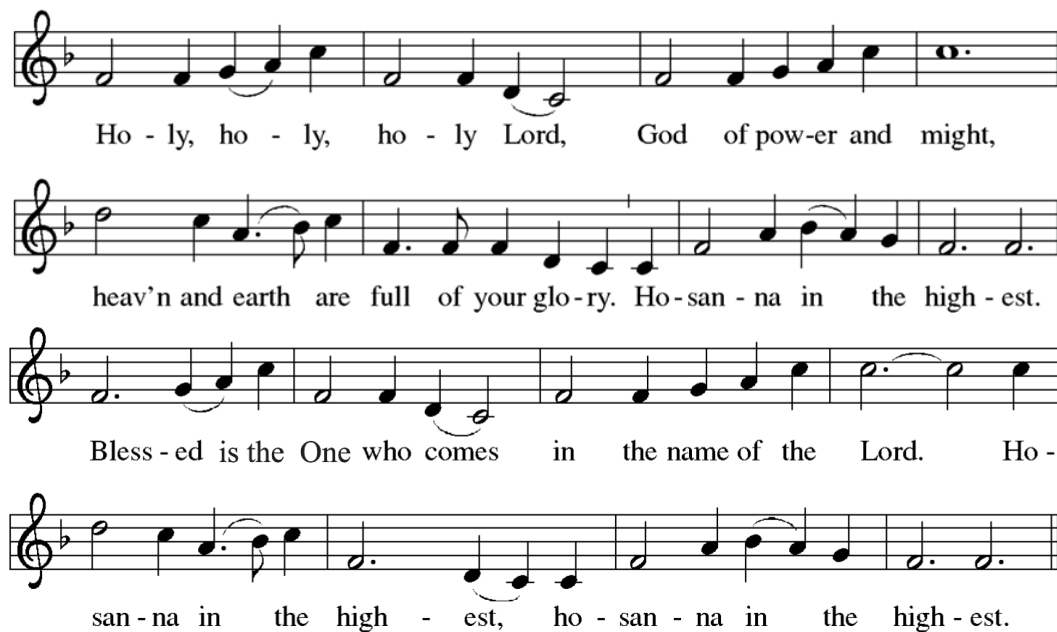
God be with you. **And also with you!**

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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.



And so, God, we who have been redeemed and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

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 for ever. Amen.

Break the Bread

The bread we share is vegan and gluten-free. Individually wrapped gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread.

The Invitation

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion

Please be seated.

All are welcome to God's table! And that means everyone! If you wish to receive communion, please come forward as the spirit moves you. You can receive the bread and/or wine by extending your hands for the bread and taking a sip from or dipping your bread in to the wine. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, come forward and cross your arms over your chest. In addition to Communion, a priest will be available during this time for the ministry of healing prayer. You can also use this time for prayer or contemplation.

Prayer after Communion

Please stand as you are comfortable, in body or spirit

Let us pray.

God of abundance, **with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

Closing Song

We will rejoice in love

We will rejoice in love, lift up our voice in love, make ev'ry choice in love,

We will uphold your world in love.

We will delight in love, share and invite in love, till all unite in love,

We will enfold your world in love.

We will repent in love, raise our lament in love, dare to dissent in love

We will uphold your world in love.

We will delight in love, share and invite in love,

We will persist in love, choose to resist in love, and coexist in love,

We will enfold your world with love.

1. We will re - joice in love, lift up our
 2. We will re - pent in love, raise our la -

voice in love, make ev - 'ry choice in
 ment in love, dare to dis - sent in

love, we will up - hold your world in love.
 love, we will up - hold your world in love.

We will de - light in love, share and in -
 We will per - sist in love, choose to re -

vite in love, till all u - nite in love,
 sist in love, and co - ex - ist in love,

we will en - fold your world in love.
 we will en - fold your world in love.

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

You are invited to join us for lunch in the library.



New to the Noon Service? We would love to get to know you! Please send your name and preferred contact information to Pr. Liesebet Gravley: lgravley@cccath.org. Prayer requests and questions about the Noon Service can also be directed to Rev. Gravley. Have a suggestion or want to get involved in Noon Service music? Contact Kirsten Marron: kmarron@cccath.org. More information about the ministries at Christ Church Cathedral can be found at cincinnati.cathedral.com.

If you would like to receive a weekly e-mail from the Noon Service and/or receive digital communications about service information (cancellations, road closures, etc.) please provide your e-mail address by either: scanning this QR code and entering it in google forms or e-mailing Rev. Gravley at lgravley@cccath.org.



Land Acknowledgement: Our Cathedral and Cincinnati occupy the ancestral lands of the Shawnee and Miami Indigenous Peoples. We acknowledge the painful history of colonization, genocide and intergenerational trauma that they have endured, and commit to working toward truth and reconciliation. We honor the perseverance and resiliency of Indigenous people, and we will continue to seek their guidance and participation in our efforts to build awareness of the history, traditions and contributions of Indigenous cultures.

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