

the eighth sunday after pentecost | july 19, 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 Wisdom of Solomon.

There is no god besides you, whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly; for your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose. Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins

Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 (NRSV)

Hear the stories of God active in the world.

Thanks be to God.

The Gradual

Read responsively.

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; *
knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.

I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, *
and glorify your Name for evermore.

For great is your love toward me; *
you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.

The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent men seeks my life; *
they have not set you before their eyes.

But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
give your strength to your servant; and save the child of your handmaid.

Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *
because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Psalms 86:11-17

The Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Siblings in Christ, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For 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!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:12-25 (NRSV)

Hear the stories of God active in the world.

Thanks be to God.

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 put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (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.

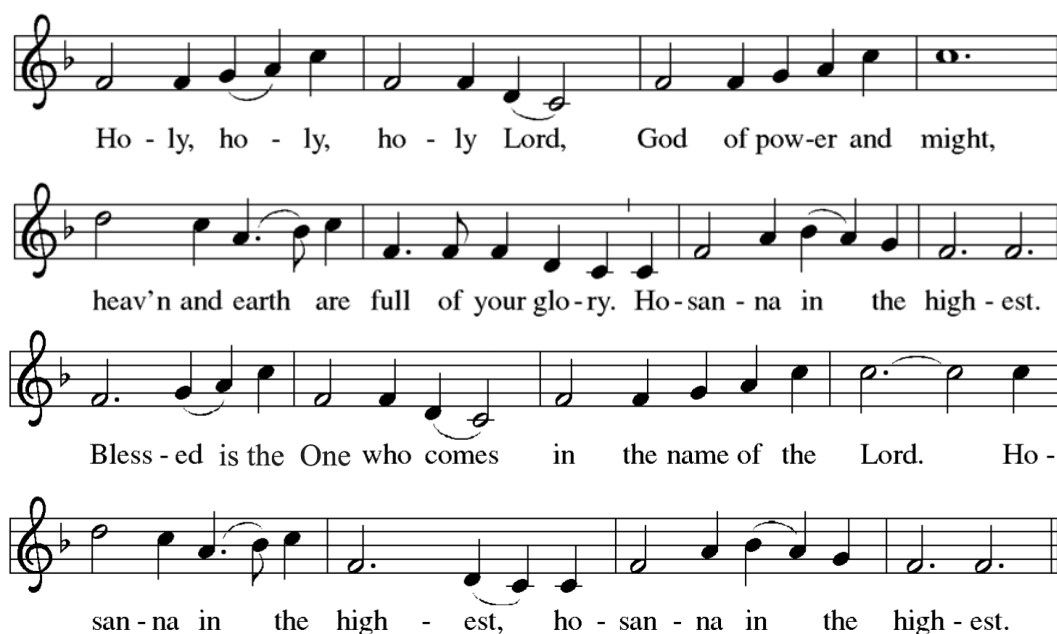
God be with you. **And also with you!**

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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