



West End
presbyterian church

Pentecost

Today we reflect on the day on which, fifty days after Christ's resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost was an established Jewish festival also known as the Feast of Weeks, which drew people from many nations back to Jerusalem (Leviticus 23:15-21; Deuteronomy 16:16). Pentecost is a new beginning. It recognizes the empowering of the Church to reach the world with the Gospel.

In celebrating Pentecost, the Church expresses its gratitude for the faithfulness of Christ in fulfilling His promise to send "another counselor" (John 14:16); celebrates the work of the Spirit in renewing all of creation; professes its confidence and security in knowing the Spirit's power for mission; and grows in awareness of the immensity of its calling to reach the world with the Gospel.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

NEW BIRTH

"We cannot give spiritual regeneration to ourselves. The very name which our Lord gives to it is a convincing proof of this. He calls it a birth. No one is the author of his own existence, and no one can quicken his own soul."

--J.C. Ryle

"To all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

--John 1:12-13

"O God the Holy Ghost
Who art Light unto thine elect
Evermore enlighten us.
Thou who art Fire of Love
Evermore enkindle us.
Thou who art Lord and Giver of Life,
Evermore live in us.
As the wind is Thy symbol,
So forward our goings."

--Christina Rossetti, from "A Prayer to the Holy Spirit"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 104:1-3, 27, 30-33

The First Word

We believe that God always initiates with sinners, so we begin worship with His Word: His invitation to us to gather in His name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD my God, You are very great!

You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering Yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.

He makes the clouds His chariot; He rides on the wings of the wind.

All look to You. When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created, and You renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in His works.

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

INVOCATION

Invocation
Asking God to be with us.

SONG OF ADORATION

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2. Breathe, oh, breathe Thy lo - ving Spi - rit in - to ev - ery
3. Come, Al - migh - ty to de - li - ver, let us all Thy
4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down; fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all Thy faith - ful
trou - bled breast; let us all in Thee in - her - it, let us find the
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn and ne - ver, ne - ver - more Thy
let us be; let us see Thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re -



mer - cies crown. Je - sus Thou art all com - pa - ssion,
pro - mised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning,
temp - les leave. Thee we would be al - ways bles - sing,
stored in Thee. Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure un - boun - ded love Thou art; vi - sit us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove; pray, and praise Thee,
till in heav'n we take our place; Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at li - ber - ty.
with - out cea - sing, glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Adoration

The God who meets with us in worship is good and powerful. We recognize His greatness and remember His amazing works together in song.

"He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to Him." John 14:21

Charles Wesley (1747); Tune: BEECHER, John Zundell (1870). Public domain.

Welcome

We are glad you have joined us this morning! If you are visiting our church for the first time, or are a regular attender or church member, we encourage you to use our online or paper Keep in Touch form to introduce yourself, request prayer, or request more information about our church. Following the service, please introduce yourself to Pastor Steve Shelby either in the Gallery or on the front sidewalk.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ecclesiastes 11:1-5

Cast your bread upon the waters,
for you will find it after many days.
Give a portion to seven, or even to eight,
for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.
If the clouds are full of rain,
they empty themselves on the earth,
and if a tree falls to the south or to the north,
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.
He who observes the wind will not sow,
and he who regards the clouds will not reap.
As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones
in the womb of a woman with child,
so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

Hear the words of Christ, our Sa - vior: "Come to me." "Come to me."_

All you wear - y and hea - vy la - den: "I will give you rest." God so loved the

world He gave His on - ly be - go - tten Son. That who - ev - er be - lieves in Him shall

have e - ver - las - ting life... Hear the words of Christ, our Sa - vior: "Come to me."

"Come to me."_ All you wear - y and hea - vy lad - en: "I will give you rest."

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a simple melody with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Hear the words of Christ, our Sa - vior: 'Come to me.' 'Come to me.'_ All you wear - y and hea - vy la - den: 'I will give you rest.' God so loved the world He gave His on - ly be - go - tten Son. That who - ev - er be - lieves in Him shall have e - ver - las - ting life... Hear the words of Christ, our Sa - vior: 'Come to me.'" "Come to me."_ All you wear - y and hea - vy lad - en: 'I will give you rest.'"

"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost."
1 Timothy 1:15

During our current sermon series from John 3, we will sing "The Comfortable Words" to open the Ministry of Prayer each Sunday. The Comfortable Words are drawn from the Book of Common Prayer to remind us of Jesus' encouragement in Matthew 11:28 and John 3:16. He provides rest for the weary, and in Him we have eternal life.

Andy Piercy ©IQ Music Limited (Admin. By Wixen Music Publishing, Inc.) Used by permission. CCLI #708363

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

OFFERING

You can place your offering and/or tear-off as the plates pass. Please visit www.wepc.org/giving, scan the QR code for online giving options, or mail your offering to the church office. All checks will be converted to electronic deposit.



*"Behold, how good
and pleasant it is when
brothers dwell in unity!"*
Psalm 133:1

OH, HOW GOOD TO BE TOGETHER

Paul Ranheim
& Kirk Sauer, ©2022
Mellow Toad Music
(BMI) and Bold Canary
Music (BMI).
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VERSE



1. Oh, how good to be _____ to ge - ther in this wea - ry world_
2. On this day the Lord _____ has fash - ioned, come re - joice with all _____
3. When it looked like e - vil con - quered, when we felt the dark -
4. Tell the theme of His _____ pro - vi - sion, how He met our ev -



_____ we trod... What a gift, and what _____ a trea - sure;
_____ your might. Raise a ban - ner of _____ sal - va - tion;
- est hour, in des - pair we sought _____ the Fa - ther,
- ery need. He has been our firm _____ foun - da - tion,

REFRAIN



kin - dred in the house of God. Oh, the joy, _____ oh, the sweet -
He has led us through the night.
He has proved His migh - ty power.
He will e - ver al - ways be.



- ness, to be ga - thered in the name of the Lord. _____ Ev - er - more _____



_____ He will keep _____ us, from the val - ley to the gold - en shore. _____

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (10:30am)

Children, age 4 through 1st grade, will be dismissed prior to the sermon for a Bible lesson, activity, and fellowship. Pick up from Room 121. www.wepc.org/grow/children

SCRIPTURE Reading

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?"

John 3:1-10

Sermon

A Worship Guide with sermon questions is posted each Sunday at <https://wepc.org/worship/sermons-media>. You can also find the sermon audio on [Apple Podcasts](#) and [Spotify](#) under "West End Presbyterian Church RVA."

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The disciples prepared the Passover. And when it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve. And they were reclining at the table and as they were eating, He took bread. And after blessing it, He broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

from Mark 14:16-25

CONFESSION OF SIN

adapted from The Valley of Vision, "The Spirit's Work"

Confession & Encouragement

Often we find that our hearts worship something other than God. In confessing our sins, the Holy Spirit probes our hearts and minds and graciously shows us what we mistakenly believe will give us life. Jesus is good to lead us from sorrow over our sin to the sweetness of His grace.

O God the Holy Spirit,
You who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
have mercy on me.
When You did first hover over chaos,
order came to birth,
beauty robed the world,
and fruitfulness sprang forth.

**I pray that You move upon my disordered heart;
take away the sickness of ungodly desires and hateful lusts;
lift the mist and darkness of unbelief;
brighten my soul with the pure light of truth;
make it fragrant as the garden of paradise,
rich with every goodly fruit, beautiful with heavenly grace,
radiant with rays of divine light.**

Fulfill in me the glory of Your divine purposes,
be my Advocate, Comforter, Helper, Light, Guide, Sanctifier;
show the blessings of Christ to my soul;
through You may I daily learn more of His love,
grace, compassion, faithfulness and beauty.
Lead me to the Cross and show me His wounds,
the hateful nature of evil, the power of Satan;

**May I there see my sins as the nails that held Him,
the cords that bound Him, the thorns that tore Him, the sword that pierced Him.**

O Holy Spirit, deepen in me these saving lessons.
Write them on my heart,
that my walk may be sin-loathing, sin-fleeing, Christ-loving;
do not allow me to be deceived or beguiled by any of Satan's schemes.

**Help me to find in His death the reality and immensity of His love.
Open for me the wondrous volumes of truth in His cry that, "It is finished."
Increase my faith in the clear knowledge of atonement achieved,
expiation completed, satisfaction made,
guilt done away with, my debt paid,
my sins forgiven, my person redeemed,
my soul saved, hell vanquished,
heaven opened, and eternity made mine.**

Silent Confession of Sin

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:4-7

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

West End Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and heart-idols, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the Gospel, to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with us. The Elders presiding over the Supper are praying for you as the congregation participates in the sacrament.

At each communion station, grape juice is served in purple cups, wine is served in clear cups, and gluten-free bread is served in a separate tray. For a list of ingredients in the wafers, see www.wepc.org/communion.

If your child is ready to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, please contact the WEPC office.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

*"For by grace you
have been saved
through faith."
Ephesians 2:8*

AMAZING GRACE

John Newton
(1779); Tune: NEW
BRITAIN, Virginia
Harmony (1831).
Public domain

1 A - maz - ing that grace— how sweet the sound—
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares,
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,
that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost
and saved my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did
I have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought
bright shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days
but now am found, was blind but now I see.
that grace ap - pear the hour - I first be - lieved!
me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

NONE OTHER LAMB

VERSE



None o - ther Lamb, none o - ther Name
 My faith burns low, my hope burns low,
 Lord, Thou are life, though I be dead,



None o - ther Hope in Hea - ven or in sea
 On - ly my heart's de - sire cries out in me
 Love's fire Thou art, how - ev - er cold I be



No hi - ding place from guilt and shame
 By the deep thunder of its want and woe
 Nor heav'n have I, no place for my head



None be - side Thee, none be - side Thee.
 Cries out to Thee, cries out to Thee.
 No home but Thee, no home but Thee.

REFRAIN



All who la - bor and are hea - vy lad - en



Come un - to Me and I will give you rest.

"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
 John 1:29

Christina Rossetti (1892); Music: Alex Mejias and Ross Byrd. ©2009 Alex Mejias Music/Ross Byrd Music. Used by permission. CCLI #708363

*"The blood of Jesus,
His Son, cleanses us
from all sin."
1 John 1:7*

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD

Robert Lowry
(1876); Tune:
PLAINFIELD, Robert
Lowrey (1876).
Public domain

What can wash a - way my sin!
For my par - don this I see,
This is all my hope and peace,
No-thing but the blood of Je - sus.
no-thing but the blood of Je - sus.
no-thing but the blood of Je - sus.

What can make me whole a - gain?
For my cleans-ing, this my plea,
This is all my right-eous-ness,
No-thing but the blood of Je - sus.
no-thing but the blood of Je - sus.
no-thing but the blood of Je - sus.

Oh! Pre-cious is the flow that makes me white as snow. no oth-er

fount I know, no-thing but the blood of Je - sus.

DOXOLOGY

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD." Psalm 150:6



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken (1709) Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH (Bourgeois, 1551)

What does "doxology" mean?

It's derived from two Greek words meaning "glory" and "word." A doxology, then, is a spoken word or song that ascribes glory to God. Today's doxology calls all of creation to praise God as the source of all blessing and acknowledges His Trinitarian (three-in-one) nature.

BENEDICTION

A team is available for prayer at the front of the Sanctuary following the 9 AM & 10:30 AM services.

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon and administered the Lord's Supper. **Pastor Changjwok Deng** led worship. **Pastor Kevin Greene, Sonya & Donald Smith, Andi Alberts, Doug Cherrington, Buddy Miner, Tigermay Wang, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, and Troy Arnold** led this morning's congregational singing. **Greg Stiles, Colin Elliott and Deacon Tim Andrews** managed today's audio and video live stream. **Cody Hahn** managed the in-house video system.

In the Christian year, we are now in the season of Pentecost. Pentecost marks the fiftieth day after Christ's resurrection when the Holy Spirit descended on His disciples. Pentecost is a new beginning. In this season, we celebrate the work of the Spirit in renewing all of creation, and we remember the empowering of the Church to reach the world with the Gospel. The arrangements at the front of the WEPC sanctuary use red and orange blooms, representing the moment in Acts 2 when "tongues of fire" came to rest on each believer (Acts 2:3). The tapestry also returns to its many colors during the season of Pentecost. The piece is entitled "Psalm 148," and was created by a team of WEPC artists.

The Last Word

God always has the last word in our worship. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing.

Announcements

ADULT MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/adults

Sunday Morning Discipleship: 9AM / Room 810

Mark: Immediately

The word "immediately" shows up 35x in Mark's 16 chapters. Mark is fast paced, filled with action, and centers on Jesus. This class will help us understand the significance of Jesus' identity as the Son of God AND the Suffering Servant.

Young Adult Fellowship

Young Adults at WEPC is a place to grow in your faith and connect with others. We have small groups that meet weekly and gather for events throughout the year. Contact: Matt Bouknight (matt@wepc.org)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/children

Sundays:

- **9 AM:** Nursery (infant-3 years old)
- **10:30 AM:** Nursery (infant-3 years old) & Children's Message or Worship (4 years-2nd grade)
- **Nursing Mom's Room** (service audio available during both services)

Vacation Bible School

June 22-25 / 5:30-8 PM

Join us for a fun-filled week of Bible teaching, games, crafts, and fellowship! REGISTER your child [here](#) by June 1 to guarantee your child a t-shirt. Many VOLUNTEERS are needed - sign up to volunteer [here](#)!

YOUTH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- **Youth Sunday School:** 9 AM / Youth Lounge
- **Parents vs. Students Games:** May 27 / 6:30 PM
- **School's Out Cookout:** May 29 / 6-8:30 PM

FOOD PANTRY

www.wepc.org/mercyministry

Food Items Needed

Please continue to check our weekly list to help keep the shelves stocked for our neighbors.

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

Simple English Bible Study: The Parables of Jesus

TONIGHT! / 5 PM / Room 810

Join us in the study of the parables of Jesus.

Contact: Changjwok Deng (changjwok@wepc.org)

2026 WEPC Track Camp

June 1-5 / 5-8 PM

WEPC Track Camp is a family-friendly ministry for rising 1st - 12th grade students. Come have fun with relays, sprints, baton hand-offs, birthday push-ups, and more! This camp is FREE! Sign up to register [here](#) or to volunteer [here](#). Contact: Talya (talya@wepc.org)

2026 West End Community Cup: Volunteers Needed

Join us as the WEPC Neighborhood Outreach plans to host four family-oriented FIFA World Cup watch parties this summer. This is an opportunity to share the gospel, fellowship, and strengthen our relationships with our ESL students and their families. We are looking for volunteers to help welcome our neighborhood families. There will be fun games, activities for kids, food, and prizes at half time. For more information, please stop by the table in the gallery. Contact: Ligdabeth (wepccommunitycup@wepc.org)

MISSIONS

www.wepc.org/outreach/missions

STEP Richmond Summer Enrichment - Volunteers Needed

June 29-July 30 / 1-5 PM

New Life Baptist Church

Do you have a free afternoon this summer? Join STEP at Summer Enrichment to mentor children from Gilpin Court! Volunteers are needed to teach or help with skill-building activities and to chaperone field trips. Sign up to volunteer at steprichmond.org/summer.

WEPC COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

www.wepc.org/preschool

Opportunities to Support Outreach & Scholarship Fund!

Many of our preschool students from the neighborhood are able to attend preschool through scholarships generously supported by our church family and community. To learn more about new opportunities happening this month to support this scholarship fund, visit the [WEPC Community Preschool website](#) or contact Casey Zollinhofer (casey@wepc.org).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Deacons of the Week

Tim Andrews, Stan Cover, Sean Winterhalter, & Luke Shrader

Church Office CLOSED Monday, May 25

The WEPC office will be closed Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day and will reopen on Tuesday, May 26.

WEPC Testimony Workshop

TODAY! / 12:15-2 PM / Room 810

"In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." 1 Peter 3:15

Knowing the story of how Jesus has given you hope and new life is a powerful way to tell others the Gospel. This testimony workshop will help you reflect on God's faithfulness and be prepared to share that Good News.

Summer Women's Book Study:

Even Better Than Eden

July 1-August 19 / 6:30 PM / Library

All women are invited to a book study this summer! Join us as we consider how each of our stories is shaped by the gospel story. To learn more, come to our **interest meeting on June 10th at 6:30pm** in the library, or jump in as we study together on Wednesdays beginning July 1st. Contact: Sarah Shrader (library@wepc.org)

John 3 Sermon Series Playlist

Check out our [John 3 Spotify Playlist](#) as we give thanks for God's love for us in sending His Son that we might live. You can find it by searching "WEPC John 3" or "West End Presbyterian RVA + playlists."

Changjwok Deng's Sabbatical

Pastor Changjwok Deng will be taking a Sabbatical Leave this summer and will be away from the church from June 1-August 31. The general goals of a Sabbatical Leave are to enhance the personal ministry of our pastors and to further the long-term ministry objectives of the church. Sabbatical time could include, but are not limited to: spiritual renewal, physical rest and restoration, and professional growth.

Other staff members will be covering Chang's routine responsibilities during this time. We look forward to what God is going to do in and through his time away this summer. Please pray for Chang and his family in the coming months!

WEPC Assessment and Care Team

As part of the work to find a new senior pastor, please see the weekly email on Wednesdays for updates from the WEPC Assessment and Care team. If you are not already receiving the Wednesday emails, please sign up [HERE](#).

WEPC CHRISTIAN SEASONS CALENDAR

2026-2027 Calendar Submissions Now Open!

We are now accepting submissions for our 2nd edition of the WEPC Christian Seasons Calendar, which tells the story of Jesus and His Church through a calendar with Scripture, liturgical themes, and artwork from WEPC artists.

Whether you create through painting, drawing, baking, photography, woodworking, needlework, or more, we invite you to join us and submit your creation as we seek to reflect our Creator and worship Jesus as we remember His birth, death, resurrection, ascension, & His call to follow Him. Please visit our website to see the specific requirements for submissions, and contact Becca Wethered (becca@wepc.org) with questions.

The deadline for submissions is August 30, 2026.

There is no age requirement; we encourage both children & adults to submit their art!

Each WEPC household will be gifted a calendar at the beginning of the Advent season. If you have not yet received your 2025-2026 calendar, or would like to purchase additional calendars, contact Becca (becca@wepc.org). To access the free devotional that accompanies the calendar, visit wepcchristianseasons.com.

Keep in Touch

Especially if this is your first Sunday with us —welcome!



Date: _____

Name: _____

Children's Names: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Who invited you to WEPC? How did you first hear about us?

◇ Check if this is NEW contact information for you.

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| ◇ Visitor | Age: |
| ◇ Male | ◇ 20 or younger |
| ◇ Female | ◇ 21-26 |
| ◇ Single | ◇ 27-34 |
| ◇ Student (Grade ____) | ◇ 35-49 |
| ◇ Student (College) | ◇ 50-64 |
| ◇ Married | ◇ 65 and older |
| ◇ Parent | |
| ◇ Widowed | |

I would like info about:

- ◇ WEPC
- ◇ Women's Ministry
- ◇ Men's Ministry
- ◇ Young Adult Ministry
- ◇ Childrens Ministry
- ◇ Youth Ministry
- ◇ Adult Classes
- ◇ Small Groups
- ◇ Neighborhood Outreach
- ◇ Becoming a member of WEPC
- ◇ Other: _____

◇ Please include me on the WEPC email list.

◇ I am interested in learning more about becoming a Christian.

Prayer Requests:

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment, and forgiving me. I run from my sins—my old life living for myself—and receive you as Savior. Amen.