

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Pentecost - May 31, 2020

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #176 - *“Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord”*

**Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!
May all your graces be outpoured
On each believer’s mind and heart;
Your fervent love to them impart.
Lord, by the brightness of your light
In holy faith your church unite
From ev’ry land and ev’ry tongue;
This to your praise, O Lord our God, be sung:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Come, holy Light, Guide divine,
And cause the Word of life to shine.
Teach us to know our God aright
And call him Father with delight.
From ev’ry error keep us free;
Let none but Christ our Master be
That we in living faith abide,
In him, our Lord, with all our might confide.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Come, holy Fire, Comfort true;
Grant us the will your work to do
And in your service to abide;
Let trials turn us not aside.
Lord, by your pow’r prepare each heart,
And to our weakness strength impart
That bravely here we may contend,
Through life and death to you, our Lord, ascend.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Confession of Sins:

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Joel 2:28-29

After this, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions. Even on the servants, both male and female, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. (EHV)

Psalm 51b:

Refrain: Come, Holy Spirit, renew our hearts and kindle in us the fire of your love.

**O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth will declare your praise.**

**You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

**The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Refrain: Come, Holy Spirit, renew our hearts and kindle in us the fire of your love.

**Create in me a pure heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

**Do not cast me from your presence
Or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
And grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
And sinners will turn back to you.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Refrain: Come, Holy Spirit, renew our hearts and kindle in us the fire of
your love.**

Second Lesson: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the rushing of a violent wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw divided tongues that were like fire resting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, since the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak fluently. Now there were godly Jewish men from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When this sound was heard, a crowd came together and was confused, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were completely baffled and said to each other, "Look, are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them speaking in his own native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, and of Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt, and the parts of Libya around Cyrene; visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; Cretans and Arabs - we hear them declaring in our own languages the wonderful works of God." They were all amazed and perplexed. They kept saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocked them and said, "They are full of new wine." Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: "Men of Judea, and all you residents of Jerusalem, understand this, and listen closely to my words. These men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is

only the third hour of the day. On the contrary, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: This is what God says will happen in the last days: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions. Your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the sky above, and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and a rising cloud of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And this will happen: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 16:5-11

“But now I am going away to him who sent me, and not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ Yet because I have told you these things, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth: It is good for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.” (EHV)

The Apostles’ Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn #182 - *“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”*

Holy Spirit, ever dwelling in the holiest realms of light,
Holy Spirit, ever brooding o’er a world of gloom and night,
Holy Spirit, ever raising those on earth to thrones on high,
Living, life-imparting Spirit,
You we praise and magnify.

Holy Spirit, ever living as the Church’s very life,
Holy Spirit, ever striving through us in a ceaseless strife,
Holy Spirit, ever forming in the Church the mind of Christ,
You we praise with endless worship
For your gracious gifts unpriced.

Holy spirit, ever working through the Church’s ministry,
Teaching, strength’ning, and absolving, setting captive sinners free,
Holy Spirit, ever binding age to age and soul to soul
In communion never ending,
You we worship and extol.

The Sermon: Acts 2:1-21
“The Holy Spirit Still Speaks Today”

Quite often, especially when people **first** start **reading** the Bible, or **hearing** Bible **stories**, they have the tendency to think that these events all happened “a **long, long** time ago, in a galaxy **far, far** away.” And I guess that’s really only **natural**, because there are many, many things which **distance** us from the events of the Bible. It’s true, they **did** take place **thousands** of miles away from us, and they **did** take place thousands of **years** ago. So, it’s hard for us to completely **picture** what the city of Jerusalem **looked** like and **sounded** like at the time when Jesus was living here on the earth. As a **result**, these Bible stories can be very **interesting** for people to read, but they don’t always seem to be **relevant** to their lives **today**. As we look at the events of **Pentecost** in our text today, I want us to be able to **see** those events **as they happened** on that very **special** Day of Pentecost. But in addition to that, I **also** want us to realize that the same kind of events **still occur** in our **world**, and in our daily **lives**. Just as the Holy Spirit spoke in a **magnificent** way so many years ago, **The Holy Spirit Still Speaks Today**.

I wonder how many of you realized before we got started today, that this Sunday is **Pentecost** Sunday. If you **didn’t**, I don’t want you to feel **bad** about it.

Most people don't **keep track** of those things. Oh, **Christmas** and **Easter**, that's a different **story**, but **Pentecost** isn't necessarily one of the holidays we **mark** on our calendars, and eagerly **anticipate**. That's **not** the way it **used** to be, in fact, for the believers in **Old Testament** times, the day of **Pentecost** was one of the **big three** yearly festivals. The **other** two were the **Passover**, and the Feast of **Tabernacles**. Every faithful Jew was very much **aware** of the day of **Pentecost** - an event which took place **every year**, 50 days after the **Passover**. The LORD had established this festival as a day when His people would bring Him an **offering** from the **first fruits** of their harvest. It was a day of **thanksgiving** for all the **blessings** which the LORD had provided for them.

At the time of our **text**, the day of Pentecost had already been celebrated every year for over **1,000 years**. But it was going to take on a completely **new** and **special** meaning in the account recorded for us in Acts chapter 2. Our text tells us that all of Jesus' **disciples** were gathered together in Jerusalem. This **wasn't** just the 12 **apostles** whom Jesus had chosen, but rather, this was a group of about **120** men and women. The **question** is why were they all **there**? And the **answer** is that they were **waiting** - waiting for Jesus to fulfill His **promise** to send the Holy Spirit to them. They didn't have to wait very **long**, but it must have **seemed** like a **lifetime** to them. It had only been **10 days** since Jesus had ascended into heaven, but those disciples had been sitting on pins and needles the whole time. They realized that something **amazing** was going to happen to them - but they didn't know exactly **when** it would take place. And that made their **waiting** even more difficult.

There were three miraculous **signs** which occurred on the day of Pentecost - signs which made it **obvious** that Jesus was fulfilling His promise to fill them with the Holy Spirit. The **first** sign was something that they **heard**. Luke describes it as a sound like the rushing of a violent **wind**. If you've ever been in the middle of a **blizzard**, or perhaps have witnessed a **tornado**, you know how **loud** the howling of the wind can be. Now imagine **hearing** that tremendous sound, but at the same time realizing that there **is no wind** blowing. The sound was a **supernatural** sound, and what happened **next** was maybe even **more** amazing. As the disciples looked around, they **saw** what seemed to be little tongues of **fire**, which **separated** and came to rest on **each one** of them. **Both** of these miraculous events let the disciples know that their **wait** was **over**. But God wasn't **finished** yet. Just as Jesus had promised, the **Holy Spirit** came upon those disciples in yet **another** very special way. They were able to speak **fluently** in languages they hadn't spoken **before**. If you have ever spent time studying a foreign **language** - especially one that is completely **different** from your own - then you **know** just how difficult and

time-consuming it can be just to learn how to **read** it, and possibly to speak a few short **phrases**. But these disciples were able to speak these foreign languages so **fluently** that the **native** speakers of those languages easily **understood** them. They themselves commented, *“Each of us hears them speaking in his own native language.”* These were miracles which only **God** could accomplish, and that’s exactly what the disciples were **telling** everyone around them. God has accomplished **amazing** and **wonderful** things.

But as always, not everyone wanted to **hear** that message. Some **scoffed** at the disciples and made **fun** of them. They said they were just babbling on because they were **drunk**. What a **ridiculous** charge. Really? - babbling on in multiple languages which they hadn’t studied before, in completely understandable sentences because they were **drunk**? Obviously, **not**, and yet, their accusation really isn’t too **surprising**. Those who are **enemies** of God’s Word will **always** grasp at any straw they can, in order to try and **discredit** God’s messengers.

But, leave it to the Apostle **Peter** to step forward and **defend** the disciples, and to **explain** to everyone **exactly** what was happening. These men were **not** drunk, but rather, this was **evidence** that God was fulfilling His **promise** to them. Peter quoted the words of the prophet **Joel**, which we heard in today’s **first** lesson, *“This is what God says will happen in the last days: I will pour out my **Spirit** on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will **prophesy**. Your young men will see **visions**. Your old men will dream **dreams**. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my **Spirit** in those days, and they will **prophesy**. I will show **wonders** in the sky above, and **signs** on the earth below, blood and fire and a rising cloud of smoke. The sun will be turned to **darkness** and the moon to **blood** before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And **this** will happen: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be **saved**.”*

Peter used these words as the beginning of his sermon on Pentecost - a sermon which was all about **Jesus**. The people needed to know that **Jesus** - the person whom they had **crucified** just fifty days earlier - was actually the **Messiah** for whom they had been **waiting** for centuries. It was a message that **cut** the people **deeply**. But, it was **also** a message that brought the people **hope**. Peter told them that Jesus’ death **covered** their guilt and sins - even their sin of unjustly **crucifying** Him. On that day, as all the disciples shared the message of salvation through Jesus, many people began to **realize** the great **love** which their Savior had for them, and as a result, we’re told that about 3,000 souls were added to the number of Jesus’ **followers**.

The Day of **Pentecost** was certainly a **great** day in the history of God's Church - in fact, we use it to mark the **birthday** of the New Testament Church. But that was **then**, and this is **now**. What does **that** day - a day which took place some 2,000 years ago - have to do with May 31, 2020? We can listen as intently as we want, but I don't think we're going to **hear** the sound of violent **wind** today (especially if the wind isn't actually **blowing**). And I'm **sure** we aren't going to **see** any tongues of flame dancing above the heads of everyone around us. And I would be **extremely** surprised if anyone around me spontaneously started **speaking** in a language they had never spoken before. That's because **those** parts of that special Day of Pentecost in our **text** are a part of **history**. But, let me tell you what is **not** a part of history. The LORD is still sending His **Holy Spirit** to His people, and **The Holy Spirit Still Speaks Today**.

How do we know that's **true**? We **know** it because it's what the LORD has **promised** in His Word. After Peter preached his sermon on Pentecost, he told the people, "**Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**" The LORD doesn't use **special sounds** and **miraculous sights** to accompany the gift of His Spirit today. Instead, He uses elements which are very **simple** - like the **water** of Baptism, and the **bread** and **wine** of the Lord's Supper. Through these **sacraments**, God gives us His Holy Spirit. And we **also** receive the Holy Spirit whenever we **read** the Scriptures, or **hear** God's Word being proclaimed.

Have you ever taken time to think about what a tremendous **miracle** it is that God has placed His Spirit **inside** of us? It's **especially** wonderful because we know how much we **need** that Spirit. If God **hadn't** placed His Spirit in us, we would be walking **corpses** - completely **dead** in our trespasses and sins. But the Holy Spirit brings us **life**. He gives us the ability to **know** and to **trust** in Jesus as our **Savior** from sin. And the only way the LORD has promised to **give** us His Spirit is through the **Means of Grace** - God's **Word** and the **Sacraments**. If we **neglect** His Word - if we **stay away** from the sacrament - we're cutting ourselves **off** from the work of the Spirit, and we are **preventing** ourselves from receiving the **gifts** which Jesus has already **earned** for us, and which He desperately wants to **give** to us. But, when we are regularly making **use** of God's Word in our lives, and when we come to the Lord's Table **often**, we will be richly **blessed** with the Holy Spirit.

I'd like to go back to that **prophecy** from the Book of **Joel** for just a moment. The LORD said, "**I will pour out my Spirit on all people.**" That was a prophecy that was **fulfilled** on the Day of **Pentecost** some 2,000 years ago. But it is **also** a prophecy that is **still** being fulfilled **today**. Each one of **us** is a direct

fulfillment of Joel's prophecy, as the LORD continues to pour out His **Holy Spirit** on us. But that's just the **first** part, because Joel's prophecy isn't just a prophecy about what the LORD does **for** us - it's **also** a prophecy about what the LORD does **through** us. God said, "*I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and **they will prophecy.***"

To **prophecy** means to **speak** God's Word - to **proclaim** the great things which our God has **done** for us. Whenever we **do** that - whenever we tell a **friend** or **family** member the Good News about the **Savior** - we are **fulfilling prophecy**. It's that Day of **Pentecost** recorded in our text all over again, as the Holy Spirit speaks **through** us. God has **promised** that **wherever** His Word is spoken, the **Holy Spirit** is at work.

In the Old Testament, the Festival of **Pentecost** was a time for the people to bring the **first fruits** of their **harvest** to the LORD. In the **New** Testament God used that festival to pour out His **Holy Spirit** on His disciples enabling them to bring to the LORD the **first fruits** of a great harvest of **souls**. In the days **following** our text, many **more** souls would be **added**, and it's work that still **continues** on **today** - in fact, it's work that will **never end**. By the grace of God, **we** get to **share** in that work. **The Holy Spirit Still Speaks Today**. May we continue to **listen** to His voice, **share** the Savior with others, and bring **many souls** into God's kingdom through His Word and Sacrament, Amen.

Prayers:

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You for graciously promising to hear **all** those who call on You in **faith**. Hear now **our** prayer, as we ask especially for those things which are good for our **spiritual** welfare. Don't count our many **sins** against us, but rather, wash us **clean** in Jesus' blood, and continue to **guide** us by Your Holy Spirit. Give us a **vigorous** faith - a faith which trusts only in **Your** mercy and grace, and **never** let us put our trust in our **own** merit and worthiness. Fill **each** of us with a longing for Your **Word**, that by **reading** it, **studying** it, and **hearing** it preached, we may **grow** in our **faith** toward You, in our **knowledge** of the Truth, and in our **love** for one another. Graciously give us the Savior's spirit of **humility**, and cast **out** of our hearts all sinful **pride** and **doubt**.

Capture our hearts with Your **love**, that we may be **faithful** to You in every way, and **fruitful** in every good work. Teach us to place **all** our burdens and cares on **You** through fervent and frequent **prayer**, and remind us that when we **ask** for things that are pleasing to You, we will **receive** them. Help us to count our

blessings, and to remember that **every** good gift comes from You. May our love for **You** always be a cheerful **response** to Your great love for **us**. Then we will both **speak** and **sing** Your praises.

When we are **chastised**, give us the patience and strength need to **bear** whatever You place on us. Give us the grace to **learn** the spiritual lessons You want to **teach** us. Cheered by the knowledge that in **all** things You work for the **good** of those who love You, enable us to bear our lot in life without **complaining**. Give us strength to **endure** all trials to our faith, and to **overcome** every temptation. **Uphold** us by Your **power** that we may never falter or fail in our allegiance to You, nor lose our hold on the eternal life which You have prepared for us.

And finally, that Your kingdom of grace may be brought to the hearts of many **others**, give us all a godly **zeal** to show Your salvation in our lives from day to day, and from place to place. May we never **fear**, or be **ashamed**, or hesitate to **confess** Your name to those around us. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

Hymn #765 - "Day by Day"

**Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
Bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
Draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Lore divine, beyond all mortal measure,
Brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,**

Where, at last, I'll find eternal rest.

**Day by day, I know you will provide me
Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
O'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow;
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow;
Till in glory I behold your face.**

**Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
When my burdens grow too great to bear;
Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
You will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Blessing:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.
C: **Amen.**

Hymn #183 - "Holy Spirit, Light Divine"

**Holy Spirit, Light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the gloom of night away;
Turn the darkness into day.**

**Holy Spirit, Love divine,
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
In your mercy pity me;
From sin's bondage set me free.**

**Holy Spirit, Joy divine,
Cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Fill me with your heav'nly peace;
Let it grow and still increase.**

**Holy Spirit, Pow'r divine,
Dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down ev'ry idol throne;
Reign supreme and reign alone.**

**See, to you I give my heart;
Cleanse my life in ev'ry part;
Your own temple I would be
Now and for eternity.**