

In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice; in the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch. Psalm 5:3.

Oh, in the morning. Psalm 5 is a prayer for someone that is in trouble and is asking the Lord God to hear their voice. In the morning for many of us is a great time to pray, and has been for many years, even for the Psalmist. In the morning we give thanks to God. In the morning we begin a fresh new start, even in the time of distress or uncertainty, in joys and thanksgivings, in sorrow or joy. The Psalmist watches as we do for the goodness and comfort of the promise from God.

How are your evenings, mornings and the in between times going? How is the watching and waiting for God coming along? We are listening, watching and waiting for many things at this time and place. I urge you to listen and take time to pray, trust and hear about the God that loves us so much He sent His one and only Son, to walk as a human being, and teach, preach, forgive and walk to the cross for our sins. This God hears our prayers. This Savior promised eternal life and now this week the celebration of the Holy Spirit breathing new life and peace to each of us during these difficult times.

One of the most difficult for each one of us that worship at First Lutheran Church is not being able to worship in our Sanctuary. This is a mourning that we had never imagined to ever happen. I pray earnestly that you are either reading or hearing the Good News and promise of life for each of us in a different way. Finding comfort in the difficult and heartbreaking. Finding joy in the knowledge that we are not alone, that the love of God and His Son is still with us, because we are worshiping different. This is a time, at least for me, to delve closer into the Word of God, to enjoy the creation he has laid out for us, to enjoy the family that we are able to see. A little girl said when asked what was good about this “safer at home,” answered, “I think it’s great because I am spending more time with my family!” Yet, we miss our church family. Those we would worship with side by side have coffee with and talk with to support. We are finding ways to do “church” differently.

At the time of this writing, we will be having our first, “parking lot service” on Wednesday, May 27th at 6:30 and we will use a radio transmitter to broadcast the “Honoring of our Graduates.” People will listen on a station in their cars. The Church Council has formed a team that has been required by Bishop Tom Aitken to allow for safe and smart actions as we go forward in our worship. We ask God’s help in this endeavor as we continue to hear God’s voice and honor our neighbor. We are hoping that a parking lot service or outdoor services will be available to us this summer. We also will be meeting and discussing other options as we go forth in trust and wisdom.

Thank you for being the church. Thank you for your support. Thank you for the prayers and grace.

Peace,

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protections over them, so that those who love your name may exult you. Psalm 5: 11

Johns Pentecost...A Study for You from the Gospel of John 20:19-23

This week we celebrate a big milestone in the Church. Pentecost, “Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God’s presences within and among us.” Sundays and Seasons, page 177.

Acts 2:1-21 gives us the Scripture that we hear each year of the people waiting in a room for the Holy Spirit and they are organized.

How are you organized for the Spirit of Jesus Christ as we here Luke-Acts (which follow each other in sequence)?

In the Gospel of John, The Spirit of God is everywhere and right from the beginning.

Professor Mark Skinner, *Working Preacher*, "The Johannine Pentecost," as this passage is sometimes called, gets much less attention. This Pentecost is a little different this year, and not just because of COVID 19. The Gospel of John shares with us the Holy Spirit that is coming all through the Gospel from the beginning of Jesus and His baptism introduced by John the Baptizer in John 1:33 as the "one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." Right at the beginning of the ministry of Jesus Christ. In addition, it continues through the whole Gospel. The Holy Spirit walks with Jesus throughout his life. The Spirit at last. The Spirit comes on Easter, during Jesus' first post-resurrection appearance to a collection of his followers. (Earlier in the day, outside the tomb, he spoke to and commissioned only Mary Magdalene.) Also, in this passage we encounter the Spirit with less of a universal tone (in comparison to Acts); the focus here is more particular, focused on the identity and sending of a community. And of course Jesus has had much to say about the coming "Advocate":

- It is "the Spirit of truth," who dwells with believers forever yet cannot be received by "the world" (14:16-17).
- It is the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, who will teach Jesus' followers everything and remind them of all he told them (14:26; cf. 16:13).
- It is the Spirit, whom Jesus sends "from the Father," and who testifies about Jesus and equips people to offer testimony about him (15:26-27). This Spirit glorifies Jesus (16:14).
- It is He who can "prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment" (16:8-11).

How is the Advocate, Holy Spirit coming differently to you this year?

Which Scripture passage of the Spirit speaks to you at this time?

As we have been in the Gospel of John the biggest sin, is unbelief. How does unbelief affect our mission and ministry?



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Pentecost, May 31, 2020

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”



Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God’s presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God’s presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God’s redeeming love to all the world.

Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

L: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn "Spirit of God, Depend upon My Heart" (vs. 1 & 4) Red Worship Book 800

1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth, through all its pulses move; stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart, and make me love you as I ought to love.

4 Teach me to love you as your angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame: the baptism of the heav'n-descended dove, my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

Greeting

Red Worship Book pg. 147

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

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

Red Worship Book pg. 147-148

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Canticle of Praise

Red Worship Book pg. 149-150

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches, wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of the Day

L: O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

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 nation 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 Jews 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, "Men of Judea 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 sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, 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.' "

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

L: How manifold are your works, O LORD!

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

L: Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,

C: living things both small and great.

L: There go the ships to and fro,

C: and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

L: All of them look to you

C: to give them their food in due season.

L: You give it to them; they gather it;

C: you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

L: When you hide your face, they are terrified;

C: when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

L: You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;

C: and so you renew the face of the earth.

L: May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

C: O LORD, rejoice in all your works.

L: You look at the earth and it trembles;

C: you touch the mountains and they smoke.

L: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;

C: I will praise my God while I have my being.

L: May these words of mine please God.

C: I will rejoice in the LORD.

L: Bless the LORD, O my soul.

C: Hallelujah!

Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

^{3b}No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Red Worship Book pg. 151

C: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

Red Worship Book pg. 151

C: Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel: John 20:19-23

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he

breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

The Gospel of Our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

Sermon

Sorrow and Joy John 20:19-23

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Risen Christ. Amen.

As we celebrate this Holy time of the church, as we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior whom God called us to love and believe in we have a list of items that have changed this year as we look around and proclaim the Gospel.

It is fifty days after Easter and we celebrate each year the miraculous and loving God that sent His Son Jesus so that we all receive salvation and life because of all He did as he walked the earth and left, and came back, and left again with a promise. "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:22b)

First, we remember that the disciples are in a room after they have heard the tomb was empty. The disciples were living in fear, were mourning and did not know where to turn and what to do.

Enter Jesus Christ. He appeared and said, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19). Jesus showed them his hands, his side, and the "disciples rejoiced!" (John 20:20) They rejoiced because the Lord was with them and what he had told and taught was true. Imagine the fear that turns to joy. Their sorrow had turned to joy. Jesus had spoken to them about this before he died on the cross. The fulfillment of joy and promise.

²⁰ *Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy.* ²¹ *When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world.* John 16:20-21

Pain and suffering the disciples knew. Fear and sorrow were abounding. Jesus comes to say peace to you and they knew Jesus Christ meant it because he had taught them. He had told them in sorrow they would have comfort and joy, that he would walk with them, that even in the roughest and hardest times, they would be rejoicing, exactly as he had said.

The Holy Spirit, the Advocate will continue to let us know, Jesus and Jesus' presence forever. Jesus said they would see him again and they did. Jesus said they would rejoice again, and they did (John 20:20). Then Jesus tells them, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you. When he said this, he breathed on them (into them) and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus promises. Jesus presence will be with the disciples and will be with us always. All of these things are helpers for us as we go through life. It brings joy when we realize we are not alone. It brings peace when we know Jesus Christ wants us to have peace. (He says it twice to the disciples, in case they did not hear it the first time). He brings promise when we are not quite sure how we are going to get through these times of loneliness or worries or concerns. It brings courage knowing we are not alone and sent by Jesus Christ to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (John 20: 21).

Jesus is sending us to proclaim this Good News to everyone. What an awesome feeling when Jesus breathes peace, strength, joy, forgiveness into us as we continue to believe. As we know the Gospel of John points to Jesus Christ and our belief in him. Sin, albeit is not believing. As we share in the mission of Jesus Christ, we do so because we want others to believe. If we do not continue to proclaim, the mission of Jesus Christ will be

at a standstill instead of to all people. He also said to forgive others of sins. Do not hang on to them. If you hang on to sin, it is hard to be joyful. Joy is complete when you have the help of the Holy Spirit and know that Christ is present. You will be witnesses and peace will be with you. Your joy will be complete.

Alone in a room. Mourning loss. Frightened of what is to come for your life, family and community. We need to hear more than ever Jesus granting us peace every minute, hour and day. Telling us, we are not alone. Asking us to be at peace with those, we need to forgive. Knowing that Jesus promises that our mourning and sorrow will turn to joy, especially in the hardest of times.

Receive the power of Jesus Christ in these times of upset. Even if we gather in different spots to worship God, in dispersed places, we know we have a power in the community of believers of Jesus Christ. We believe and serve a Risen Lord and Savior and a God that is All Powerful, who breathes peace and comfort to us through the Holy Spirit.

The disciples got through it, we know we have gotten through hard times before, the church has, God's people have, and we will continue to go forward in trust. God our Father and the Son Jesus Christ breathes into us the Holy Spirit of peace and strength.

Rejoice. Amen

“After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.” John 20: 20

Hymn

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

Red Worship Book 614

Refrain

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

Refrain

2 If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." ***Refrain***

3 Don't ever be discouraged, for Jesus is your friend; and if you lack for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend.

Refrain

Offering Prayer

L: Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us again at this table for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ.

C: Amen

Prayers of Intercession

L: Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(A brief silence).

L: We call on your spirit of unity, giving thanks for our different vocations. Activate and utilize the diverse gifts present in your church, that they reveal your love for all. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: We call on your spirit of life, present in air, wind, humidity, storms, and oxygen in our atmosphere, breathing energy into all things. Heal with your breath the whole creation, especially those who struggle to breathe due to air pollution. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: We call on your spirit of righteousness. Wherever we as a people are divided, unite us. Wherever we are prideful, humble us. Give each one of us a heart for justice and empathy. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: We call on your spirit of healing. Bless nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for all who long for comfort (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: We call on your spirit of friendship. As Elizabeth welcomed Mary to her home, give us a spirit of welcome to those whom we meet in this congregation and outside these doors. Surprise us daily with unexpected grace, that we rejoice in every blessing you send. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: We call on your spirit of hope. As you have led your saints in all times and places, stir in us the desire to follow their example, leading us from death to new life in you. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Words of Institution

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

Red Worship Book pg. 154

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

“Spirit of the Living God”

TOSB 195

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me. Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me. Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

the worship is ended ... let the service begin...



We express our Christian sympathy to the family of Anita Peterson (sister of Ruta Kalnins on the death of their loved one. May our God of hope and comfort surround this family with His love and give them peace that only He can give.