

Home Service for 6/5/2022

Welcome and Announcements

You may also find listening to some of your favorite hymns helpful in worship.

*Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.*

Call to Worship:

Come, Holy Spirit! Ignite our hearts with joy and confidence! For God has done wondrous things for us. Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with the power of the rushing wind that we may faithfully serve you in all that we do. For Christ has called each of us and blessed us! Come, Holy Spirit! Be with us today. Help us to boldly proclaim Christ Risen. AMEN.

Opening Prayer:

Amazing God, you call us today, just as you called the disciples on the Day of Pentecost. You challenge and support us, revealing the brokenness of our communities; giving us the peace that our world needs. You point us to the pain of the cross, and then remind us of the joy of the resurrection. Transform us, O God, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Help us breathe deeply of the Breath of Life. Blow through our worship and change our lives forever. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Lord God, you know us too well. You know that we would be like the disciples following the crucifixion and even the resurrection. We would rather hide and mutter and weep, than proclaim the power of your love. The world is a difficult place. We fear so much. We want people to like us, and so we hold back on our proclamation of our faith. We don't want to offend anyone. But your love and presence are not offensive. They are empowering and healing. Bring your holy fire upon us this day to ignite a spark of joy in our hearts and our voices. Bring the power of your rushing wind through our spirits that we may be turned in new directions for service and witness. We pray this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

*God's awesome love is offered to you, even when you fear or are unsure of your faith. Know that God is with you. Be not afraid. Hallelujah!*

Read Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

How many are your works, LORD!

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

<sup>25</sup> There is the sea, vast and spacious,  
teeming with creatures beyond number—  
living things both large and small.

<sup>26</sup> There the ships go to and fro,  
and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

<sup>27</sup> All creatures look to you  
to give them their food at the proper time.

<sup>28</sup> When you give it to them,  
they gather it up;  
when you open your hand,  
they are satisfied with good things.

<sup>29</sup> When you hide your face,  
they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath,  
they die and return to the dust.

<sup>30</sup> When you send your Spirit,  
they are created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.

<sup>31</sup> May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD rejoice in his works—

<sup>32</sup> he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

<sup>33</sup> I will sing to the LORD all my life;  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

<sup>34</sup> May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
as I rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>35</sup> But may sinners vanish from the earth  
and the wicked be no more.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

Praise the LORD.

Prayers of the People:

*We would like to settle into a nice, comfortable routine, Lord, in which we don't have to do much of anything, just sit back and relax. We are tired and wonder if we*

*have anything left to give of our talents, our spirits, our lives. So the story of the disciples hiding in the upper room is not uncomfortable for us. We want to hide, too. But you have come to us in your resurrection love - we have seen the prints of the nails in your hands and feet, we have felt the wound in your side. We have been with you on the seashore, but we still quiver with fear and uncertainty. Send your Holy Spirit upon us today! Let the rushing wind of your spirit, stir us up to action for good and healing. Let the flame of your power ignite our hearts with passion for justice and peace. As we have brought names of people to prayer this day asking for healing mercies, may we also add our names, asking for empowerment and renewal of our spirits. Take us and use our gifts and our talents for healing in your world. Help us to be bold in our proclamation of your great Good News of love and hope. AMEN.*

## 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

Read the Lesson: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues<sup>[a]</sup> as the Spirit enabled them. <sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" <sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> “In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

Read the Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:14-17

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup> The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.<sup>[a]</sup> And by him we cry, “*Abba*,<sup>[b]</sup> Father.” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Read the Gospel Lesson: John 14: 8-17, 25-27

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on

the evidence of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be<sup>[a]</sup> in you.

<sup>25</sup> “All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

## Message

Today we celebrate the first Pentecost. This is the day we like the Apostles of old have waited for. They waited because the Lord Jesus told them to wait. Something powerful was to happen to them when their wait was finally over on Pentecost day. The Holy Spirit would change them. Fear would be turned into a martyr’s boldness, fishermen would become the world’s teachers, and doubt would be replaced by mountain-moving faith; all because of Pentecost!

Sometimes we don’t realize how much we need Pentecost. Pentecost is the birthday of the New Testament Church. Pentecost is God giving His Holy Spirit to all believers, not just a few. No longer was the Holy Spirit to dwell in a building, the Temple, like in the Old Testament. There, God in the form of a cloud, revealed Himself to His people above the Ark of Covenant in the Holy of Holies. No longer was the Holy Spirit only given to people in positions of leadership, to do the tasks God had given them to do. Because of Pentecost, all Christians have been brought into the Royal Priesthood, and each Christian is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost shows that Christianity is not some human-created religion. If Christianity were simply of human design, the disciples would not have needed to wait in Jerusalem for Pentecost. Jesus’ disciples had lived with Him for several years, an intense and personal seminary training. They could have begun writing, teaching, and passing on what they had learned without a Pentecost. For Jesus had fully trained them. Now it was time for them to start training others, just like with other religions.

Not so with Christianity. For Christianity is not just about ideas, moral guidance, or ethical norms. Christianity has these things, but that is not what the Christian faith is about. If it were, Christianity would be but another form of human-created religion. But Christianity is about the Holy Spirit calling someone through the Gospel, enlightening him with His gifts, and sanctifying and keeping him in the true faith. There is no New Testament Christianity without Pentecost.

Pentecost is what Jesus promised when He said He would send another Helper, a Counselor, a Guide, a Comforter. As God breathed into Adam and he became a living being, so Christ breathes the Holy Spirit of life into His people, and His people come alive. That is what Pentecost is all about. The Spirit gives living breath. And filled with the Spirit, God's people become alive, unable to be silent, confessing and proclaiming Jesus Christ.

But sadly, many Christians live as if they are still stuck between Ascension and Pentecost, as if Pentecost never happened. We live our lives as if the Christian faith were only a set of ideas. We think we are Christian, because we intellectually agree to certain facts in our heads, like the Apostle's Creed, which many of you studied and have stated during various services.

If the Apostles had remained in that state of limbo, the state they were in between Ascension and Pentecost, they would have never brought the Gospel to the world. They would have never lived out the faith as they did. They would have never died for the faith as they did. And they certainly would have never preached as they did. Their faith-life was what it was because the Holy Spirit was blowing, moving, and breathing within them. Christianity without Pentecost is but an empty form! If the Holy Spirit does not permeate our lives with His presence, then our faith-life is but empty motion! If God's Word does not have its way with us, then our Christian life is one without power!

Consider how the life of the Church depends on the Holy Spirit. Baptism saves us because we aren't born only of water, but of water and Spirit (John 3:3-5). Without the Holy Spirit, there would be no forgiveness in absolution. That's why our Lord gathered His Apostles together and breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain them, they are retained" ( John 20:23).

What is the core of Christ's New Covenant with His people? It is the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. The existence of Christ's body and blood in His Supper depends on the Holy Spirit working through the Word. It is the Holy Spirit

working through the words the pastor speaks over the bread and wine, which makes the Lord's Supper the Lord's Supper.

Everything Christ has commanded His Church to do would be but an empty form without the Holy Spirit. And we can say that is true in all matters of faith and practice. There is no prayer without the Holy Spirit praying in us. It's no coincidence that our Lord went into the desert to fast for 40 days, "led by the Holy Spirit" (Luke 4:1). We cannot overcome sin in our life without the Holy Spirit. He is One who enables us to ask for forgiveness and to receive it.

You cannot create a Pentecost in your life; only the Holy Spirit can do that! But thanks be to God that Christ is living and breathing from the right hand of God the Father. And He sends the Spirit like a fresh wind across the face of His people, igniting Pentecost when and where He chooses. For the Holy Spirit produces faith when, how and where He wills, in those who hear the Gospel.

The Spirit wants us to look, to Jesus. For the Holy Spirit wants to bring glory to Jesus, not Himself. The Holy Spirit is like a spotlight shining on Christ. And as with all spotlights, you focus on where the beam is shining, not on the beam itself. So it is with the Spirit.

Our confidence in the Spirit's presence and working is not in the wind, the fire, or the tongues. No, it is in the preaching of Jesus, in the hearing of His forgiveness, in holy baptism, in His body and blood, and in the Word. That is where the Spirit is active, that is where Pentecost is happening today, here and now, for you. And that's where you go looking for it! Your baptism is your Pentecost day. Every time you hear the Word of Christ coming to you, that is your Pentecost. Whenever you eat of the bread that is Christ's body, whenever drink of the cup that is His blood, and whenever proclaim the Lord's death, that is Pentecost for you. Getting more Spirit into you is to be where the Holy Spirit is doing His work, and that work is done through Word and Sacrament.

The continuing work and life of Pentecost is not in the fire and the flaming tongues, but in the continuing work and life of Pentecost which is in the Word that brings repentance and faith in Jesus. The true miracle of the first Pentecost was the 3,000 brought to faith that day. The speaking in tongues was the way the Holy Spirit enabled the proclaimed Word to be understood by all present that day. And there has not been a day since then when the Holy Spirit has not been doing His work.

Today, the Spirit of God still breathes life into His people. The Spirit of God puts breath into your lungs and words into your mouth and ears. The Spirit of God opens your lips, that your mouth may declare the praise of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. The Spirit of God continues to call you through the Gospel, enlightening you with His gifts, and sanctifying and keeping you in the true faith.

Yes, you are part of that great breath and wind of Pentecost. That is why your spiritually lifeless body now lives. How do you know? Because you believe in Jesus and you can only do that by the Holy Spirit working in your life. That is why Jesus' death is yours. That is why His life is yours. That is why His Spirit is yours. And whenever that is true, you are living in Pentecost.

Let us pray: Dear Heavenly Father, on this day we humbly give you thanks for the gift of your Holy Spirit, poured out upon the church that it might be empowered to proclaim the good news of Christ's victory over sin and death, and enable us to come to faith in your gift of redemption. Kindle in us the fire of your love, and strengthen our lives for service in your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Benediction:

*The God who made this amazing universe is creating you anew every day. Jesus Christ, the resurrected One, offers you peace that never dies. The Holy Spirit is setting your hearts on fire— right here, right now. Go in peace, and be transformed, that you may change the world. Amen.*