



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA Waseca, MN

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Day of Pentecost

GATHERING

Introduction

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

(Please Stand)

Call to Worship

Psalm 148

Praise the LORD from heaven!

Praise God on the heights!

² Praise God, all of you who are his messengers!

Praise God, all of you who comprise his heavenly forces!

³ Sun and moon, praise God!

All of you bright stars, praise God!

⁴ You highest heaven, praise God!

Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!

⁵ Let all of these praise the LORD's name

because God gave the command and they were created!

⁶ God set them in place always and forever.

God made a law that will not be broken.

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,

you sea monsters and all you ocean depths!

⁸ Do the same, fire and hail, snow and smoke,

stormy wind that does what God says!

⁹ Do the same, you mountains, every single hill,

fruit trees, and every single cedar!

¹⁰ Do the same, you animals—wild or tame—

you creatures that creep along and you birds that fly!

¹¹ Do the same, you kings of the earth and every single person,
you princes and every single ruler on earth!

¹² Do the same, you young men—young women too!—
you who are old together with you who are young!

¹³ Let all of these praise the LORD's name because only God's name is high over all.
Only God's majesty is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ God raised the strength of his people, the praise of all his faithful ones—
that's the Israelites, the people who are close to him.

Praise the LORD!

Gathering Hymn: Jesus Loves Me

Greeting

P The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who saves us; the love of God, who creates us and all things; and the communion of the Holy Spirit, who comes to us and surprises us; be with you all.

Hymn of Praise: Amazing Grace

(Please be seated)

Prayer of the Day

P Mighty God, you breathe life into creation, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community bears witness to God's activity in multiple languages.

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:

¹⁷In 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.' ”

R The Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:22-27

By pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts, God gives us the promised first fruit of eternal life so that we await God's future in hope. In the meantime, the Spirit also intercedes for us by carrying the prayers of our weak human hearts to God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

R The Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(please stand)

Gospel Acclamation (cranberry) Pg. 205

P *The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.*

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

While speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “the Helper” and describes the difference the Spirit will make in their lives and in the world.

[Jesus said,] ²⁶“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{16:4b}“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

P The Gospel of the Lord
C Praise to you, O Christ

(Please be seated)

Children’s Message

Message

Pastor Kristen Venne

Message Song

Lord I Lift Your Name On High

(Please Stand)

NICENE CREED (cranberry) pg. 104

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of Intercession

P God of grace,

C Hear our prayer

Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P We share Christ's peace with each other.

(please be seated)

Offering Hymn

Awesome God

THANKSGIVING

Offering Prayer

P Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: The Lord be with you **C: And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer (*cranberry*) **pg. 145** (*Our Father who art in heaven,)*

Invitation to Communion

P The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

Communion

(All baptized Christians are invited to come to the Lord's Table. All Children who haven't had instruction are invited to come for a blessing. They're asked to fold their hands. Children who are receiving communion please extend your hands. Grape juice is available. Please say "grape juice" to the server).

Gluten Free wafers are available upon request.

Prayer after Communion

P Creating God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

May God, who comes to us in the things of this world, bless your eyes and be in your seeing. May Christ, who looks upon you with deepest love, bless your eyes and widen your gaze. May the Spirit, who perceives what is and what may yet be, bless your eyes and sharpen your vision. May the Sacred Three bless your eyes and cause you to see.

~ from *In the Sanctuary of Women*, copyright © Jan L. Richardson. Posted on **the painted prayerbook**. <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>

(Please stand)

Sending Hymn

Oh When the Saints Go Marching In

Dismissal

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Experience God in all of Creation.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Leaders in the Service

Pastor: Kristen Venne

Ushers: Sam Macklay, Carol Randall

Organist: Al Tonn

Comm. Prep: Pam Grunzke, Linda Sandborg

Acolyte: Ella Linnes

Council Person: Julie Spies

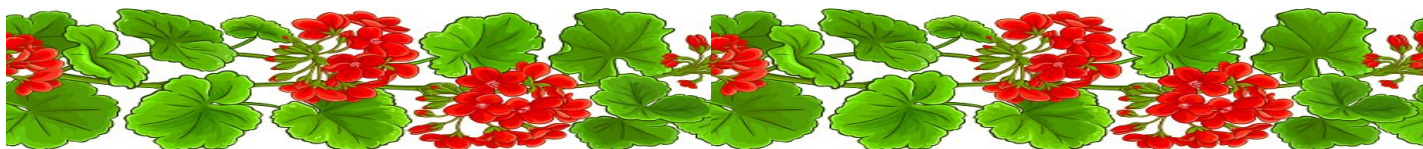
Reader: Marsha Bartz **Video:** Pam Grunzke

**Thank you to all these members of St. John for
offering their time and talents.**

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In Memory of:

Richard Possehl & Adam Weimer

Janet Priebe

Janet Nesje (mother)

Lawrence Behsmann (Dad)

Cindy, Marllys, Ricky, Randy & Kenny, My sisters & Brother

Brian Sommers

Eldor, Viola & AL Vollbrecht

All the Moms

John Wesseling-Dad

Lillian Wesseling-Mom

Wallace Rand-Dad

Brenda Dorscher-Sister

Charlene Costigan-Sister

Alan & Dorothy Kunkel

Val Possehl & family

Rhonda Behsmann

Mike & Rhonda Behsmann

Mike & Rhonda Behsmann

Rhonda Behsmann

Marvin & Dolores Sommers

Keith & Marsha Vollbrecht

Cella Southwick

Don & Linda Wesseling

Don & Linda Wesseling

Don & Linda Wesseling

Don & Linda Wesseling

Don & Linda Wesseling

Jan & Sam Macklay

In Honor of:

Curtis & Patti Tesch & Family

Bob & Lisa Nordman & Family

Roger & Kathleen Blake & Family

Phyllis Rand-Mom

Russell & Marie Tesch

Russell & Marie Tesch

Russell & Marie Tesch

Don & Linda Wesseling