

Pentecost Sunday + Senior Recognition | May 23rd, 2021
In-Person Reader: Emily Onken | Online Reader: Allie Schley

Announcements

- Congratulations to our confirmands who affirmed their faith last Sunday: Lexi Factor, Abigail Fonseca, & Dylan Holicky
- And congratulations to our graduating seniors: Annabelle Davies, Kayden Factor, Paige Johnson, Tara Larsen, Arya Menk, Savannah Overn, Kallie Phillips, Allison Schley, and Karly Sladek.
 - We'll hear from them and bless them toward the end of the service
- Our Worship + Evangelism Committee has been working hard at getting us back to normal. Our most recent meeting produced these updates:
 - We will continue to wear masks so that we are able to continue to sing. We realize that the mask mandate has been lifted for those who are completely vaccinated, but masks are required for singing, in accordance with the DOH.
 - We will be changing communion! We will be receiving communion with wafers and wine/juice in our pews. This is to minimize the number of people standing in the same spot while receiving the elements. The servers will come around to you.
 - Pre-packaged elements will still be available to take home for those who are unable to be here as well as those who are uncomfortable receiving communion in their pews.
 - We recognize that this isn't where we'd like to be at this time. We're trying our best to take the concerns and comments of all into account when we make decisions as a committee and as a council.
 - The journey to normalcy will continue! We thank you for journeying together, alongside one another, as we work at getting back to a new normal. We pray God's blessings on this journey.
- Mark Your Calendars:
 - Cottage Gatherings | A time of fellowship and feedback sponsored by our Stewardship Team.
 - Sunday, June 6th @ Wendy's House after worship
 - Thursday, June 10th @ Next Chapter Winery (6:00 w/ Jill)
 - Tuesday, June 22nd @ Church (10:00 w/ Pastor)
 - Tuesday, June 22nd online (7:00 w/ Pastor)

*Confession + Forgiveness

We do not stop enough to listen to the still-speaking God. And like the people of Jerusalem long ago, we often misunderstand the Spirit's movement among us. In the silence and stillness of this moment, let us draw near to God and listen.

[silence]

Let us confess together: **We confess to you, Renewing Spirit, that we confuse unity with uniformity, and diversity with divisiveness. We speak and behave as if being a part of your family means assimilating others to our way of living. We deny and destroy the beauty you created in each person. We long to change these patterns, O Creator, but we do not know how. Teach us to value challenge. Help us to see strength in difference. And empower us to build your kingdom in creativity and love. Amen.**

Hear the good news! God's Spirit has been poured out upon all flesh, and we have been made one. We are no longer scattered or divided, but gathered together to build up the kingdom on this earth. **Thanks be to God!**

*Gathering Hymn | *Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling* ELW 582

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 of 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 gifts and fruits unpriced.

Holy Spirit, ever working through the church's ministry;

Quick'ning, streng'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.

*Greeting

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

***Prayer of the Day**

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, 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.

Children's Message

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.

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!" They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this mean?" Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!"

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions. Your elders will dream dreams. Even upon my servants, men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and a cloud of smoke. The sun will be changed into darkness, and the moon will be changed into blood, before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***Gospel Reading | 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:] “When the Companion comes, whom I will send from the Father—the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. You will testify too, because you have been with me from the beginning.

“I didn’t say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I go away to the one who sent me. None of you ask me, ‘Where are you going?’ Yet because I have said these things to you, you are filled with sorrow. I assure you that it is better for you that I go away. If I don’t go away, the Companion won’t come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will show the world it was wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgment. He will show the world it was wrong about sin because they don’t believe in me. He will show the world it was wrong about righteousness because I’m going to the

Father and you won't see me anymore. He will show the world it was wrong about judgment because this world's ruler stands condemned.

"I have much more to say to you, but you can't handle it now. However, when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you in all truth. He won't speak on his own, but will say whatever he hears and will proclaim to you what is to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and proclaim it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine. That's why I said that the Spirit takes what is mine and will proclaim it to you.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day | *God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind* ELW 400

*God of tempest, God of whirlwind, as on Pentecost descend!
Drive us out from sheltered comfort; past these walls your people send!
Sweep us into costly service, there with Christ to bear the cross,
There with Christ to bear the cross!*

*God of blazing, God of burning, all that blocks your purpose, purge!
Through your church, Christ's living Body, let your flaming Spirit surge!
Where deceit conceals injustice, kindle us to speak your truth,
Kindle us to speak your truth!*

*God of earthquake, God of thunder, shake us loose from lethargy!
Break the chains of sin asunder, for earth's healing set us free!
Crumble walls that still divide us; make us one in Christ our Lord,
Make us one in Christ our Lord!*

*God of passion, God unsleeping, stir in us love's restlessness!
Where the people cry in anguish, may we share your heart's distress.
Rouse us from content with evil; claim us for your kingdom's work,
Claim us for your kingdom's work!*

***Apostles' Creed**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Gracious God, you give the Holy Spirit to your church, filling it with many and varied gifts. In the church throughout the world, strengthen us in our visioning and dreaming, that it may discover anew the Spirit's creative work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, your mighty works are too numerous to count. The earth is full of your creatures, living things both great and small. Send your fresh Spirit over the face of the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, at the sound of the rushing wind, people speaking different languages proclaimed and heard together your deeds of power. Fill the leaders of nations with your Holy Spirit, so that they exercise your gracious will in the lives of people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of faithfulness, you tend to the needs of your people, even the sighs of our hearts. Hear those who cry out to you in distress. Bless the work of EMS workers and keep them safe. Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day, especially Deloris Streich, Darleen Ganfield, Pastor Dave, Nancy Gjerde, Lori Roemhildt, and Jane Lorsung, as well as those suffering in Palestine, Israel, and India. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, we give you thanks for our graduates. May they feel a sense of achievement in this milestone, and excitement for what lies ahead. May each one of them know your presence in their lives, and find a way to use their abilities for your glory. May they continue to live lives of curiosity and discovery, of dedication and discipline, of compassion and generosity, and in doing so bring great blessings to the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: **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.**

***Communion + Blessing**

May the body and blood...

Blessing of our Graduates

[Graduates will introduce themselves and say what their plans are for next year.]

We are delighted to honor you as you graduate from high school. We are so proud of you! It is our privilege to affirm you as members of this congregation. You have completed an important phase of your lives and you are entering another.

I ask you to affirm your commitment to a life of faith in the body of Christ.

Graduates, as you celebrate your achievements and prepare for your new endeavors, do you thank God for the many ways your faith has been your strength and guide? If so, please respond: "With God's help, I do." **With God's help, I do.**

As you consider the next steps of your journey of life, do you acknowledge God going with you, before you, behind you, below you, above you, and within you? If so, please respond: "With God's help, I do." **With God's help, I do.**

As you make choices about your new endeavors, will you offer gifts to the world as part of the body of Christ and welcome the support of a family of faith? If so, please respond: “With God’s help, I will.” **With God’s help, I will.**

And you, people of St. Paul Lutheran, do you claim these graduates as brothers and sisters in Christ, called to ministry according to their talents? If so, please respond: “In God’s love, we claim them.” **In God’s love, we claim them.**

As their home congregation, do you promise to support them, take an interest in their future, be with them in their celebration and sadness, and welcome them whenever they return to St. Paul Lutheran? If so, please respond: “In God’s love, we support them.” **In God’s love, we support them.**

Do you promise to faithfully pray for these brothers and sisters, placing their futures into God’s loving hands as they make their choices? If so, please respond: “In God’s love, we pray for them.” **In God’s love, we pray for them.**

Let us pray. Gracious God, you bless your servants with many achievements. We give thanks especially today for the milestones that these graduates have attained. As they begin new phases of their lives, may they know your love in all the experiences they have.

Bless the parents of these students, who have raised their children and nourished them in Christian faith. Give them strength in your holy presence, and give them many joyful reunions with their sons and daughters, those who are leaving home to go far away, and those staying close by. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

***Final Blessing**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, \oplus Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn | O Holy Spirit, Enter In**

ELW 786

*O Holy Spirit, enter in, and in our hearts your work begin, and make our hearts your dwelling.
Sun of the soul, O Light divine, around and in us brightly shine, your strength in us upwelling.
In your radiance life from heaven now is given overflowing, gift of gifts beyond all knowing.*

*Left to ourselves, we surely stray; oh, lead us on the narrow way, with wisest counsel guide us;
And give us steadfastness, that we may follow you forever free, no matter who derides us.*

Gently heal those hearts now broken; give some token you are near us, whom we trust to light and cheer us.

*O mighty Rock, O Source of life, let your good Word in doubt and strife be in us strongly burning,
That we be faithful unto death and live in love and holy faith, from you true wisdom learning.
Lord, your mercy on us shower; by your power Christ confessing, we will cherish all your blessing.*

***Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**