

PENTECOST SUNDAY

A Service of the Word

May 31, 2020



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

85 East Brandt Boulevard

Landisville, PA 17538

*United in Christ,
we are called to love and serve.*

PENTECOST SUNDAY

A Service of the Word



ELW refers to the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Book

BB refers to the blue notebook in the pew racks

P: Pastor A: Assisting Minister C: Congregation & Pastor

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Spirit of God

R. Mann

† THE GATHERING †

*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week,
the day of Christ's resurrection.*

INVOCATION FOR PENTECOST

P: As we come together in the name of the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, let us call upon the Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit. Come upon us, come around us, come within us, come to lead us, come to guide us, that we may work in your power and rest in your presence. Amen.

Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen and ascended Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. † Jesus Christ loves you and frees you from your sins by his blood. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Spirit of Gentleness

ELW 396

Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
Blow through the wilderness
Calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
Stir me from placidness,
Wind, wind on the sea.

Verse 1

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
And over the eons you called to each thing:
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”
(Go to Refrain)

Verse 2

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
And you goaded your people with a law and a land;
And when they were blinded with idols and lies,
Then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.
(Go to Refrain)

Verse 3

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
Then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
And down in the city you called once again,
When you blew through your people on the rush of the wind
(Go to Refrain)

Verse 4

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.
(Go to Refrain)

THE GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

P: Let us pray.



*Come, Holy Spirit, and make us Pentecost people.
Let your wisdom and judgment guide our decisions and
temper our impulses.
Let knowledge and understanding increase our capacity for
empathy and compassion.
Let reverence and awe fill us with gratitude and respect for
all of creation.
Give us the courage to witness boldly to our faith in word
and deed.
Through, with, and in Jesus Christ, we pray.
Amen.*

† THE WORD †

God speaks to us in Scriptures read and preached.

FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-21

A: A reading from Acts.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and

Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But 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. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘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. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

A: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 3b-13

A: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

[Paul writes:] No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to 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. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For 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. For 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.

A: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: When 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.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on 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.”

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

SERMON FOR PENTECOST

Pastor Barbara Caruana

*In the name of the Christ,
Amen.*

P: Imagine this: a nation has endured a hostile action by another nation. Attempts to obtain critical information have failed. Negotiations have failed. Every diplomatic channel has been used, but to no avail. Finally, the president of the nation declares war against the aggressor. With a sense of urgency, the other political leaders and advisors listen for guidance from the president. He gathers them together and says, “There is a retreat center here in the capital. I want you to go there and wait.” “Wait?” they asked in astonishment. “Yes,” he answers, “Wait.”

Or imagine this: one of the Big Three automobile companies continues to lose money quarter after quarter. Its market share is in dramatic decline. The CEO resigns. The board of directors brings in the best possible person they can find for the job. They expect him to hit the ground running. He contacts all the

department heads and tells them to go to the conference room and plan to be there for a good long while. “Should we bring in our market research? Do you want to see what we’ve been doing? Are we going to review our last strategic plan?” they ask. “No,” he replies. “We’re going to wait.” “Wait?” they echo. “That’s right, he says. “Wait.”

All of us have some experience with waiting. Who can’t recall going to the doctor’s office and having to wait? Don’t you wish you could charge the doctor for your time?

Or how about the joy of waiting in the grocery store check-out line (particularly now). You sometimes start to wonder if your coupons are going to expire before you ever get to the cashier.

When you think about it, waiting is one of our high points in life, isn’t it? (Isn’t it?!) Waiting is like empty space, dead time, a frustrating nothing that we have to endure between happenings. The longer we wait, the unhappier we become. The less we wait, the happier we are.

Can you imagine the feelings of Jesus’ followers? They had seen the enemies of the Lord take him and crucify him. They were devastated by the defeat. They were disillusioned. They had pinned all their hopes on his messiahship, only to see him overwhelmed by his opposition and killed.

But then – wah la! – Jesus broke free from death and the grave. God raised him from the dead, and the disciples were both terrified and overjoyed. But for forty days the risen Christ strengthened their faith, restored their hope, and taught them his truth. Can you imagine anything more thrilling and inspiring? Those followers who had fled from the cross were ready to charge into the world. They had regained their courage and momentum for ministry. Jesus just had to point, and they were ready to take off.

They were filled with urgency. They asked Jesus, “Lord, is now the time when you’ll bring in the kingdom of God and restore Israel to a glory never experienced before? We’re ready, Lord.” But Jesus answered, “That’s God’s business. You just need to find a nice room in Jerusalem where you can wait.” In astonishment the disciples say, “What? Why?!”

And Jesus says, “So you can receive power from the Holy Spirit and be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.”

Waiting for power – unseen, intangible, divine power. Did they really need to do that – and, more importantly, do we? Couldn’t they carry on as usual, and can’t we? Why did they have to wait for that Pentecostal power of God? Isn’t a good plan and a little determination enough? Evidently, Jesus didn’t think so.

The problem was, even though they heard Jesus’ word, they still didn’t know what to expect. (Doesn’t all this sound a lot like today?) It wasn’t as though they were waiting for a date on the calendar, or the arrival of a package, or a change in climate. They were waiting for power ... power from the Holy Spirit. But they didn’t know what that meant ... only that it was an unknown ... a mystery.

So, they waited. I don’t know how patiently, but they waited for the promised Spirit. Finally, something happened. It was like a wind blowing through the room. Then something like flickering tongues of fire appeared above each of the disciples. They opened their mouths and began to speak, not as they normally did, but as God enabled them to speak, in languages people of all nations could hear and understand. And after they finished talking, 3,000 people were baptized that day and the church was born. All that because the disciples waited as they were told.

Could it be that we would be better off if we waited and didn’t just dive into work? Or try to make decisions when we’re not ready or equipped to do so? Is it possible that we need to pray even more faithfully and fervently than we need to plan? We have no serious shortage of intelligence, talent, or good will, but what about the power of the Holy Spirit, the power to be Christ’s witnesses?

When all is said and done, the saying and doing of the church is intended to spread the good news of God and bring people to faith in Jesus Christ. We need Pentecost because we need the power of the Holy Spirit to do that job for several reasons.

First, only the Holy Spirit can make us fully aware of our flaws and spiritual shortcomings so we can encourage other people to become followers of Christ.

Secondly, we need the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to get past our differences in order to make vital contact with others. The gospel is for all people of every race, nations, gender, and class. But we tend to want to stay around people who are like us. On the day of Pentecost, people from many nations heard the message of the crucified and risen Christ. From a diverse collection of people, God forged a church. Only the Holy Spirit can make that

to happen. The same is true in our time and in our congregation. People don't have to be from different nations and cultures to need the Spirit to bring them together. There are times we feel separation right here and we are far more alike one another than we are different from each other. Yet differences in viewpoints, temperaments, and tastes, can, and have at times, led to breeches in relationships. By the power of the Spirit, these can be overcome so that together we can be witnesses.

Finally, only the Holy Spirit can empower us to speak with others about the important and hopeful message of the gospel. We are comfortable talking about all sorts of things: the price of lettuce, the level of taxes, the weather, the struggles within our workplaces, and our retirement plan. But how do we move from those simple issues to speaking about eternity with God? It's not easy for most of us. We need the power of the Spirit.

I remember a story I heard years ago about a church that added another worship service in order to reach more people. As you would expect, not everyone favored the change. A man went to the pastor one day with a complaint. "I just found out that the man I've been working beside is a member of our church. I'd never seen him in worship because he goes to that new service. That just goes to show that we shouldn't have two services."

Mincing no words, the pastor replied. "The reason you didn't know he was a member of our church is because you've never made an effort to speak with him about your faith. That's the real problem." Prayers and waiting before God can give us the courage and can open our eyes to opportunities to speak the message of Christ. So often we miss opportunities because some topics make us uncomfortable. That's why it's crucial that we look to the power of God and pray for guidance. It can be difficult to talk about some things. But those are indispensable talks. Only the Holy Spirit can equip us to step out in faith and courage.

The Spirit isn't likely to arrive for us with the sound of a mighty wind, and it's probably a waste of time looking for the Spirit's arrival with flickering tongues of fire. And when we open our mouths, people of every nation are unlikely to understand us without a translator. But the promise of the Holy Spirit is ours. God can, and will, continue to pour out the Spirit upon us to empower us to be Christ's witnesses in our time. If we open our hearts to God, we won't have to wait very long, that's for sure. And to that I say, "Thanks be to God." Amen.

HYMN

Spirit Song

BB 94

Verse 1

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you
With his Spirit and his love;
Let him fill your heart
And satisfy your soul.

Oh, let him have the things that hold you,
And his Spirit like a dove,
Will descend upon your life
And make you whole.

Jesus, Oh Jesus,
Come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, Oh Jesus,
Come and fill your lambs.

Verse 2

Oh, come and sing this song with gladness
As your hearts are filled with joy;
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name.

Oh, give Him all your tears and sadness,
Give Him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

Jesus, Oh Jesus,
Come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, Oh Jesus,
Come and fill your lambs.

NICENE CREED

P: Filled with the Holy Spirit, let us profess our faith.

C: **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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

A: On this Day of Pentecost, we call out to the Spirit in prayer ... “Come, Holy Spirit, Come ...”

Come and inspire us to witness and service, to new visions and dreams, that through our ministry the world might know of your love.

Come to all the nations of the world. Inspire them to peace and justice for their own citizens and for their enemies.

Come and protect all church leaders. Fill them with your gifts of grace, that they may serve with compassion and unending love.

Come and inspire us as we remember those who unselfishly give their lives for the sake of freedom. Lead us all to be generous with our lives for the sake of others.

Come and fill the lives of our graduating seniors with courage and hope to face the new opportunities and challenges that await them in this changing world.

Come and energize those who serve Zion Lutheran Church by giving time, sharing their talents, and supporting our ministries. May they inspire others to step forward in service.

Come and bring peace to those in need, comfort to those who grieve, give courage to the hopeless, and healing to those who are ill. We especially remember all those we name in our hearts, that weariness and lifelessness may be replaced with joy. (*Brief pause.*)

Come and at the last bring us together with Mary Grzybowski and all the faithful departed who receive your warm and tender embrace as they dwell in your heavenly kingdom.

Come, Holy Spirit, and accept these prayers that we offer to you in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who taught us to pray together saying ...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 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.

† THE SENDING †

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

A CLOSING LITANY PRAYER FOR PENTECOST

P: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
The earth was without form and void,
and darkness was upon the face of the deep;
and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

A: *The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, upon many waters.*

P: The wind blows where it chooses,
and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.
So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

A: *The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in God's temple all cry, "Glory!"*

P: When you send forth your Spirit all living things are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

A: *The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and those who live in it.*

P: I baptize you with water;
but one more powerful than I is coming
who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

A: *The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.*

BLESSING

P: May the Lord give strength to his people.
May the Lord bless his people with peace
through the divine power of the Holy Spirit!
Amen.

HYMN

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!
Though 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!

(Continued next page)

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!

DISMISSAL

P: Filled with the Holy Spirit, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

POSTLUDE

They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love

P. Scholtes



***Come, Holy Spirit, Come.
Come fill us with your presence!***

PRAYER LIST

FOR HEALING

Fred Hamor
Joe Adams
Judie Ingersoll
Lucy Davis
Bill Grove
Kay Crawford
Holly Hoover
Betty Stoner
Don Heartter
Janet & Harry Musselman
Ron Sahd (Friend of Dave Wise)
Wilson Pipkin (Father of Wilson Pipkin)
Jessica Graham (Granddaughter of Janet & Harry Musselman)
Loma Slike (Mother of Sue Wise)
Mike LaFatta (Son-in-law of Bill & Julia Grove)

FOR COMFORT, PEACE, STRENGTH, & SAFETY

Kevin Reinhart for complications following surgery
Residents and staff of the Phoenixville Care & Rehabilitation Center
Richard and Marilyn Heim
Charlotte & George Potts
Marlin Zimmerman
Arlene Miller
Deb McCartney
Bette Geibel
Jennifer Thompson
Ted Symonds & Family
Arlene Wise (Sister-in-law of Dave Wise)
Vaun Hile (Father of Lynda Sherwood)
Jennifer Kready (Daughter of Dave & Donna Dumeyer)

FOR PROTECTION FOR MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS

Christopher Wright	Jonathan Hoover
Thom Whitesel	Ryan Stitzel
Doug Kautter	Justin Gorlaski
Chris Andrew	Corey Landis (Nephew of Jesse & Pat Landis)



Never Underestimate the power of prayer.