

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

May 23, 2021

8:30 & 11:00 Services

Day of Pentecost

Introduction for the Day: 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.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

Call to Worship

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. (Rom. 5:5)

(Please stand as you are able)

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed.

Let us open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in faith.

(We pause for meditation and self-examination)

Holy Spirit,

like fire you came upon the disciples at Pentecost. But our lives this past week have not blazed with your Spirit. Forgive us, we pray, and fill us with your Spirit.

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Live in the joy and peace of that assurance.

Amen. Come Holy Spirit!

Gathering Song

They Heard the Sound of Rushing Wind

Please meditate on the hymn text.

*They heard the sound of rushing wind; they saw the tongues of fire.
The Spirit none could comprehend would now these men inspire.
They spoke in languages that they had never known before.
To nations close and far away God's praises now would soar.*

Text: Based on Acts 2:1-21, C.R. Symmank. Text copyright © 1993 Creative Communications. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Music: M. v. Werkmeister. Gesangbuch der Herzogl 1784. Tune: Ellacombe, 76 76 D.

Pentecost Litany

In the form of tongues of fire, the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to the people of God.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Our God sends the Spirit to all nations to celebrate the diverse identities of all.

Come, Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of God bestows wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge, awe, and joy in the Lord.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Good and gracious Holy Spirit,

burn within our hearts.

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.**

Word

(Please be seated)

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.

A reading from Acts, Chapter 2.

When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] 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.'

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Read Responsively

Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 104:30)

Let us read responsively from Psalm 104.

How manifold are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number, living things both small and great.

There go the ships to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.

You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; O LORD, rejoice in all your works.

You look at the earth and it trembles; you touch the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being.

May these words of mine please God. I will rejoice in the LORD.

Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah!

Word of God, word of life.

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.

A reading from Romans, Chapter 8.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and 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. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise, 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. And 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

The Spirit of Our God

Please meditate on the hymn text.

*The Spirit of our God descends the earth to fill,
to breath new life abroad by God's abiding will.
Alleluia! By wind and flame the Spirit came, Alleluia!*

Text: C.R. Symmank. Text copyright © 1993 Creative Communications. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Music: John Darwall, 1731-1789. Tune: Darwall's 148th, 66 66 88.

(Please stand as you are able)

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.

The holy gospel according to John, the 15th and 16th chapters.

[Jesus said,] "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. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.

Nevertheless, 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. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When 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. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Jim Holmberg

Hymn of the Day

#800 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart [Stanza 1]

Please meditate on the hymn text.

*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.*

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860. Tune: Morecambe 10 10 10 10. Music: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897.

(Please stand as you are able)

Profession of Our Church's Faith

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the church.**

**The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, Come, Lord Jesus!**

**With believers in every time and place,
 we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
 can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**
 —from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting the Spirit's power, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

...We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers, gracious God, and those prayers known only to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Peace of Christ

As God has given us peace through Christ, so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other. The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Meal

Musical Offering	8:30	<i>Hymn of Promise</i> – Natalie Sleeth, arr. Martha Lynn Thompson – Bells Angels
	11:00	<i>Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God</i> arr. Lloyd Larson – Grace Notes Quartet Jacob Haase, Cello

Offertory Prayer

Let us Pray. God of wind, word, and fire, we bless your name this day for sending the light and strength of your Holy Spirit. We give you thanks for all the gifts, great and small, that have been poured out upon your children.

Accept us with our gifts to be living praise and witness to your love throughout all the earth, through Jesus Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

The 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

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Lord Jesus, may your good and Holy Spirit fill us, even as we are filled with the rich foods offered at your table. Empower us. Unite us. And lead us, at last, to your heavenly courts.

We share your one bread and body with all Christians, everywhere. Make us one, one in you. Come, eat, and be satisfied.

Please take your belongings with you to communion.

Communion Hymn

#403 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

[Stanzas 1 & 3]

Please meditate on the hymn text.

*Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.*

*With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the pow'r to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, Come.*