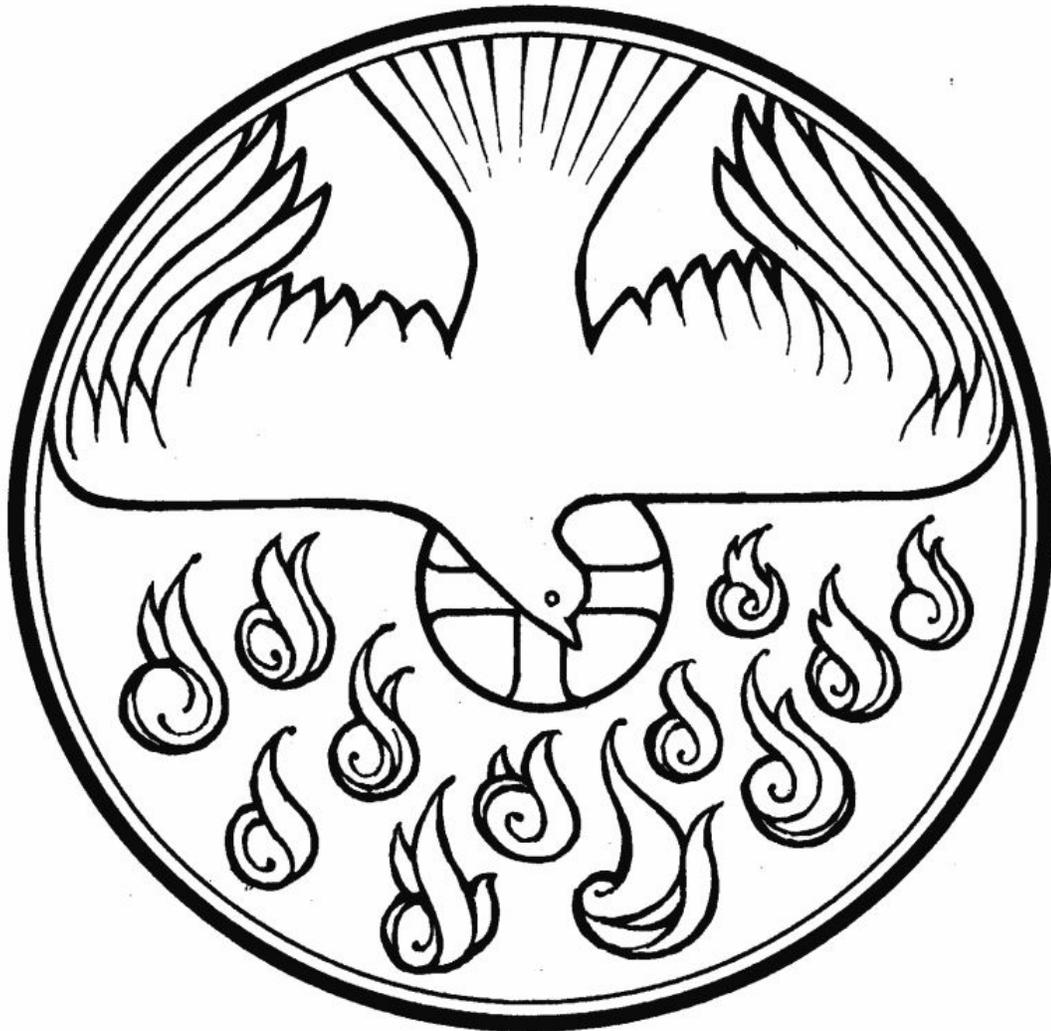


May 31, 2020

Pentecost Sunday

9:30 am



Come, Holy Spirit, Come

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (ELCA)

14226 West 280th St., Henderson, MN 56044

Reverend Diane M. Goulson

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Worship

Scripture is from the NRSV Bible; Hymn is in ELW (Red) hymnal.

Welcome

Announcements (see last page)

Ringling of Chimes

Gathering

Meditation (Pray before worship) Psalm 104: 24, 26 - 34, 35 b

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. ²⁷ These all look to you to give them their food in due season; ²⁸ when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. ²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. ³⁰ When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹ May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works—³² who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. ³³ I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. ³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord. ^{35b} Bless the Lord, O my Soul. Praise the Lord! Amen

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist. **Amen**

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits. May we find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen

Our God says to us in love, this good news: "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live!" Your sin is forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you. **Amen**

Hymn

"Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading"

401, 1 & 2

Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading, fashion us all anew.
It's your leading that we're needing, help us to follow you.

**Refrain: Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Come to teach us, come to nourish those who believe in Christ.
Bless the faithful, may they flourish, strengthened by grace unpriced. *Refrain:*

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson; Music Wilson Niwagila; arr. Egil Hovland; English and Swahili text and tune © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress Arr. © Egil Hovland. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #B-735326 and CCLI #11304952. All rights reserved.

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

O God,

On this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of the Spirit, that we may have a right judgement in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The Word**New Testament Reading***Acts 2: 1 - 21*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² 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.

³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ **And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.** ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² **All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"** ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ '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.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
 in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
 and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,
 before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹ **Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'**

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

Children's Time**Sermon***Rev. Diane M. Goulson*

Blessing May the peace of God that passes all understanding,
 keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn “Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading” #401, 3 & 4

Guide our thinking and our speaking done in your holy name.
Motivate all in their seeking, freeing from guilt and shame.

Refrain: **Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come. Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Not mere knowledge but discernment, nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment, doubt into certainty. *Refrain:*

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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

We Respond to the Word

Offering Gathered *Prepare your offering to be mailed to church.*

Flute Solo: *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* # 800

Text: George Croly; Music: Frederick C. Atkinson. Public Domain

Offering Prayer

Merciful God,

**Our ordinary gifts seem small, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives.
We serve others in your name, nurtured by your Word and strengthened by the risen Christ. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

Uplifted by the hope of healing and resurrection, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We call on your Spirit of life, breathing energy into all things. Heal your creation with your breath. Especially heal those who struggle to breathe due to air pollution or Covid 19. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We call on your Spirit of righteousness. Unite us. Humble us. Give us each a heart for justice and empathy. We ask your Spirit to guide Erica and Lucas as they graduate from high school make their way in the world. We ask that you be a source of hope and a light for all seeking justice and recognition as human beings and for those persons called to serve and protect all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We call upon your Spirit of healing. Bless all workers in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, assisted livings, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for all who long for comfort, especially.... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We call on your Spirit of hope. As you have led your saints in all times and places, lead us from death to new life in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care, through Christ our Lord. **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

Sending

Blessing

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your grieving into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Hymn

"Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading"

#401, 5

Keep us fervent in our witness, unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure.

Refrain: Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come. Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

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Dismissal Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons, 2019, Year A, Guide to Worship Planning, Augsburg Fortress.

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Scripture for this Sunday:

Acts 2: 1 - 21 or Numbers 11: 24 - 30; Psalm 104: 24 - 34, 35b;

1 Corinthians 12: 3b - 13 or Acts 2: 1 - 21; John 7: 37 - 39

Whirl Bible: pg. 350 - 353; *Spark Story Bible:* pg. 502 - 503

Scripture for next Sunday: Genesis 1:1 - 2: 4a; Psalm 8;

1 Corinthians 13: 11 - 13; John 7: 37 - 39

Whirl Bible: pg. 218 - 221; *Spark Story Bible:* pg. 546 - 549

God's Work, Our Hands

Le Sueur Food Shelf T & Th. 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm; 2nd T 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

BP Food Shelf Wed. 5 - 7 pm; Sat. 9 - noon

NP Peace Center M, W, & F, 9 am - 12:30 pm; Th. 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Henderson FoodShare May 1st & 3rd Thurs. 4:30 - 5:30 pm **Redeemer**

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Prayers *Health Issues* Kerry K., Dan S.

Others The people who are sick, or dying & their families; nursing home, senior living, & assisted living residents & staff; medical staff; college & high school graduates; business owners, employees, & the unemployed; Camp Onomia; food shelves & food shares; those cooking everyday to feed those who are hungry; people who are homeless & those working to help them; the Church & of the people of Redeemer; etc.

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Calendar at a Glance

Sunday, May 31 9:30 am Worship Online Live Facebook
Also available on the website after worship.

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Sunday, June 7 9:30 am Worship Facebook Online
Reading of the Gospel & Sermon from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.
Also available on the website after worship.

+ + + + +

Sunday, June 14 9:30 am Worship Facebook Online
Also available on the website after worship.
(hope to have some changes to worship for this service.)

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Offerings: **Sunday, May 24** \$ 2,325
Thank you! Thanks be to God!

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Congratulations Lucas & Erica: 2020 High School Grads!
Both are receiving their Diplomas today!

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God's Work our Hands

Mowing Please contact Larry to help with church lawn care.

Purses To help fill purses with toiletries please contact
Trixy at tkrentz4106@gmail.com or call Trixy or Pr. Diane.

Personal Care Kits To help with personal care kits call or email Sherry K.

Our Grads:

Lucas Tesch is receiving his diploma from Sibley East today at 1:30 pm. He is giving the opening speech. The graduation will be broadcast on KGLB 1310am radio station. He is heading to South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD, to major in Agriculture Business.

Erica Goulson is receiving her diploma from New Prague High School this afternoon in a private ceremony. A senior class parade through town will follow. A virtual graduation will be broadcast on June 17th. Erica will be attending University of Minnesota - Mankato, to major in History.

Congratulations Erica and Lucas! May the love of Christ be your companion through your life's journey.

Sermon Notes:

The Church is on Fire! Yes, the Church is on Fire or at least it is meant to be. If I were to have yelled that first sentence while gathered in the building of Redeemer Lutheran, many of you would have turned to see where the flames or smoke. Your first thoughts would have gone to the building. And with the occurrences in the Twin Cities this week that may have been appropriate. How appropriate that this is Pentecost Sunday with smoke still in the air and George Floyd's funeral yet to be scheduled. With all this going on, who are we, who is the church in this time, who are we as the church in this time?

Today for many reasons we are challenged in our idea of what Church is. If the pandemic of Covid 19 and the "not gathering" in our building has taught us anything, it has taught us that the building is not the Church, we, the people, the children of God, are the Church, whether we gather within certain walls or not.

For many of us, for most of our lives, Church has been gathering with other Christians on Sunday mornings, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and a few weekday evening services a year. It might also have meant attending a few potlucks, luncheons, suppers, or teas over the years. With an occasional Bible Study thrown in. For some it has meant sewing quilts, tying fleece blankets, and bringing in some canned goods for the food shelf. For a few it has meant working a few hours a year at a local food shelf. Some have dedicated hours to teaching our children about Jesus.

Looking at or listening to that description of Church makes it all sound pretty safe and contained doesn't it? Like it can be packaged in a neat little box. This is Church. Here you go. Jesus died for us on the Cross. Praise God! Pass the hotdish.

And then there is Pentecost Sunday.

Pentecost Sunday in the Church year reminds us of what the Church is called to be about. And this reminder of the coming of the Holy Spirit jars, shakes up, turns upside down our mundane, day-to-day understanding of church. It is about Wind and Fire! It is about the fire of faith and our passion for the Kingdom having a visible form in the world - mainly about how we treat those around us.

How many different versions of the Bible do you own? One of the things I love about our time in Adult Education is when each one of us has a different version of the Bible. The versions can word things can use a different word here or there or even completely challenge another version's interpretation of a story or the wording of a verse. One version of the Bible that is great at making us look at scripture with new eyes is The Message Bible by Eugene Peterson. It uses contemporary language and groups verses rather than taking on verses one at a time. This is what *The Message Bible* has to say in its introduction to the book of Acts.

"Because the story of Jesus is so impressive--God among us! God speaking a language we can understand! God acting in ways that heal and help and save us!-- there is a danger that we will be impressed, but only be impressed. As the spectacular dimensions of this story slowly (or suddenly) dawn upon uos, we could easily become enthusiastic spectators, and then let it go at that--become admirers of Jesus, generous with our oohs and ahs, and in our better moments inspired to imitate him."

In our reading today, Luke, the writer of Acts, helps us understand how the disciples move from being spectators of this Jesus they had followed and been with for three years, had watched die, and witnessed the empty tomb and his resurrected self,-- helps us understand how these disciples moved from being spectators of this resurrected Jesus to being the main characters in the continuing story of who and what Jesus was and is all about.

The Message Bible continues: *"The story of Jesus doesn't end with Jesus. It continues in the lives of those who believe in him. The supernatural does not stop with Jesus. Luke makes it clear that **these Christians he***

wrote about were no more spectators of Jesus than Jesus was a spectator of God -- they are in on the action of God, God acting in them, God living in them. Which also means, of course, in us."

Pentecost, 50 days after Passover, 50 days since Easter, the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples giving them the fire and the breath, the Ruach (from the creation story in Genesis), to share the Gospel, is also our anointing with this rabble-rousing Spirit. While too many struggle for breath in our society, we are called to bring the breath of life to them. When many don't know, because of the color of their skin, that they are wonderfully made by their Creator, we are called to declare them beautiful and beloved Children of God. We are the Church, we are Christ. We are Christ in this place and at this time. There is no avoiding that fact.

Being the Church is a calling, not just a label. Many identify Pentecost to be the birth of the Church. Jesus had ascended into heaven and he left the disciples telling them that an Advocate would be coming to help them to carry on with the ministry he had started. They were not to sit back and be content with having known Jesus. They were not to be content until "Thy will be done on earth as in heaven." They were not to be content until:

¹⁷ *'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.*

¹⁸ *Even upon my slaves, both men and women,*

in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ *And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.*²⁰ *The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.*

²¹ *Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'*

We are not to be content to just sit at our potlucks while other people go hungry. We are not to be content to just gather online or in our churches with neighbors and friends when others are hungry, homeless, or oppressed. We are not to go about life when others fear for their lives, when the process of justice is not available to them as it is to us. We are people of the Pentecost. Fire and wind tear things down, upset things, destroy what was, and require things to be made new.

The Saturday before Thanksgiving last fall, while we were at Redeemer playing Turkey Bango, the house three doors away from ours had a fire. A self-cleaning oven burst into flames causing total destruction of the home during the few minutes the family was out running errands. They basically lost everything in the home. Fire, like viruses, destroys in order that it may survive. Construction vehicles continue to gather outside the home. The house is still not ready for the family to move in. In the end, they will keep their same address, but they and their lives are forever changed. **Home has a new meaning.**

Pentecost, the coming of the Spirit, as fire and howling wind, as a 'not to be ignored' Advocate of God, happens so that we will pay attention to our fire of faith that perhaps has become simmering embers due to lack of attention. **Pentecost happened so that for the disciples and for us faith in Christ would have a new meaning.**

I challenged someone on their giving to the church. Their answer was, "I am not comfortable with that." Faith is not being comfortable. Faith is being the hands and feet of a God who went to the Cross and defeated death for you. Being the Church is living a faith, being there for those who struggle for breath, for a living wage, and for acceptance in a world that requires losers so others feel like winners. Being the Church, living in the Spirit, means to be the fire and wind that breaks down the old systems that demeans, and then work for "Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven."

May we the Church be on fire for justice and for the sharing of the Good news of Jesus Christ. For then, and only then, may we humbly claim the name of Church. Amen

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