

May 23rd, 2021 Day of Pentecost – Email Missal

The ZOOM link for today's service, which opens at 9.45 am on May 23rd 2021, can be found here

Sunday Worship May 23, 2021 09:45 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.

Click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86463612819?pwd=Nzg5eUwyd3h3REJLc1VoWmFXSDlMdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6361 2819

Passcode: 651484

You don't have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the "One tap mobile" option:

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Dial by your location

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdCFUDkKyC>

Gathering Hymn: ELW # 396 'Spirit of Gentleness'

Click here: <https://youtu.be/Ww7lx8t7Ls0>

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Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, in your home and in mine.

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

The First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

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.’” (NRSV)
Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.***

Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
**Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.**
There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.
**These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;**
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
**When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.**
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.
**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works —**
who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.
**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**
May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.
**Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and let the wicked be no more.**
Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Praise the LORD! (NRSV)

The Second Reading: Romans 8:22-27

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. *(NRSV)*

Word of God, Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation: ‘Pomposo from Sonata for Trumpet and Keyboard in D’ – H. Purcell.

Click here: https://youtu.be/yVM4OHq_r7k

(Paul Fehderau trumpet, Bradley Moggach organ. This piece was recorded in 2009 for the 175 anniversary of our congregation. It was part of a CD created for the occasion entitled, Remember, Rejoice, Renew’, and is track # 16.

The Holy Gospel according to John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.” *(NRSV)*

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

Sermon (Imagine Interim Pastor Chun Zhang’s voice here)

I think that most of us get one thing right about Pentecost and one thing wrong about this same day.

Here’s what we get right: Pentecost is the day on which the Church was born. According to the reading we just heard from the book of Acts, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, made evident by the tongues of flame and rushing wind, created a community of believers empowered to share the good news of Jesus with the surrounding world. With the help of the Holy Spirit the disciples preached in all kinds of dialogues, and people from all over the world gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Festival of Pentecost, heard the disciples preaching in their own language and many came to believe that Jesus is God’s chosen messiah.

So, yes, when we celebrate Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church.

But here’s what we get wrong: Pentecost didn’t just happen once, a long, long time ago. There were, in the book of Acts, many Pentecosts; many times when the Holy Spirit was poured out, amazing things happened, and people came to faith. Think about when Philip baptized the Ethiopian Eunuch (8:26-40), or Paul’s conversion (9:1-19), or Peter’s vision and his encounter with Cornelius (10), just to name a few. Each of these stories represents a repetition and extension of the power of the Holy Spirit that starts at Pentecost but continues throughout the history of the early church.

And it doesn’t stop in Acts.

There are varieties of episodes in the Church's history that we might also name them Pentecosts. The flourishing of the monastic communities in the Middle Ages, the Reformation, the puritan movement, the revivals of the Great Awakenings here in North America, and more are all great examples.

And it's not just big events. Pentecost happens in our local contexts. Pentecost happens even in our own personal lives.

Pentecost is never a one-time event. Not far before today's gospel reading, in John 14, Jesus made an astounding promise to his disciples. He said that even if they had a hard time believing what he said based on his words alone, at least they could believe it because of the miracle works they had seen. And then he went on to say, "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these."

Did you hear that? We who believe in Jesus will do even greater works than he! Feeding, preaching, healing, giving life to the dead. Maybe the important question isn't, "did you hear that?" but rather, "do you believe it?" And here I won't generalize. I'll just confess that I regularly do not. It seems too much beyond my knowledge or experience.

But sometimes, aided by the Advocate Jesus promised, helped by the Holy Spirit that came at that first Pentecost, These days when I spend time reading the history of our church, I do see something wonderful happening. I see the people of St Peter's continuing the story that started so long ago from its beginning by sharing their faith, living with confidence, claiming the power of God in their lives, reaching out in mercy and love to those around them, and more.

So here's my suggestion for you, people of St Peter's today, and also for me, your pastor: Let us get together describing the Pentecost moments we have experienced in our congregation; describing the Pentecost moments we have experienced in our own lives. And then, we will surely see work of the Holy Spirit continues to fall afresh on us.

Then, we might wonder together about what, when, and where the next Pentecost will be? Where might this community of faith – St. Peter's Lutheran Church – respond to God's call and, empowered by the Holy Spirit, respond in faith to the summons issued by God through the needs of neighbour and community?

So let us not just talk about the first Pentecost this time, people of St. Peter's. Let us trust that the next Pentecost is coming. And we will be part of it. Amen!

Hymn of the Day: ELW # 400 'God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind'

Click here: <https://youtu.be/nclB0Cl9NJc>

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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.

A brief silence.

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. Open your hand and give them the necessities of this life. 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. Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day *especially Bill, Don, and Sean*. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, fill this congregation of St. Peter's with gratitude for the gifts we have received from you. Renew our ministries, heal our divisions, and open us to the needs of our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of hope, those who have died in you raise their eternal song of praise. We give you thanks for the many gifts of your people and rejoice in the witness of your saints. 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

Share the peace of Christ:

The Peace of Christ be with you always, in your home and in mine, and throughout God's creation.

Meal: Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsiaRdyFr50>

You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.

Prayer after Communion:

Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

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, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen

Sending Hymn: 'Presto from Sonata for Trumpet and Keyboard in D' – H. Purcell.

Click here: <https://youtu.be/11nMLiupXQY>

(Paul Fehderau trumpet, Bradley Moggach organ. This piece was recorded in 2009 for the 175 anniversary of our congregation. It was part of a CD created for the occasion entitled, Remember, Rejoice, Renew', and is track # 17.

Dismissal:

Alleluia! Christ is risen. ***Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!***

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia!***