

Pentecost

5-23-2021

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor

Vicar Karen Pugatch

Celebrate (Introduction)

“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 wilderness 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.”

We come together in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Hymn: [“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”](#)

Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

“O Lord, how manifold are thy works!

In wisdom hast thou made them all;
the earth is full of thy creatures.

²⁵Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
which teems with things innumerable,
living things both small and great.

²⁶There go the ships,
and Leviathan which thou didst form to sport in it.

²⁷These all look to thee,
to give them their food in due season.

²⁸When thou givest to them, they gather it up;
when thou openest thy hand, they are filled with good things.

²⁹When thou hidest thy face, they are dismayed;
when thou takest away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.

³⁰When thou sendest forth thy Spirit,^[a] they are created;
and thou renewest the face of the ground.

³¹May the glory of the Lord endure for ever,
may the Lord rejoice in his works,

³²who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke!

³³I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

³⁴May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the Lord.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!
Praise the Lord!"

Hymn of Praise: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DD2e2N9NvbK>

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."

1st Reading: [Acts 2:1-21](#)

2nd Reading: [Romans 8:22-27](#)

The Gospel: [John 15:26-27; 16:4-15](#)

Hymn of the Day: ["Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"](#)

The Message: ([Video Link](#))

Today Christianity worldwide celebrates one of its major feast days, or holidays, Pentecost. This special day always falls fifty days or seven weeks after the resurrection or Easter and 10 days after the Ascension. Since it was so close to the Ascension the Apostles were still together in Jerusalem most likely to celebrate the Jewish Festival of Pentecost or Shavuot. This Jewish festival occurred seven weeks after Passover and was also known as the Feast of the Weeks, the Feast of Harvest, and the day of First Fruits. It was the time that the Jews would offer the first fruits of the wheat harvest. This consisted of two loaves of unleavened bread and five pints of meal weighing 4 lbs each. The Jewish Pentecost was instituted by the Israelites to repair the Temple and to commemorate, through thanksgiving, the law given to Moses on Mt. Sinai or the fiftieth day after the Exodus.

Therefore, the disciples most likely were gathered in order to keep their Jewish tradition of Pentecost alive since they still considered themselves to be within the Jewish religious tradition. They were totally unaware that on this day the meaning of Pentecost would radically change and their lives would never be the same.

While gathered that day all of a sudden there was a loud sound descending from the heavens. The sound was like a mighty rushing wind, perhaps like the sound of a tornado. The mysterious sound filled the house and could be heard for some distance outside. Immediately there descended upon each of them an image like a cloven tongue of fire. This was the sign that Jesus had promised. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, had come to them and filled their lives. We are told that with this experience, "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak

in other languages, as the Spirit gave the ability.” The crowd of visiting foreign Jews who were drawn to the house by the unusual loud sound, were amazed that the Disciples, who were Galileans, spoke in words of their own native tongues and thereby understood them

This was the experience which was not only to change the meaning of Pentecost but it would be the beginning awareness that Jesus had come to establish a new way of life, a new relationship with God. It was the beginning of the struggle to break away from the law-centered religion of Judaism to the Gospel of the love-centered message of Jesus. The final completion of Jesus’ promise of sending an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, was now realized. God did not abandon the apostles. He entered their lives to be an ever present reality in them.

This was the birth of a new religion, the Christian Church, a new way of life. God now emphasized that His relationship with His creation was grounded in love and on-going. His involvement in the creative process would be never ending. This is so important and often disregarded. His involvement and revelation did not and does not end with the Ten Commandments, it did not end with Jesus life, and it would not end with the disciples. It is on-going and everlastingly present. This is the importance of Pentecost.

But, the problem with many is that Pentecost is not taken seriously. Some like to believe that God’s revelation ended with Jesus and the early church. Some even like to believe that this revelation ended with the canonization of the Biblical writings. That is they believe that God stopped revealing Himself with the Bible as if the Bible is an end all to be worshipped.

Pentecost gives us a whole new perspective about God and his relationship with us. Just as mankind has essentially evolved from the tyranny of kings and royalty, fiefdom, slavery, and the striving towards ending inequality among races, and sexes; just as mankind has built upon the knowledge of former generations and has evolved out of the Dark Ages into the renaissance and then into what we like to believe a more sophisticated modern society; just as mankind has evolved from the caveman to the spaceman; just as all of this has happened, God’s involvement in this creative process has been the foundation of this changing world.

Many though would claim that this evolving process of humanity is due to the supreme intellect and achievements of man alone. On the surface this may appear to be true. But, all of man’s ability is a part of God’s creative process. God’s continuing revelation within and to mankind has been fundamental to the evolution of mankind and society. God’s presence, the Holy Spirit has been alive and well throughout the ages. He continues to reveal Himself and His message within and through all of us.

The Pentecost experience is as much a reality today as two thousand years ago. Thank God for it. Thank God that today we are not the society of the ancients, the society of the Old Testament or New Testament, or the Roman Empire. They were a society of fear, societies which held practices of routine torture and harsh persecution; societies which saw enslavement as a right of the wealthy and conquerors; societies which only knew to outcast the diseased of society.

Not a single person here today would want to be transported back to that time. Although we may have setbacks and have many who may wish for time to be halted and even turned back, they have usually been overtaken and have never permanently change the course of history backwards. History has shown this to be true. The message of God's love has survived and ultimately moves us forward. The revelations of God continue to enter our lives bringing a changed life. He continues to speak to us through contemporary prophets and messengers, through sociologists, scientists, physicians, theologians, philosophers, and from time to time even preachers. He may even utilize politicians, judges, writers, journalists, and teachers. Believe it or not He may even speak and reveal His message through you and me.

Yes, we are a vital part of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit descends upon us, enters our lives so that we may be a part of this evolving message of love and forgiveness. We are called to be the prophet, the priest, the messenger, the interpreter of the good news in our society. We are called to be the instrument of the Holy Spirit It is up to us to accept this evolving message of God even though it may mean the abandonment of prejudices and social pressures.

To realize Pentecost in our lives is especially important in today's world and within our nation. There is no doubt that we are at a pivotal and dangerous time in history and in the history of our nation. God's message of love needs to find new meaning and vitality within our lives. We need the Holy Spirit to enliven us to help move us forward to recognize truth from fiction and love from hate. We need to hear the sound of the rushing wind and the tongues as of fire resting on us.

Pentecost is that sign which gives us hope and new life in this world so filled with greed, hate, inequality, and injustice. The tongues as of fire have been passed on to us. We are the children of God's Holy Spirit. We are the ones to light the way of truth to present and future generations. We are the children of Pentecost.

Anthem: ["Holy Spirit, Like the Wind"](#)

Offering*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

The Prayer

Ever present Lord through all ages, help us to clear our lives of all those things which hinder the reality of your presence within us. Then Lord, fill us with your spirit of love and truth so that we may be a living example to our troubled world. Give us the courage and perseverance to go beyond our own egos and agendas in order for truth to be victorious. Implant within us your word that all things are possible through you. We need that assurance in order to find hope in the midst of what seems to be chaos and hopelessness.

Continue to guide us through the pandemic and help us realize that we are responsible for the well-being of others in all our actions.

We pray for all who need your comforting and healing presence especially Bob and Pat Allen, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, the Cronin family, the Elshafei family, the Fultz family, the Johnson Family, Robert Karner, Donna Mayhew, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, David Otto, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Linda Rigby, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family,, Della , Yongyin Sun, Esther and Buck Trautwein, Linda Williamson, Wyatt Lee Wolf, Pastor Jack,
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you;
The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters
Live on knowing God's love,
The joy of living this life of love,
And the peace which only comes through the power of His presence within you.
So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

Closing Hymn: ["God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind"](#)

Announcements

Services will be outdoors unless inclement weather conditions force us indoors. Face masks and social distancing outdoors are not required. An email will be sent late Saturday afternoons stating whether indoors or outdoors.

*Offering to be sent to:

Bob Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043

<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291