

**WELCOME!**

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

*Please stand*

**HYMN 786 "O Holy Spirit, Enter In" (stanzas 1 and 3)**

**INVOCATION**

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God Who calls us to repentance.

God of life,

**C: by the resurrection of Your Son You make everything new.**

**Newness often scares us, and we confess to shutting our minds in fear. We have not listened to voices that challenge us. We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new directions. Our hearts are slow to believe Your promises.**

**Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear the new life You have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**P:** People of God: Christ is alive, and death has lost its power.

Through the waters of baptism You have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C:** **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

**C:** **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** 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.

## **FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then

he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Acts 2:1-21**

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.’

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al le lu ia, al le lu ia!

Al le lu ia, al le lu ia!

P: The Holy Gospel according to the fifteenth chapter of John.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15**

“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. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. “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.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN 398 “Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”**

## SERMON

Pastor Patti Morlock

## ANTHEM

arr. K. Lee Scott

*Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be.  
Help me now Thy grace to see, I would be like Thee.  
And with words that help and heal, Thy life would mine reveal;  
And with actions bold and meek, for Christ, my Savior speak.*

*Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;  
Help me now Thy truth to see, I would be like Thee.  
And, with wisdom kind and clear, Thy life in mine appear;  
And with actions brotherly, speak Christ's sincerity.*

*Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;  
Show Thy mercy tenderly, make me more like Thee.  
Separate from sin, I would and cherish all things good.  
And whatever I can be give Him Who gave me Thee.*

*Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;  
Help me now Thy power to see, I would be like Thee.  
'Gainst all weapons hell can wield, be Thou my strength and shield;  
Let Thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.*

--Thomas Lynch and K. Lee Scott

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived  
by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended**

into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Response:*

P: ...Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

## DISTRIBUTION

Please follow the instructions from the pastor for distribution.

*Believing in the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine of the Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sin, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to the Lord's Table.*

**ORGAN Setting of a Melody by Orlando Gibbons**

**Healey Willan**

## BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

**HYMN 400 "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind" (stanzas 1-3)**

## DISMISSAL

**P: Go in peace, serve the Risen Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## FINISHING COMMUNION AT HOME AFTER CHURCH

### St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City OH

For your safety and comfort in the next several weeks, we will be distributing pre-packaged communion kits to members during worship for everyone to take home, rather than eating and drinking in the church building.

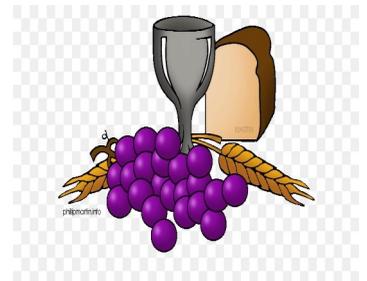
The bread and wine will be consecrated with the Words of Jesus during corporate worship, and will be ready to consume afterwards. However, since it is important to have the words of Jesus fresh in our ears before taking the sacrament, we strongly encourage you to use the following order of service once you get home.

First, unpeel the wafer(s) from the top of the package. Then unseal the juice and place the wafer and juice before you on a table, so that the elements are ready to be consumed.

Then, say the following aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."*

Now, partake of the wine and bread, trusting that the resurrected Lord Jesus is truly present in the sacrament **for you**, giving you the fullness of his forgiveness, life, and salvation.

After eating and drinking, we suggest saying the following prayer aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy, you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith towards you and in fervent love for one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.*



# Listening for the Promise

## Weekly Devotional

### Pentecost Sunday — May 23, 2021

“What does this mean?” (Acts 2:12)

It’s the day of Pentecost. A loud sound fills the room and tongues of fire hover over the heads of the people. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they all begin to speak in languages that were not their own. It’s a surreal experience, almost psychedelic.

The crowd agreed it was surreal for they were slack-jawed, gawking as people spoke with each other in different languages. The people were Galileans and should be speaking the same language, yet somehow everyone is speaking a different language. And even though they know it’s a different language, they hear it as their own. Surreal, indeed!

It might be worthwhile to think about the question that Martin Luther in his Small Catechism made famous, “What does this mean?” Perhaps an “easy” answer may be, and not the only one of course, is that the Holy Spirit has done something powerful and wonderful. We could debate about what all of this means or how this odd event actually happened. Some people argue that each one suddenly learned a new language, as if you suddenly had the ability to speak Albanian. Others would argue the people were speaking in tongues, like today’s Pentecostals. Some in the crowd do what we always do when we encounter the work of the living God: rationalize it as bad behavior. You know, like the crowd says, “They’re just drunk.”

But Peter takes a stand. He refuses to rationalize the work of God. Unfazed, Peter points to the Old Testament prophet Joel and starts preaching to all who witnessed this “incident.” Peter speaks dangerous words about last days and prophecy, of blood, fire, and smoke, the sun turning dark, and the moon to blood. His sermon is not exactly a crowd-pleaser. He ends his fiery sermon, “everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

You could spend a lot of time rationalizing this irrational passage. We could debate whether or not the people were suddenly speaking in tongues, or were drunk, or simply acting out with shockingly bad behavior. But Peter wants us to focus on scripture. What’s Peter’s message? God is up to something here, and you probably want to be a part of it. Peter’s message still holds for us in today’s fiery and turbulent world: God is up to something wonderful and powerful, come and be a part of it.