



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Day of Pentecost

May 31, 2020

10:30 Worship

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the earliest things harvested and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. The followers of Jesus were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate this holiday when the Spirit arrived in rushing wind and flame. Today we also conclude our reading of Matthew's gospel as we also conclude the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus' challenging teachings continue but they also speak of God's grace towards us.

Welcome to worship today!

This order of worship is designed to accompany what is happening live on Zoom. In order to make things work smoothly please keep your computer's microphone off unless you have a speaking part. It may be helpful to use a headset or earbuds to minimize feedback. You are welcome to use the chat feature to ask questions or provide feedback. Following worship we will have a time for those who would like to chat. That would also be a time to use the chat feature for side conversations.

† OPENING †

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Closing of the Sunday School Year

P: All things come to an end,
but the teaching of the Lord has no bounds.

C: Lead us in your truth, O God.

P: Everyone will stand in awe and declare God's works;
they will ponder what God has done.

C: Lead us in your truth, O God.

P: Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

C: Lead us in your truth, O God.

P: Let us pray...

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untraveled, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: We close the 2019-2020 Sunday school year in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Music

Prayer of the Day

A: O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending us into your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son, and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading Acts 2:1-21

B: When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, 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. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

After the reading the reader may say: The Word the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

Scripture Poetry Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

D: ²⁴O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.

²⁶There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

²⁷These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

²⁸when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

²⁹When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

³⁰When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
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!

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

E: ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

C: Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 7:13-29

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 7th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus continued preaching] ¹³“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. ¹⁴For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

¹⁵“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus you will know them by their fruits.

²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²²On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?’ ²³Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.’ ²⁴“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

²⁸Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, ²⁹for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

G: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: 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.**

G: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

(Jude 20)

G: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

G: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away;
behold, everything has become new!**

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

✠ PRAYER ✠

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. These three petitions will be read by people in the congregation:

A. You have made each of us unique and given us individual gifts and abilities. You also call us to join in community and use those gifts together. Guide us to use them together so that your kingdom may be real in this community. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

D. Guide the churches of Zimbabwe as they work through many struggles. Help them as they deal with the outbreak of infectious disease. And give us their energy and spirit so that we may also be similarly alive in faith. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

G: Bless nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for all those who are in hospitals away from loved ones. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

You are invited to add you own petition. Please conclude with:

Lord in your mercy,

*The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

B: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

B: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with messages of Christ's peace.

Special Music

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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**

† ENDING †

Blessing

P: The blessing of the living God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
surround and sustain you,
keep you from harm,
and fill you with courage.

C: Amen.

Closing Music

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

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St. John's Lutheran Church

888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192

The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
Nathan Cheung, Pianist