

Pentecost Sunday – May 19, 2024

Introduction to the Day

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 wideness 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.

**Christ is risen!**

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

**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.

**Welcome**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.  
**We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.**

**Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.  
The ark carried your creation through the flood  
into a new day.**

**Miriam led the dancing as your people passed  
through the sea  
into freedom's land.**

**In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**Gathering Hymn**

**“Christ, Be Our Light”**

**#715 vs. 1,3,4**

**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.**

## Reading – Acts 2:1-13

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

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

## Children’s Message

### Reading – Acts 2:14-21

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

<sup>17</sup>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.

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

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

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

The Word of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN

Jesus tells his followers before he leaves them, that he will not leave them alone. “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.”

Jesus assures them that they will be sent an advocate, someone that “who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause.”

I’m not sure that what they got is what they expected when they were promised someone to “publicly support or recommend their particular cause”, but they also probably didn’t know what they needed, either.

When we think of Pentecost we often think of Acts chapter 2 as the first occurrence of this Church Festival. As it turns out, this is simply the first time that the Festival of Pentecost was really written about in scripture. Pentecost, to the devout Jew of that time was a yearly pilgrimage that they would make for what is also called the Feast of Weeks. It takes place 50 days after the Passover, and celebrates the Wheat Harvest.

So, all of these people from all of these regions that were named, have come together to do what they always do the way they have always done it because that is what they do as the devout Jews that they are.

And the Holy Spirit enters the room.

They come together each of them speaking the communal language that they all know for the purposes of celebrating the festival that they always celebrate in the way that they have always done it...and the Holy Spirit enters the room.

And, in doing so, they realize that the Good News of God's Love for God's People is indeed able to be proclaimed EVEN in their native languages!

And they are amazed and astonished. In their minds, this proclamation is only to be done in the communal language that they all share, but as it turns out they hear this taking place in their native tongue as well...because the Holy Spirit has entered the room.

In trying to make sense of all that is happening, amid the amazement and astonishment, there are those among them who doubt what the Holy Spirit is up to. Stop me if you've heard this story before.

"Surely they are filled with new wine! They must be drunk!"

As church, we do this all of the time. We sense the Holy Spirit pushing us to something new, challenging the ways that we have always done thing, considering a partnership or relationship that might be out of the norm, and we discard it because it doesn't fit the comfortable little box that we want to keep church inside of.

A Black friend of mine, in critiquing white church once said, "y'all think you can really keep praising God confined to a one hour time slot." Bishop Joseph Bvumbe of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi once told then Bishop Bob Berg, "in America you have watches. In Malawi we have time."

I share this because if we were to be placed in either one of these worship settings, I'd bet any one of us would start to feel some sense of discomfort before realizing the Holy Spirit's activity in that place.

That is what happens when the Holy Spirit enters the room.

There is discomfort. There is change. There is that advocate nudge towards that thing that we ought to be support or speak out in favor of.

People of God, this Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit breathing new life into this place for the last 69 years. We discern together where it is that the Holy Spirit is going to nudge us in the next 69 years. And we do so with gratitude for the partnerships in the Gospel that we have discovered along the way.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

**Special Music**

**"Lead with Love"**

**Stand in the Light Memory Choir**

**Baptism of Faith Jessalyn Schneider**

**Daughter of Jenni Haas and Keith Schneider**

## **Apostle's Creed**

### **Prayers**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church universal, for its ministries, and for the spread of the gospel. Shower your Spirit upon Sunday school students, confirmands, and the newly baptized (*especially*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For the earth, our precious home. We give thanks for the diversity of plant and animal life on our planet. Empower us by your Spirit to be wise and faithful stewards of all you have made. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For the nations and those who govern. Give those in authority understanding hearts, that they work together to bring justice and peace on earth. Grant all who vote in elections wisdom and discernment. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For those in need around the world: for victims of crimes, for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, for those who are incarcerated. For all who suffer in any way (*especially*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For this congregation and its ministries: Your Spirit has moved through Good Shepherd for 69 years. Continue to bless this congregation that it may continue to be a blessing to this community. Continue to raise up leaders in our midst. Continue to bless us with those who make worship happen. Continue to bless the time that we gather in fellowship. Continue to bless us with relationships in the community. May our life together be pleasing in your sight. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We remember the faithful departed. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us in the faith. At the last day, breathe new life into our dry bones, that we might feast forever with all the saints in light. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Peace**

#### **Offering**

#### **“Stand in the Light”**

#### **Stand in the Light Memory Choir**

#### **Offertory Prayer**

Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

#### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**#471 & #474**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

The risen Christ is made known to us

in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

### **Blessing**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**      “O God beyond All Praising”

**#880**

### **Sending**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Okay! We will! Thanks be to God.**

And all of Good Shepherd said,

**“AMEN”**

**Postlude**      “I’m So Glad We Had This Time Together”

**Stand in the Light Memory Choir**



**Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd turns 69 today!**

Come celebrate 69 years of ministry together in worship **THIS SUNDAY!**

During worship we will celebrate a couple of the community partnerships that we have come to enjoy here: Stand in the Light Memory Choir will be providing some music and the Hope of Life Hmong Alliance Church will be with us as well.

Stick around following worship for a wonderful time of fellowship with a **POTLUCK!**

# Your Generosity in Action:

THIS SUNDAY!

Come and celebrate Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd's 69 years of ministry. Generations of Generosity make the life of a church possible and we cannot wait to celebrate all that LCGS has been and will continue to be in the community!

JOIN US!!



## THANK YOU!!

Monthly Financials to date:	Total Revenue	Total Expenses	Difference
	<b>\$11,082</b>	<b>\$9,019</b>	<b>\$2,063</b>
	2023: \$27,688	2023: \$23,760	Checkbook Available thru April \$25,932



At the Congregational Meeting on April 28, the people of Good Shepherd approved entering into a contract with consultants from GSB Consulting to lead us through our Capital Campaign process. Consultants do not come free, and the Good Shepherd Leadership Team has stepped up with a challenge. To date, the Leadership Team has committed \$13,600 towards the \$35,500 Consultant Fee. We invite you to prayerfully consider a gift towards this \$13,600 matching gift challenge.

Mark your calendars and spread the news. **We are praying together “Peace and Unity for ALL PEOPLE”**  
Wednesday, May 22, 6:30 PM  
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.