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# Saint James Lutheran Church



A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship, and Service"

## DAY OF PENTECOST

MAY 31, 2020



**P**entecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

### GATHERING

#### WELCOME

#### PRELUDE

Prelude on *Veni Creator Spiritus*

Libby Larsen (b. 1950)

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a 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.

Amen.

## WORD

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

*Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.*

A reading from Acts, the second chapter.

**W**hen 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." <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 the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 12:3b-13*

*Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.*

A reading from 1 Corinthians, the twelfth chapter.

**N**o one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to 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.

*continued...*

<sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. <sup>12</sup>For 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. <sup>13</sup>For 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.

The Word of the Lord.   **Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL   *John 20:19-23***

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the twentieth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**W**hen it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**



# HYMN

## *O Day Full of Grace*



1 O day full of grace that now we see ap - pear - ing on  
2 O day full of grace, O bless - ed time, our Lord on the  
3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own, when he on the  
4 God came to us then at Pen - te - cost, the Spir - it new  
5 When we on that fi - nal jour - ney go that Christ is for



earth's ho - ri - zon, bring light from our God that we may  
earth ar - riv - ing; then came to the world that light sub -  
cross was hang - ing; and then he a - rose and moved the  
life re - veal - ing, that we might no more in death be  
us pre - par - ing, we'll gath - er in song, our hearts a -



be a - bun - dant in joy this sea - son. God, shine for us  
lime, great joy for us all re - triev - ing; for Je - sus all  
stone, that we, un - to him be - long - ing, might join with an -  
lost, its pow'r o - ver us dis - pel - ling. This flame will the  
glow, all joy of the heav - ens shar - ing, and there we will



now in this dark place; your name on our hearts em - bla - zon.  
mor - tals did em - brace, all shame and des - pair re - mov - ing.  
gel - ic hosts to raise our voic - es in end - less sing - ing.  
mark of sin ef - face and bring to us all true heal - ing.  
join God's end - less praise, with an - gels and saints a - dor - ing.

### **About the recording you will hear in today's worship:**

*With deep gratitude to the 960 vocal and 364 instrumental participants from all across North America and around the globe, all united in our prayer for God's Spirit to bring healing and newness, and for the days when we will again "gather in song, our hearts aglow"*

*Association of Lutheran Church Musicians*

## NICENE CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

We call on your spirit of unity, giving thanks for our different vocations. Activate and utilize the diverse gifts present in your church, that they reveal your love for all. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We call on your spirit of life, present in air, wind, humidity, storms, and oxygen in our atmosphere, breathing energy into all things. Heal with your breath the whole creation, especially those who struggle to breathe due to air pollution. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We call on your spirit of righteousness. Wherever we as a people are divided, unite us. Wherever we are prideful, humble us. Give each one of us a heart for justice and empathy. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We call on your spirit of healing. Bless nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for all who long for comfort. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We call on your spirit of friendship. Give us a spirit of welcome to those whom we meet in this congregation and outside these doors. Surprise us daily with unexpected grace, that we rejoice in every blessing you send. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We call on your spirit of hope. As you have led your saints in all times and places, stir in us the desire to follow their example, leading us from death to new life in you. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**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.**

## **SENDING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia.**

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **DISSMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Fanfares to the Tongues of Fire*

Larry King (1932 - 1990)

*The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*



# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please e-mail all information to the church office at [keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@sjnc.net)

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## PRAYER LIST

Suzanne Clary Wright, daughter of Barbara and Dale Merrell, for the death of her husband, Chuck.

**Barbara and Dale Merrell**

All health care professionals and first responders including:

Deb Bradshaw

Lauri Fowler

DeeDee Gilbert

Annette Propst

Jason and Stephanie Matthews

Dr Bradley Propst, son of  
Kenny and Annette Propst

Sam Hurley, son of Elizabeth  
Hurley

Lisa Snyder, friend of Debbie  
Wilkinson

Julie Greathouse, friend of  
Lois Marlow

Betsy Waselovich, sister of  
Golda Jay

Lauren, daughter of Angie  
Buchanan

Dr. Stephanie Garrison,  
daughter-in-law of Margaret  
Garrison

Dr. Kevin Burns, son-in-law of  
Margaret Garrison.

If you have someone you would like to add to the prayer list, please contact Keith. 704-786-0166 and leave a message or email at [keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@sjnc.net)

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

31-May Joe Grady

31-May Samantha Hillegass

01-Jun Jason Kartheiser

03-Jun Nancy Hopkins

03-Jun Jack Nivens III

04-Jun Thomas Propst, Jr.

04-Jun Miles Walker

05-Jun Mark Davis

05-Jun Joe Wilson

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**  
Contributions and Receipts  
for May 17, 2020  
**\$3,699.48**

(\$8,414.00 needed for weekly)

## COOK SCHOLARSHIPS

Deadline is June 1

In 1968, John M. Cook, Jr established an endowment to assist college and graduate students who are members of St. James Lutheran Church to help pay their tuition. The Cook Trust Fund Committee is now accepting applications for the fall and spring semesters of the school year 2020/2021. Please contact the church office by phone or email [keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@sjnc.net) to receive a first time or returning application. The deadline to return the application will be **June 1st, 2020** to be considered for a scholarship this fall. Please contact Kenny Propst with any questions that you may have regarding the application process at 704-467-2300 or [fcpsc@vnet.net](mailto:fcpsc@vnet.net)

**Join Saint James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups**—send Jeremy Jay any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at [jeremy@pbnjay.com](mailto:jeremy@pbnjay.com)

**St. James YouTube Channel**  
Search for St. James Lutheran Church Concord NC and subscribe.

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**Fanfares to the Tongues of Fire** Tune: Larry King (1932 - 1990) Wayne Leupold Editions Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #735002 All rights reserved



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## OFFICE HOURS

M-Th 8:30-4:00, F 8:30-1:00

Closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:00

## DIRECTORY

Members of Saint James.....Ministers

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith.....Bishop

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