



WORSHIP DEVOTIONAL

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA

May 31, 2020

Day of Pentecost

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

You may make the sign of the cross; the sign marked at baptism.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Satisfy the thirsty and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 judgement 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.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:1-21

New Revised Standard Version

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

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

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

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, 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.

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

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

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 12:3-13

³ Therefore 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.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

One Body with Many Members

¹² 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. ¹³ 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.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-23

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When 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.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

SERMON

“MAKE A WISH”

Earlier this month I celebrated my 50th birthday. Like most other celebrations during the pandemic it was not what it should have been. I didn't have lots of friends and family over. There was no group singing. But it was still as nice as it could be under the circumstances. Kristin brought over a cake that my parents had bought for my birthday. That made it special. For some reason having that cake, piece by piece over this last month, brought back memories of so many birthdays passed.

I grew up in a family where birthday traditions were important. Aren't they fun? There is the moment when the lights are dimmed, friends and family begin to sing “Happy Birthday,” the cake is carried out with all of the candles and then

the moment of truth comes. You take a deep breath and go for it, knowing that if all of the candles go out, your wish will come true.

Maybe birthdays and wishes go so well together because they are both so special. There is something about birthdays that make wishes seem possible. We do have our little superstitions, don't we? Who hasn't taken the wishbone from the Thanksgiving turkey and pulled it apart thinking there was a chance your wish might come true? Who hasn't thrown a coin into a fountain and made a wish? Have you ever looked up at the night sky, and seeing the first star recited that nursery rhyme, "Star light, star bright, the first star I see tonight. I wish I may, I wish I might, have the wish I wish tonight."? But out of all wishing opportunities birthday wishes are my favorite.

Birthdays are new beginnings. Birthdays give us the opportunity to start a brand-new year in our lives. They give us the opportunity to start over again. To replace the old with something new. Most of the things we wish for do just that. They are a chance for something new, an opportunity to start over again, to begin fresh.

Our reading from the Book of Acts describes a great day in the life of the early Church, the Day of Pentecost. All of the apostles were gathered together in the same place waiting to see what God wanted them to do. Something so incredible happened that it changed the lives of everyone who was there. The Holy Spirit of God appeared as wind and fire, filling the entire house.

The apostles began speaking in strange languages. But as it turned out, they were not strange at all. Visitors from all over – Parthians, Medes, Romans, Egyptians, they miraculously hear and understand what each other are saying because they are suddenly speaking in the native language of each other. Some people dismiss the strange behavior as drunkenness. Peter explains that it is the great moment foreseen by the prophet Joel. God was pouring out God's Spirit on all of them!

Jesus' little band of followers set out that day but by the end of the day the group would explode. God's message of love and mercy was being preached to everyone, not just a small, chosen group. This was the birth of the Christian Church!

Pentecost is a chance for us to have new opportunities. It is a time for us to dream new dreams and cast new visions. It is a time to wish and dream about all the Church can be. It is a time to remember that everything the Church does is

possible because of the power of the Holy Spirit working in us and through us. Pentecost is a great day for us as the Church to make a wish; to dream about all that God is calling us to be.

I hope and dream that our church continues to be a place where people are accepted and loved unconditionally. I wish for our church to be a place where people learn to be less selfish and self-oriented and learn to become more loving and more concerned about others. I wish for our church to always be responsive to the needs of our community. I wish that our church is a place that many, many more people would come to know Jesus. I wish for our church that it will continue to be a place where children are valued and taught the life changing message that Jesus loves them.

You know, as I think back on all the salt that I have thrown over my shoulder, all the nights I have sung that little rhyme about the star, all the coins I've thrown into fountains, even the wish I made this year, none of them came true. I know my birthday wish didn't come true. I know because we are still in quarantine! But just wishing probably won't make things happen.

Just wishing for a deeper relationship with God probably won't just happen either. Be dreaming about how you might be involved in the ministries of Good Shepherd when we reopen. Be open to how the Spirit might be calling you to make a difference as we become an active congregation again! This might be the year that you really grow in your faith by serving others through our church! Things are going to be different when we get back to church and you can be different too!

This is Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. Go ahead and make a wish. Make a wish for the Church and for your own walk of faith. But don't just make a wish. Instead, with God, make it happen!

AMEN.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

On this Pentecost Sunday, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Father, what power you gave to the early Church on this day of Pentecost! This was something new. Jesus operated in the power of the Holy Spirit throughout His ministry, but now God the Father was giving that same power to Jesus' followers. Saint Paul in 1 Corinthians says, *"No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit."* When we know the Lord, we are empowered by His Spirit. But there's more. Manifestations of the Spirit are given for the common good. There are different kinds of gifts, different kinds of service and working. *"All of these are the work of one and the same Spirit."* **Lord in your mercy...**

The Holy Spirit exercises these spiritual gifts throughout the Christian Church today. Different denominations seem to stress the working of the Holy Spirit in different ways. Some speak through Word and Sacraments, others speak through good works and care for society; still others center on miracles, healings and speaking in tongues. We all accomplish God's work. We are all part of the Body of Christ. **Lord in your mercy...**

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. On Pentecost, those speaking in unknown tongues were all *"speaking about God's deeds of power."* This is our proclamation today; we tell of God's good works and His love for humanity.... Lord, we know the Church on earth is raising its voices in unity for deliverance from the coronavirus. Protect those who diligently serve the afflicted. Guide those who work on a vaccine; give wisdom to leaders who attempt to lead people wisely as we cope with the pandemic. **Lord in your mercy...**

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus in word and deed. Touch those who have asked for prayer with comfort, healing and forgiveness. Keep our Body of Christ free of disease. **Lord in your mercy...**

"In the last days...God declares...I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh...Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Make it so, Lord God, in Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

CAROLYN LINN

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members in Need of Prayer:

Karla Sutton
Gloria Miller
David Adamcik
Mary & Patrick Norris and
Children Alex, Isaac, and Michelle
Paul Werfelmann
Juana & Anthony On &
Extended Family
Richard & Kay Schumacher
Karen Kubar
Irene Pierini
Jocelyn Miller
Arlene Robbins
Kirsten Linder
Stacy Lairson
Jim Thompson
Addie Dornbusch
Neil & Verna Walden
Karl & Pauline Ritterbush
Chris Dueker
Prayers of Thanksgiving for the life
of Bob Robertson who has entered the
Church Triumphant. Please pray for his
Family and friends for peace and comfort.
Connie Alvarado
Susan Berg
Prayers of Thanksgiving for the life of
Ruth Horne who has entered the Church
Triumphant. Please pray for her family and
Friends for peace and comfort.

Family and Friends:

Phil Chavez
Linda Franklin
Candice Frost (Margie Kinler's Grand-
daughter) & her friend Sharon Ferris
Mickey Paulo
Janet Sharp
Barbara Lester
Dennis Galloway
Jade Dixon
Craig Cefre (Autumn's boyfriend's Dad)
Anthony Cholicho
Jo Thune & Family
Kim Carlson
Denise Maxwell (The Wilk's sister-in-law)
Maggie Terrell
Melissa Melton
Kim Boren & Family
Laura James
Judie Meadows
Joan Rollin
Margie Poole
Sandy Robbins
Kathy Christiansen
Arlynn Turnquist
Kelley Kim
John Sharpe



Please PRAY for those
affected by COVID-19

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, which art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen
Matthew 6:9-13*

STAY IN PEACE! SERVE THE LORD! WASH YOUR HANDS! THANKS BE TO GOD!

Our mission statement:

SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS

Kathy has included a page for taking notes while you go through the Worship Devotional and a page to color. It has been found that coloring reduces stress and calms a person.



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