

The Day of Pentecost  
May 23, 2021

"To your advantage -the Holy Spirit comes!"

(John 16:5-7)

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LSB 497

"Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today's text for this day of Pentecost is from our Gospel reading John 16:5-7

**““But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you”**

Here ends our text.

To the disciples, Jesus going away seemed like a huge disadvantage. They were filled with grief and sadness. But on the contrary, Jesus going and the Spirit's coming was to their advantage and ours. Their sorrow would turn to joy.

It is to your advantage! Literally, it is profitable – most profitable. It is for our good. Our highest good. Everybody wants to make a profit in this world. But the profit that the Spirit gives us lasts forever, unlike the world's profit which is temporary and fleeting.

Pentecost is a celebration! It's a birthday celebration! As we were video-taping the children's message yesterday, I asked my daughter whose birthday it is. And you never know what answer you're going to get. But it was a good answer. She said it's Helen's birthday. How true is that! For Helen celebrates with all the saints in heaven the eternal life that the Holy Spirit gave her through faith.

The one holy Christian church here on earth and beyond in heaven celebrates the birthday of the New Testament church! It's Helen's birthday celebration, your birthday celebration and the celebration of all the saints in heaven and on earth!

The Day of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit had to happen after Jesus' death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit waited to begin the New Testament church until the great redemption of Jesus was completed. Pentecost had to be preceded by Calvary and the open tomb.

Jesus, our High Priest and Intercessor is with us. And especially we have an Advocate, the Holy Spirit.

Should not surprise us that the world hates us, does not agree with us, and does its best to undermine all that you believe in and teach. For you are a disciple of Christ and therefore you have received from Christ what Jesus received from His Father and He gives the exact same saving knowledge to you through the Holy Spirit. What will He testify about? Jesus tells us clearly in the opening verse of our Gospel reading. **“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. “(John 15:26)**

About Jesus! The Christian message, our witness, is about Jesus! Yes, the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son as we confess in the Nicene Creed and gives us the message of Jesus' redemptive work on Calvary. The Holy Trinity works together as one with the one mission of saving all people from eternal condemnation through Jesus!

How does the Holy Spirit work this advantage for you? Our Gospel mentions three big things that are to our eternal advantage! Hear the words from our Gospel again.

**“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”**

He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness and of judgment. Let's take a closer look at each of these works of the Holy Spirit.

1. Of sin. The Holy Spirit protects you with the word of truth from an unbelieving world (John 15:18-25),  
So we heard last Sunday in Jesus' High Priestly Prayer.

**“I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.” (John 17:14-16)**

So that you do not fall into the same state of sin and unbelief and be condemned eternally with the world of unbelievers v.8-9 **LAW**

The sin of sins is to reject the person, Word, and work of Jesus Christ. Unbelief is the mother of sins. Where that sin prevails there is no hope. Where there is repentance of that sin there is nothing but hope.

**“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me;” (John 16:8-9)**

**“If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. 25 But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’ (John 15:24-25)**

2. Of righteousness. So that you would be defended with the righteousness of Jesus because He goes to the Father. Jesus DID atone for the whole world’s sin of which we are a part of. The Holy Spirit gives faith to receive the righteousness of Christ. **“of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;” (v. 10)** Christ’s righteousness is the only defense from sin and condemnation. It is for the whole world, but it needs to be received through faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. The Holy Spirit uses the means of grace – especially baptism to receive the robe of righteousness. So that all who believe and are baptized are saved and will ALSO go to where Jesus went...to His Father and our Father.

## **GOSPEL**

Building the Tower of Babylon typified sinful man’s idea of profit and self-gain and glorification. Pentecost is the exact opposite. It reveals man’s sinfulness but God’s work of salvation that opens heaven by Jesus’ coming, death, resurrection and going. It is all God’s doing, God’s giving, God’s bestowing of faith and His gifts through the Holy Spirit. Babylon resulted in confusion and scattering.

Pentecost is the giving of right understanding and the gathering of believers in Christ. Jesus is the true way to heaven.

3. Of judgment. So that you will not be condemned by the accuser – the devil. For He will convict the world also **“of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged” (v.11)** The unbelieving world does not heed the Spirit’s call to repent and will be judged. They will stand condemned with their evil defense lawyer, the devil.

But believers know that they will be welcomed into heaven. The sheep will be separated from the goats on the last day. The judging of the devil by Jesus’ death and resurrection is for our highest good, our highest advantage!

Same Holy Spirit – Pentecost continues through you to the ends of the earth!  
**“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.” (John 15:26-27)**

Makes you a witness of this truth for the building up of the church. **“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works [e]all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: (1 Corinthians 12:5-7)**

Makes you a witness of the truth to the world’s profit, good for whoever will repent and believe. **“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.” (1 Corinthians 10:33)**

If you’ve ever watched the sport of tennis, there’s a word that the announcer often repeats during the match. “Advantage”. When the player has an advantage he or she just needs one more point to win the game. You have to win by two points.

In our Christian life we have an advantage, the ultimate advantage. For we win by three -the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God has put us on His winning team – which is not just for our earthly advantage, but for our eternal glory.

The Holy Spirit glorifies the Son by witnessing to us exactly what the Son has received from the Father. And we are glorified by this message – pure grace and love of God - the righteousness of Christ that covers our sin and the devil is judged so that we aren't.

The Holy Spirit bears fruit of His witness through us so that we glorify God in what we say and do. And the world is reprov'd...some to eternal condemnation and some to eternal glory and profit with us. All glory to the Triune God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Counselor. Blessed Pentecost! **Amen.**

**The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)**