



Perley Lutheran Parish
May 23rd, 2021
Day of Pentecost



Gathering Hymn: God is Here

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
Keep us faithful to the Gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give receive;
We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

Welcome and Announcements

- Bowling from 1-3 today at Sunset for Food Shelf
- Next Sunday – Service Sunday – Nora at 9 on Saturday, Kirkebo at 19 on Sunday
- Brief Council meeting today after the service – Kirkebo
- Reach out/Food Shelf

Confession and Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, in the Lenten season we heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving peace of reconciliation. On this day let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor and enter the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord with God and each other.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us live together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen**

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, on God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 104:24-35 (Read Responsively)

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. **Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living**

things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it. **These all look to you to give them their food in due season;** when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. **When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.** When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground. **May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works—** who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. **I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.** May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. **Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!**

Holy Gospel according to John 15:26-27, 16:4-15, **Glory to you O Lord**

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. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason, I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message

As you see, we have balloons today. You can have a lot of fun with a balloon. Hold up your balloon if you have a long, skinny one. (Pause.) I've seen some people who can take a long, skinny balloon and make it into the shape of different animals. Have you ever tried that? Hold up your balloon if you have a round one. (Pause.) I've played a game where we toss round balloons up into the air to see how long we can keep it up without it hitting the ground. That's a lot of fun.

Look at the balloon I'm holding. I think it's a very nice balloon. It's a pretty color, and by looking at the shape of it, I think it would be a very nice round balloon. There seems to be something lacking in the balloon. Can anyone tell me what this balloon needs? (Pause for children to answer.) You're right. It needs to be filled with air! Before a balloon can fulfill its purpose, someone must breathe some life into it.

I think this balloon can help us learn something about the church. Today is a very special day we call Pentecost. It was the day that God sent His Holy Spirit to breathe life into His church so the church would be all that God intended for it to be. (Inflate the balloon a little and stop.) Before God sent His Holy Spirit, the church was lifeless--like this balloon. The church was not witnessing and telling people about Jesus. After the Holy Spirit breathed life into the church, people began telling everyone they saw about Jesus. (Inflate the balloon a little and stop.) It didn't even matter if they spoke the same language. (Inflate the balloon a little and stop.) Everyone they told about Jesus understood what they were saying. Thousands of people were added to the church. (Inflate the balloon a little and

stop.) The church became alive and was doing the things God had commanded. (Finish inflating the balloon and tie it off.)

Breathe life into your balloon, and remember that just as the balloon needs to be filled to be what it was intended to be, you and I need the Holy Spirit to fill us so we can be all that God wants us to be. (Allow children to inflate their balloons. Then help them tie off their balloons.)

We thank You, God, for sending Your Holy Spirit. We thank You for breathing life into the church and we thank You for giving Your Holy Spirit to all who believe in Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

Because we will not be having services next Sunday, it was important to me to look at both Pentecost and Trinity Sunday in my message this week. Both are so important and really do go together in that the Spirit is finally brought in with the Father and the Son and we receive the three in one in these two weeks. I would like to thank Pastor Kevin Ruffcorn for his message that helped me to craft this two for one message for you.

This Sunday is Pentecost – the day that the Spirit came upon the disciples like a mighty wind with flames of fire and the ability to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ in other languages. I always marvel at the different ways in which this phenomenon is imagined or even portrayed in movies we have watched. Sometimes you will literally see the depiction of ghost-like wind flowing through the upper room where the disciples have gathered. Other times you see all those gathered speaking and joyfully conversing in language after language – such a sight I cannot imagine what that would be like. I mean not knowing another language and all of the sudden you hear yourself speaking to another in a language that is not your own. What an amazing and shocking experience that would be.

For us Lutherans, we don't quite often think of the Spirit in the way of talking in tongues – we are mostly Scandinavian around here so even getting you to sit in a front pew is impossible to expect you to break out in another language seems a bit extreme. The Pentecostals though, that is indeed another story in which the more boisterous and spirit-filled they are gathered the better it is. Again, not what you will find in our little town MN and ND churches. For us, the Spirit comes upon us at the time of our baptism, when God claims us as his own and adopts us into his family. If we come to faith later in our lives, the Spirit comes upon us when we receive the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection and begin to live by faith in its reality. The Spirit is among us; he is part of our lives. In the gospel lesson today, Jesus tells his disciples how the Spirit will reveal himself to them in their daily lives. Jesus' words both comfort us and challenge us.

Next Sunday is Trinity Sunday – the Sunday in which we are shown the relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let me read a passage about Trinity Sunday – found in Matthew 28:

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."^[a] Jesus says to his disciples that he will send the Holy Spirit to them. When

the Holy Spirit comes upon them, the Spirit will guide them and reveal to them the truth—the truth that Jesus tells the Spirit to share. There is a unity of purpose that we see in this relationship, and an interaction between the persons of the Trinity that demonstrates a close, intimate relationship.

This passage also tells us that the Spirit has come. The Spirit has come and he has stayed. God is with us and God is involved in our lives. It is true that God broke into the world and our history in the person of Jesus Christ. At Jesus' ascension, however, God did not SEPARATE himself from us but rather continues to be involved in our lives in the person of the Holy Spirit. God is present with us. God is interested in our lives and what happens to us. The Spirit is actively a part of us.

The focus of the Spirit's presence in our lives is that of relationship. We do not perform a series of empty rituals that communicate some historical event. Our daily lives are not built around tradition. We walk with God in a dynamic, intimate relationship with our creator. We sing songs of love to him in our Sunday worship. We will gather at his table in a few minutes and eat his food being refreshed and renewed by what he offers us.

I love what Jesus says to his disciples, "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now." Think about someone in your life that set out to begin a new adventure – especially our young graduates of last week, or those that are ending their time at one school and moving to new school – maybe middle school to high school. We can't tell them everything can we? We can't warn them that there will be hard times, there might be times when you don't feel like you fit in, there may be times when you find yourself having to make really hard decisions, there may even be times when you think you've had enough of what's going on and don't know what to do to fix things. Those of us who have been through it would have those same thoughts as some of these young people. We'd love to be able to teach them more wouldn't we, prepare them for everything, but let's be honest, they would clearly reach their limit of hearing it all. They would find a time where they have had their fill.

We must hope and pray that we have prepared them for what is coming. Through baptism and confirmation and their relationship with Jesus. We pray it will continue and that they will continue to grow in their faith. We know that they are not done with the learning process.

The life of faith is a life of learning. The Spirit moves in our lives and enlightens us. The Spirit teaches us through the events of our lives and our relationships. As we walk with God, we learn more about ourselves, our world and others. We grow in knowledge, understanding and wisdom.

There are times we forget how important it is to avail ourselves of the learning opportunities that are ours. At times, we decide we have learned enough—we don't have to study, question, and search any longer. We can put our minds and spirits in neutral and simply coast. Some of us have stopped our learning on the day of our Confirmation. When we do, we essentially are attempting to live in the world with only an eighth grade education. The Spirit is in our lives and always offers to teach us and to help us grow. He doesn't force himself upon us, but he is always available to us. As we say at the College I work at – you are never too old to learn more – and that goes for being a Christian and a disciple of God.

An unspoken element of being a follower of Jesus Christ is that Jesus leads us. One of the tasks of the Holy Spirit is to guide us. The Holy Spirit – or as I was taught as a child, the Holy Ghost, can be a really abstract theological discussion. How do you understand the Spirit being with you in your life?? Does the Spirit lead us to specific parking spaces? Determine what we are craving for dinner? Or, does the Spirit limit his leading to point out the general direction that he wants us to walk? While this may be an interesting discussion, a more important question is, "Do we ever ask the Spirit for guidance?"

If it is true that we live in order to do God's will, then it is important for us to ask what God wants us to do. Asking opens us up to the possibility of being guided. Our decisions shouldn't be limited to what we can do to make the most money or place us in the greatest positions or leadership roles. We should also ask the question, "What does God want us to do?" When we see a need, a simple prayer of, "How can I help?" may lead to a ministry beyond our imagination.

We are often satisfied with a distant, impartial God. Perhaps we feel it is safer that way. If we keep God at arms-length, God won't ask us to do something we don't want to do. Still, Jesus offers us so much more. He sends the Spirit to be a part of our lives, to teach us and guide us and empower us to be instruments of God's love and God's grace. So may the spirit be with you. Amen

Hymn of the Day: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free:
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
And over the eons you called to each thing;
Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free:
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You sang from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free:
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

Apostles Creed

*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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen*

Prayers of the people: (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.
Gracious God, you give the Holy Spirit to your church, filling it with many and varied gifts. In the church throughout the world, strengthen us in our visioning and dreaming, that it may discover anew the Spirit's creative work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

God of life, your mighty works are too numerous to count. The earth is full of your creatures, living things both great and small. Open your hand and give them the necessities of this life. Send your fresh Spirit over the face of the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

God of the nations, at the sound of rushing wind, fill the leaders of all nation with your Holy Spirit so that they exercise your gracious will in the lives of all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

God of faithfulness, you tend to the needs of your people. Even the sighs of our hearts. Hear those who cry out to you in in distress. Loving God, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely,

outcast, rejected or sick. Grant healing and love to all in need. Today we lift up Margie and Marlis, Sonya and Roger, Terry and Jeff, Evonne and Kirk, Byron and Whitney, the Deery family who mourn the loss of Bob, and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts..... Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Meal

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

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. 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

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat, and be satisfied.

After Communion Prayer

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witness, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Sending Song: Lord, You Give a Great Commission

Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the Church neglect its mission and the Gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity;
with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community;
with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Dismissal – Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!** Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Mark Your Calendars:

- Saturday, May 29th – Nora Fifth Sunday project. 9am. Bring yard gear and cleaning supplies to do some work around and in the church.
- Sunday, May 30th – Kirkebo Fifth Sunday project. 10am. Bring yard gear and cleaning supplies to do some work around and in the church.
- Sunday, June 6th – Services at 9am at Nora. (live streamed and in-person)

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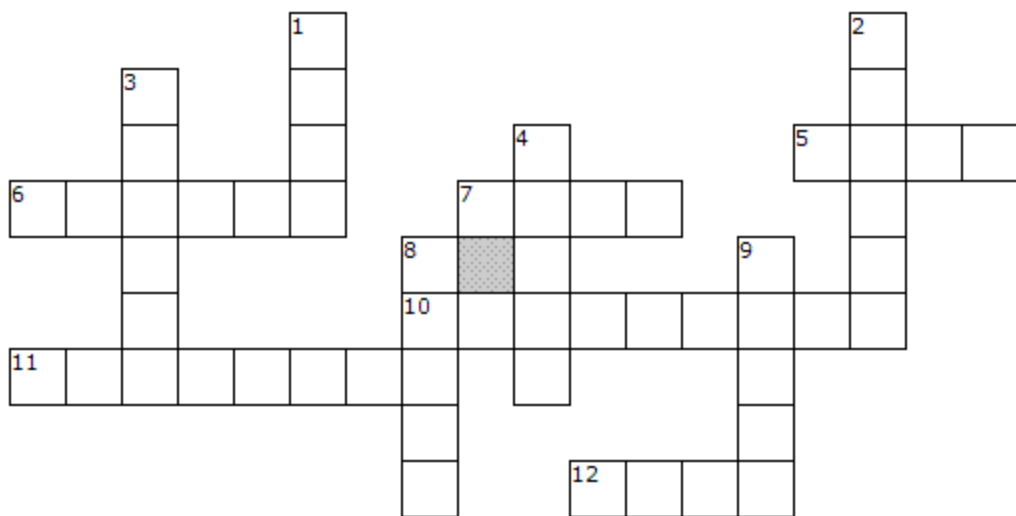


The Day of Pentecost
Acts 2

Filled with the Holy Spirit

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)



ACROSS

5. Make something to be full
6. To be totally surprised
7. Something that is pure and good, such as God's Word
10. The day the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles
11. Means of communication used by the people of a particular country
12. A destructive burning

DOWN

1. Blowing air, especially that which would move the leaves on a tree
2. A being that cannot be seen, like a ghost
3. The place where God lives
4. Something that can be heard
8. To say words, to use the voice
9. A building which people live in

HEAVEN
WIND
SOUND

SPIRIT
PENTECOST
FILL

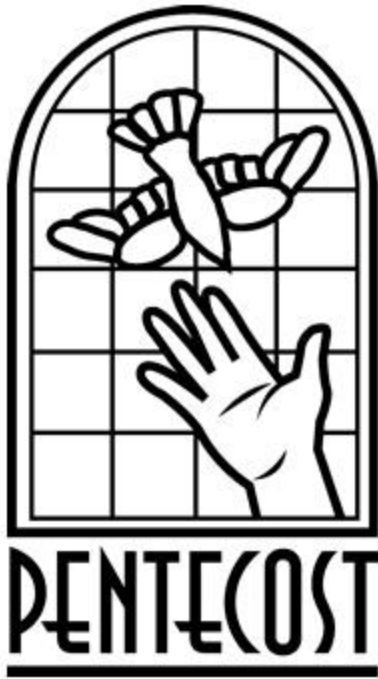
FIRE
LANGUAGE
HOUSE

HOLY
SPEAK
AMAZED

Filled With The Holy Spirit

Jumble

Unscramble each word and then place the numbered letters in the numbered boxes at the bottom to reveal the "Final Answer."



WNID

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3

IFER

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2

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SEKPA

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 4

Puzzle Clues

Check your answers by looking them up in the Bible.
(Clues are from the NIV)

1. A sound like the blowing of a violent _____ came from heaven. (Acts 2:2)

2. They saw what seemed to be tongues of _____. (Acts 2:3)

3. All of them were filled with the Holy _____. (Acts 2:4)

4. They began to _____ in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:4)

5. Peter stood up and spoke to the _____ of people. (Acts 2:14)

FINAL ANSWER: All of these events took place on the day of _____. (Acts 2:1)

Filled with the Holy Spirit

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)



O M D E D N W Q T H X X G E M
U A Y N M H I B Q O O U K P Y
W J U W E V B L V H N L O E O
O O R I B A M O E E Z G Y N E
S R N N C E G W T A T N U T I
K P L D Y D M I R R Q J W E W
M A N A E G L N O T H E R C S
C U M L N R X G S L S Z Z O W
V P L J H G S A H P P N H S X
Y I C D Y N U M N P I Q D T U
F P J G X K W A F X S R U R W
T Z C B E X Y Z G S P S I Y B
Z F I R E G P E S E E T N T Q
D E C L A R E D G E A C M K Y
L S G F K V Z C V M K L N J T

FIRE
HEAR
SPIRIT
DECLARE

PENTECOST
OTHER
BLOWING
LANGUAGE

WONDERS
SPEAK
TONGUES
SOUND

AMAZED
WIND
HOLY
FILLED