

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Aitkin, Minnesota
June 5, 2022
Day of Pentecost
ONLINE ORDER OF WORSHIP

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the | faithful,*
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alle- | luia.
O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have
you | made them all,*
the earth is full of your | creatures.
These all | look to you,*
to give them their food in due | season.
When you give it to them, they gath- | er it up;*
when you open your hand, they are filled with | good
things.
When you send forth your Spirit, they are cre- | ated,*
and you renew the face | of the ground.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the | faithful,*
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alle- | luia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of
Your faithful people by sending them the light of
Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same
Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and
evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through
Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 11:1–9

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Acts 2:1–21

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled

the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

“And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;
even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they
shall prophesy.

And I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;
the sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the day of the Lord comes, the great and
magnificent day.

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls
upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 14:23–31

Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Apostles’ Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father

Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living

and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Text – Genesis 11:1-4;

Theme – Other Tongues

Today is the third major feast of the Christian Church Year. Christmas is the feast that directs our attention on the nature of Jesus Christ. He is true God and true man. He is true God who was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He is true man who was born of the Virgin Mary.

Easter is the feast that directs our attention on the fact that this true God and true man died for our sin and rose again to show that we can have the forgiveness of sin and the promise of heaven.

Today is Pentecost. On this day we remember how God the Holy Spirit uses Word and Sacrament to work and strengthen faith in our hearts. On this day in church we always have a reading from Acts chapter 2. That's the chapter that tells us what happened on the first Pentecost after Jesus had risen from the dead. There was the sound of a mighty wind, tongues of fire appeared on the disciples heads, and they were preaching in languages they had never knew before.

This year, our Old Testament lesson tells us why there are different languages. There are different languages because of what happened on **“the plain in the land of Shinar”** (Genesis 11:2). We know that place by the name of **“Babel”** (Genesis 11:9).

Our text begins with these words: **“Now the whole earth had one language and the same words”** (Genesis 11:1). That's hard for us to imagine. We live in a world with all kinds of languages. We get along OK because we tend to live and work with people who speak our language. If you travel, though, you learn that isn't true everywhere; some people speak a language that is foreign to us.

Can you imagine, though, going to work one day and all the people you are working with are no longer speaking a language that you can understand. That's what the people who were working on building a tower at Babel experienced. It may even have been true that the people they were living with were no longer speaking a language that they could understand.

All of this is punishment for sin. "What sin?" we might wonder. Well, after the flood, God blessed Noah and his sons and their wives: **"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth"** (Genesis 9:1). God wanted Noah's descendants to spread out all over the world.

What did they do? They didn't spread out all over the world. They stayed together and built a city. Why? Our text tells us why. They wanted to make a name for themselves (Genesis 11:4).

Really, though, the sin they were guilty of was very much like the sin that got Adam and Eve kicked out of Eden. The sin that got Adam and Eve into trouble, the sin that got the people building that tower of Babel in trouble, was the sin against the 1st Commandment. **"You shall have no other gods."** It is the breaking of that commandment that so very often gets us into trouble.

I say that because before Adam and Eve reached for the forbidden fruit and before the people on that plain in Shinar started making bricks and before you and I have any sinful thought, word, or deed, we break the 1st Commandment. We do that by removing God from His rightful place. We assume that He does not know what is best for us or that He does not want what is best for us.

The problem with what the people of Babel were doing was not that they were building a tower. There have been many towers built since that time. We call them

skyscrapers. The problem was that they wanted to make a name for themselves.

In the Lord's Prayer Jesus has taught us to pray "**Hallowed by Thy Name.**" What the people of Babel were praying was "Hallowed be our name." The problem was: they were self-centered instead of God-centered. To punish them for their sin: God confused their language.

In our reading from Acts chapter 2 for today, we hear the account of what happened on the first Pentecost after Jesus had risen from the dead. To be clear it was not the first Pentecost. Pentecost was one of the three annual feasts that God had established at the time of Moses. God wanted His people to gather together to celebrate these feast. Pentecost sometimes is called "The Feast of Weeks." That's because it took place seven full weeks after the Feast of the Passover. Because it was on the 50th day, it also was called "Pentecost." Pentecost is the Greek word for 50.

While "The Feast of the Passover" was to be a reminder of how God had freed His people from slavery in Egypt, "The Feast of Weeks" or "Pentecost" was understood to reflect the fact that God had given His people His Word. Just in case you are wondering, the third feast that God established at the time of Moses was "The Feast of Booths." It would be the equivalent of our Thanksgiving and was a reminder of how God still took care of His people.

The point is: because what we hear about in our 2nd lesson took place during "The Feast of Weeks," there were a lot of people in Jerusalem from all over the world, people whose native language was different that the language spoken by the disciples. When many of those people were drawn together because they had heard the sound of "**the mighty rushing wind**" (Acts 2:6), the Holy Spirit gave Jesus' disciples the ability to speak in the native tongues of the

people who were there. The God who confused the language at Babel overcame that confusion by enabling the disciples to preach His Word, powerfully in languages that the people would understand.

When God confused the language at Babel, He was trying to restrain evil. When God gave the disciples the ability to speak in all those languages, He was bringing the good news of Jesus to them. The Good News is this: Jesus had done all that was necessary to overcome evil. He did that by dying on the cross for all our evil sins. And, then, on the third day He rose from the dead to show that He had won the victory over death and the evil one. Through Jesus we have the forgiveness of sin and we are freed from our slavery to sin.

That's what the Holy Spirit did then and that is what the Holy Spirit is doing today. He comes to us with the good news of Jesus, hopefully in a language we can understand. And, just as He did back on the Pentecost that we heard about in our 2nd lesson, so the Holy Spirit works and strengthens faith in our hearts through the preaching of God's Word. That way the closing words of our 2nd lesson is true for us: **"Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"** (Acts 2:21). AMEN

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Gracious Lord, Your Spirit fills the world and gladdens Your Church with the remembrance of all Christ Jesus has spoken. Comfort us with divine peace, and do not let our hearts be troubled or afraid.

Heavenly Father, as You once chose apostles to proclaim the resurrection, so open the mouths of Your pastors and people to declare His praises to all who will hear. Lord God, sustain those who are mocked for believing and confessing the truth of Your Word, that they may remain faithful to You.

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have poured out Your Spirit upon us, that we might believe Your truth and raise our sons and daughters in it. Bless all parents, that they may faithfully teach their children in Your Word.

Lord of might, preserve Your people from their enemies, bring peace to the nations and prosper the cause of life. Bless our leaders, especially our president, governor, Congress, legislature, and all judges and magistrates. Give them a relentless pursuit of just laws for the common good of all, with a heart of mercy for the weak and vulnerable.

Lord of compassion, forget not the sick and the suffering. Grant them healing according to Your will [*especially do we name before You _____*]. Give them confidence that You know their need and will well supply them with all that they need to endure to the day of Your coming, when all affliction will end and You will grant the perfect consummation to us and to all who have loved Your appearing.

Almighty Father, with Your Son, Jesus Christ, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts through Your Word to rule and govern us according to Your will, comfort us in every temptation and misfortune, and defend us against every error, that we may continue steadfast in the faith, increase in love and good works, and — trusting firmly in Your grace for us by His death — obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

Benediction

P **The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be
gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you
peace.**

C **Amen**

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV[®] Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version[®]), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.