

Sermon followed by Service

June 5, 2022 - Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

You're tired, dragging, feeling a bit overwhelmed. Perhaps you have something big coming up. How do you energize? Maybe coffee, Mt. Dew - anything with caffeine. Or something with sugar - a cookie, a Cliff Bar, a chunk of chocolate. How do you power up? Maybe you amp up the music or get some exercise or both.

Now, here's a different question. I'll set it up. It's not just you tired and dragging. It's not just you with something big coming up. How do you energize someone else who is tired and dragging? How do you power someone else who is facing something big, something that will need more energy, more power than they have? Some nag; some command and demand, boss and bully. Others give cookies and carrots hoping that the cookies will give enough energy so keep people chasing the carrots.

What does God do? ... for us, for his church? ... to energize the tired, the dragging? He has his ways to wake us, doesn't he? Sometimes he shakes us awake with a kick and a bang. Sometimes he loves us awake with a kiss. And then to keep us awake, to get us moving, what does he do? He doesn't just command and demand, boss and bully; he doesn't nag. I suppose we could say he gives us cookies and carrots. He puts heaven out in front of us and every day he gives us the promise and blessing we need so we keep reaching for heaven.

And what about when we're feeling overwhelmed? Or we have that big something big ahead of us - that big challenge that has us on edge, the big opportunity we've been waiting for? What does God do

for us, for his church to power us for that something big? Good question. I know many of us are feeling overwhelmed, and most all of us are facing something big, aren't we? Some of us are graduating this year. Some are moving. Some of us are facing big changes at work, at home, maybe with our health. And God has some big changes for us in his church, doesn't, he? What does God do for us ... what does God do for his church to power us for the something big?

Before our lesson, Jesus had something big in mind for his disciples, something big in mind for his church. So what do we see Jesus' disciples doing? Getting together. Getting together for prayer. Getting together to encourage each other with Jesus' love and promise. When they felt small and alone, they could encourage each other - "We've got Jesus, and Jesus has us."

When they felt guilty for sinning against God, when they felt guilty for sinning against each other, they could encourage each other - "Look to Jesus and the cross. He took your sin and mine. You don't need to beat yourselves up. You don't need to worry: 'when is God going to make me pay.' No, Jesus already paid for you, for me, for the world. We get to live forgiven!"

And when those disciples felt hopeless, helpless, not sure what was coming, they could encourage each other: "Let's pray together. With Jesus, you're right by God, and he'll find a way to make life right for you." As those disciples gathered together and prayed together and encouraged each other, what happened? God powered them.

And then, in our lesson, on Pentecost, God powered them in a special way. First, they heard the sound of a rushing wind coming down from heaven and filling the house where they were staying. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire on each of them.

Soon they were speaking in different languages. God was giving his Holy Spirit to power his people for his something big. They were able to speak like they had never spoken before. They were able to reach out and point to Jesus like never before. By his Spirit, God was powering his church for his something big.

Hearing that, we might be tempted to think: “So? That’s great for them, but what about us? We’re all here today, praying together, encouraging together. But we don’t hear any wind. We don’t see any tongues of fire. We aren’t speaking in different languages. So where’s the Spirit, where’s the power for us?”

Sometimes we might think that if we don’t feel the Spirit, that if we don’t see or experience Pentecost-proof of the Spirit, then we must not have the Spirit working in our lives. But think about that. After Pentecost, we don’t hear any more sound of wind from heaven, but that doesn’t mean the Spirit wasn’t at work, does it? After Pentecost, we don’t see any more tongues of flame, but that doesn’t mean the Spirit wasn’t at work. After Pentecost, we do hear of special times when people spoke in tongues, with a special gift to speak in languages they hadn’t learned; but we don’t have any promise or any command that we’re supposed to be able to speak in tongues today. Does that mean the Spirit isn’t at work in Christ’s church today? No!

As we heard Peter preach on Pentecost, God has promised his Spirit to his church; he has promised his Spirit in baptism. What does that mean for you? Baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, you have the Spirit of God alive in you to power you. So ...

On those most horrible days, when it seems that everything is going wrong and everyone is against you, and it seems impossible to believe

God's love and promise are for you, you have the Spirit of God to power you to look up: "I'm not alone; God isn't against me. I have Jesus and his Spirit for me and with me. It doesn't matter what the rest of the world thinks of me; it doesn't matter what I think of me; Jesus and his Spirit are holding me right with God."

And on those big days, those hard days when you feel too small for what's coming, on those big days when God has something big for you - someone needs you to be nice to them, someone needs you to forgive them, someone needs you to help them ... on those days when God has something big for you, instead of thinking, "I can't" or "it won't do any good" - you have the Spirit of Christ living in you to power you to live and love with the heart of Jesus. You have the Spirit of Christ so you can take on the hard days and the big days with the strength of Christ: "I can do everything ... I am strong for everything through Christ who makes me strong."

On Pentecost, we heard the Spirit work with the sound of wind and speaking in tongues. On Pentecost, we saw the Spirit work with what looked to be tongues of fire. Today we see and hear the Spirit work in different ways; we see him work in your words and works of kindness. We see the Spirit work in your optimism and eagerness to serve. When you love with the heart of Jesus, when you share the peace and promise of Jesus, again, we see and we hear the Spirit at work in you. When you make time for a project here at church and school, when you squeeze and stretch to grow your offering here for church and school, when you use God's gifts for God's purposes, - in all those ways - you show you have the Spirit at work in you.

I know. Some days we might feel tired and dragging. Some days we might feel overwhelmed, what's going on and what's ahead seems too big. On those days, we get to remember we have

something better for energy than caffeine and sugar. We have something better for empowering than kicking and commanding, even better than grumbling and nagging. For our tired days, for our big days - we have the Spirit of Christ. And he is alive in you! Amen.

June 4 & 5, 2022

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we celebrate Pentecost Sunday and the work of the Holy Spirit. Keeping his promise, Jesus sent and continues to bless his Church with his Holy Spirit. Today, the Spirit calls, gathers, and sanctifies us - he brings us and keeps us together with Jesus. But that's not all; the Spirit also equips and powers us to live a life of love and purpose - for the glory of God and the good of his people!

OPENING HYMN

"Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord"

Hymn 585

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord! May all your graces be outpoured
on each believer's mind and heart; your fervent love to them impart.
Lord, by the brightness of your light you gather and in faith unite
your Church from ev'ry land and tongue:
this to your praise, O Lord our God, be sung.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, holy Light, guide divine, and cause the Word of life to shine.
Teach us to know our God aright and call him Father with delight.
From ev'ry error keep us free; let none but Christ our master be
that we in living faith abide, in him, our Lord, with all our might confide.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, holy Fire, comfort true, grant us the will your work to do
and in your service to abide; let trials turn us not aside.
Lord, by your pow'r prepare each heart,
and to our weakness strength impart
that bravely here we may contend,
through life and death to you, our Lord, ascend.
Alleluia, alleluia!

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION +

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

+ PRAYER AND PRAISE +

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: **Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

HYMN

"O Lord, Our Lord"

Hymn 939

Refrain
O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Fa-ther, you crown our life

with your love. You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it;

you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your

Refrain
on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,

how glo-rious is your name in all the earth. O Son of

God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther, you came to live with us;
 you made your Fa - ther known; you washed us from our sins in
 your own blood. You are the King of glo - ry; you are the Lord!
Refrain
 O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy Spirit, God and Lord, come to us this joyful day with your sevenfold gift of grace. Rekindle in our hearts the holy fire of your love that in a true and living faith we may tell abroad the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."
 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building.

The LORD said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”


So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 51D v. 5



5 Gra - cious God, my heart re - new, make my spir - it
right and true; let me not a - ban - doned be,
let your Spir - it dwell in me; your sal - va - tion's
joy im - part, stead - fast make my will - ing heart.

SECOND READING

Acts 2:1–21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

" 'In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Antiphon for Pentecost

Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people,
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 14:23–27

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

"All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Come, O Come, Life-Giving Spirit"

Hymn 588

Come, O come, life-giving Spirit, God from all eternity!
May your power never fail us; dwell within us constantly.
Then shall truth and life and light banish all the gloom of night.

Show us, Lord, the path of blessing; when we trespass on our way,
cast, O Lord, our sins behind you and be with us day by day.
Should we stray, O Lord, recall; work repentance when we fall.

Spirit, guard our faith forever; let not Satan, death, or shame
ever part us from our Savior. Lord, our refuge is your name!
When our hearts oppose your will, let your Word prove stronger still.

And when life's frail thread is breaking, then assure us more and more,
as the heirs of life unending, of the glory there in store,
glory never yet expressed, glory of the saints at rest.

SERMON

NICENE CREED

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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

PRAYER 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; 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.

THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Individually packaged wafers are gluten-free.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

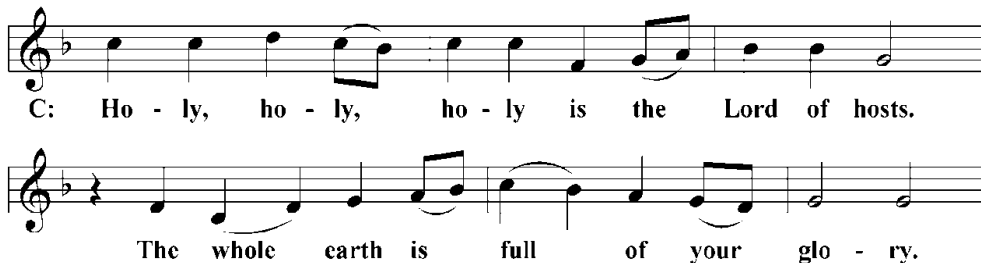
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, he empowered his Church to be witnesses of Christ to the ends of the earth.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus*



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

You are my God and I will ex - alt you.
 I will give you thanks for you have be - come my sal -
 va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
 The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei*

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest”

Hymn 586

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest, and make our hearts your place of rest;
 come with your grace and heav’nly aid,
 and fill the hearts which you have made.

To you, the Counselor, we cry, to you, the gift of God most high,
 the fount of life, the fire of love, the soul’s anointing from above.

In you, with graces sevenfold, we God’s almighty hand behold
 while you with tongues of fire proclaim to all the world his holy name.

Your light to ev’ry thought impart, and shed your love in ev’ry heart;
 the weakness of our mortal state with deathless might invigorate.

Drive far away our wily foe, and your abiding peace bestow;
 with you as our protecting guide, no evil can with us abide.

Teach us to know the Father, Son, and you, from both, as Three in One
 that we your name may ever bless and in our lives the truth confess.

Praise we the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit, with them One,
 and may the Son on us bestow the gifts that from the Spirit flow!

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Hymn 617

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav’nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING

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