

***Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Arvada, Colorado***

Family Devotion in Absence

***The Day of Pentecost - May 31, 2020
Lutheran Service Book (LSB)***

OPENING HYMN *LSB 498 “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest”*

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

INTROIT *Psalm 68:1, 3, 4a, 4c, 11a, 33b, 35a; Liturgical Text*

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world. Alleluia.

The righteous shall be glad.

They shall exult before God;

they shall be jubilant with joy! Alleluia.

God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered;

and those who hate him shall flee before him!

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;

exult before him!

The Lord gives the word;

behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

Awesome is God from his sanctuary;

the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

OLD TESTAMENT *Genesis 11:1-9*

¹ Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ 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. ⁴ 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.”⁵ And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built.⁶ 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.⁷ Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.”⁸ So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.⁹ 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. (ESV)

GRADUAL *Acts 2:17b; Romans 10:10*

I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.
With the heart one believes and is justified,
and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

EPISTLE *Acts 2:1-21*

¹ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?⁹ Parthians and Medes and 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,¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”¹³ But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”¹⁴ 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.¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷“‘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;¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’” (ESV)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 14:23-31*

²³ 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.²⁴ 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.²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.²⁶ 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. ²⁷Peace 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. ²⁸You 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. ²⁹And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹but 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. (ESV)

SERMON HYMN LSB 500 "Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid"

SERMON

The most damaging of all the effects that sin has on human life is that sin turns people away from God. The original sin of unbelief that Adam and Eve committed didn't just cause death within them; it turned them from God. They no longer had their lives focused on and directed toward God, but on themselves. After the fall into sin, Adam and Eve certainly feared God, but they did not love him and trust in him. They had turned in their hearts and lives away from God and in on themselves. There is an example of this in the Old Testament reading for today. The people 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*..." They didn't concern themselves with God and his will, but only their own sinful desires. They did not trust in God to lift them up; instead, they were building a tower to exalt themselves to the heavens and make a name for themselves. This displeased God, and he punished them. "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 [us, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] 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." The result of their unified self-centered actions was that God separated them and confused their language, hindering them from continuing to collectively turn toward themselves as they remained turned away from God.

But that is not God's ultimate action upon humanity. The Lord desires that people would be united in their lives together with one another and toward him. And that is partly what Pentecost is about! At Babel, God punished the people with confusion and separation. At Pentecost, God blessed people with the good news of Christ's death to atone for their sins and his resurrection and ascension for the hope of a new and eternal life. He blessed the Apostles by pouring out his Holy Spirit upon them to enable them to speak the Gospel in the languages of other people. Then, he poured out his Holy Spirit on those who heard the Word of God in their own languages. God did not take away his punishment first imposed at Babel, but in his grace and mercy he proclaimed their salvation in Christ through their native tongue and unified them in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel. The Lord had mercy and saved us poor miserable sinners.

The Triune God did not stop on Pentecost, but he continues to pour out his Holy Spirit today. It is a "Pentecost" every time we gather in the divine service to hear the Word of God and

to receive Baptism, Absolution, and Communion. Each time you hear the Scripture readings, the sermon, and the Word in the liturgy, the Lord is pouring out his Holy Spirit upon you to encourage you, strengthen you, and turn your heart toward God. When you were Baptized, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon you to give you Spiritual birth in Christ from your Heavenly Father. Each time you receive Absolution, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon you to restore you to and strengthen you in your Baptismal life so that he continually turns you away from yourself and toward God in Christ. Every time you receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon you to draw you outside of yourself and further into Christ and unto the Father. Yes, every Sunday and every time we have the divine service, it is Pentecost all over again. And today especially, we commemorate the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the first disciples and celebrate the Lord's mercy to people from every tribe, nation, people, and language; for we too have had the Gospel preached to us in our own language whereby we have been saved from our sins and turned back toward the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER HYMN *LSB 913 "O Holy Spirit, Enter In"*

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us.

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

The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *LSB 503 “O Day Full of Grace”*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Isaiah 6:1-7; Romans 11:33-36;
John 3:1-17.

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