

Peace Lutheran

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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If you'd like to connect with Pastor Stern, please don't hesitate to give him a call/text/email at your convenience; he'd consider it a blessing to meet with you. Thanks!

Organic Word † Hybrid Worship † Local Work

The Festival of Pentecost

June 9, 2019

In the name of Jesus, who is still *God-with-us*, welcome to Peace Lutheran! Whether this is your first time with us or Peace is your church home, we're glad you're here! If you :



- . . . have questions, please ask; we'll do our best to answer;
- . . . need the restrooms, they're down the hall past the office;
- . . . brought your children; thank you (we love having them here, too!);
- . . . can stick around after worship, we'd love to get to know you;
- . . . would like to talk to Pastor, please give him a call (720.315.0910)

To worship the God of Order in a fitting and orderly way (*I Corinthians 14:33, 40*), our path of worship is printed in this booklet. Today, we rest assured in the Savior's promise, "*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you . . . Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid*" (*John 14:27*), as we consider the worship theme:

Declaring Wonders

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Opening Song: Come, Oh, Come, Life-Giving Spirit (red hymnal, 181, vv. 1 & 2)

Today's worship begins with an invitation. Hearts moved by grace and prepared for worship give thanks for the goodness and power of our God. As his presence was among the early disciples, so we too pray he be with us.

 ***Come, oh, 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 blessings;
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.*

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

The Greeting and Invocation

Jesus promises that where two or three come together in his name, there he is with his presence to bless and be with them (Mt. 18:20); that's why we call on ("invoke") his name and magnify the praise of the One, true God.

Minister : The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (†) and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

All : **And also with you!**

A Confession of our Sins

God's grace allows us to directly approach him for forgiveness. This portion of our worship service reminds us of our sinful condition, realizes that we've fallen short of God's demands, and focuses us on our need for a Savior.

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as

his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

A moment of silence to recognize our own, individual sins and our deep need for forgiveness.

Our Lord's Absolution

For the sake of the Son, the Father has forgiven all our sins! It's the pastor's joy to proclaim and assure you that you have been set free ("absolved" or "acquitted") from all of your sins and from all of your guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Amen!

In peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord:



Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

Your Word, O Lord, is eternal;

It stands firm in the heavens.

Your faithfulness continues forever.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Our Prayer in the Joy of Forgiveness

This confident petition, known as the Prayer of the Day, rejoices in our good and gracious King and in all that he has so wondrously done as it pulls our hearts and minds to his throne of grace and asks for his blessing.

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 faith and with a 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!

After this prayer, the children are invited forward for a devotion geared toward their hearts (any 'non-kids' are welcome to listen in & pay attention to the lesson, too!).

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

A Reading from Genesis 11:1-9 (this translation is the NIV84)

Stark rebellion. God gave a command; sinful mankind disobeyed. God expressed his will; sinful people exalted their own. So, in love, God intervened. Graciously he confused their language for the sake of their spiritual lives.

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ² As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

³ They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴ 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 and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.**"

Point to Ponder:

It's always important we see God's heart of concern & care in all of his activity. How is that heart on vibrant display here?

⁵ But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the men were building. ⁶ 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. ⁷ Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”

⁸ **So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.** ⁹ 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.

This is God’s Word.

Sung Response : Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest (red hymnal, 177, vv. 1, 5)

The simple verses of this gentle prayer ask the Holy Spirit to bless our hearts and to dwell in our hearts that we might enjoy the peace he alone gives and that we might be confident and refreshed in the grace that comes from him.



***Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest
And make our hearts your place of rest;
Come with your grace and heavn’ly aid,
And fill the hearts which you have made.***

***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.***

A Reading from John 15:26, 27 (this translation is the NIV84)

Jesus was about to carry out his sacrifice for the sins of the world; but even as he talks of his departure from his disciples, he instills in them a promise: in divine grace and tender love, he would send his Spirit to be with them.

The Gospel according to John chapter 15.

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father – the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father – he will testify about me. ²⁷ **And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.**

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Point to Ponder:

Stunning through they are, the Savior's words are both offensive and opulent.

How so?

Sung Response : O Holy Spirit, Enter In (red hymnal, 184, v. 1)

As promised, the Savior sent his Spirit on Pentecost to his disciples gathered in Jerusalem. Beautiful grace! This sung petition adore that reality and simply asks that the Spirit would dwell in us as he did in disciples long ago.



***O Holy Spirit, enter in
And in our hearts your work begin,
Your dwelling place now make us.
Sun of the soul, O Light divine,
Around and in us brightly shine,
To joy and gladness wake us.
That we, May be, Truly living,
To you giving, prayer unceasing.
And in love be still increasing.***

A Reading from Acts 2:1-12 (this translation is the NIV84)

As promised, the Savior sent his Spirit on Pentecost to his disciples gathered in Jerusalem. Beautiful grace! Just as magnificent, though, is that which he enabled them to proclaim in different tongues : the wonders of God!

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² **Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.**

³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now they were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: **“Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?”** ⁸ **Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?** ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – **we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”** ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

Point to Ponder:

Our God never does anything “in part.” In this section identify (and delight in!) the completeness with which he works.

This is God’s Word.

Statement of Faith : The 3^d Article of the Apostles Creed & Explanation

This statement of faith (“creed”) acknowledges the work of the third Person of the Trinity – the Holy Spirit. As it does, it both worships him as God and rejoices in what he, as God, works on hearts through the Gospel.

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Sung Response : O Holy Spirit, Enter In (red hymnal, 184, v. 23)

On hearts then, and on hearts now, the Spirit worked powerfully and graciously! And he did so through the most beautiful thing : his Word. Still today, and in this stanza, we adore the “wonder” through which he works.



*Give to your Word impressive pow’r
That in our hearts from this good hour
As fire it may be glowing,
That in true Christian unity
We faithful witnesses may be,
Your glory ever showing.
Hear us, Cheer us, by your teaching;
Let our preaching and our labor
Praise you, Lord, and serve our neighbor.*

A Sermon Founded on Acts 1:1-13 (this translation is the NIV84)

As promised the Savior sent the Spirit on that Pentecost. Faithful and true! But the Spirit's work isn't limited to hearts then and Jerusalem there. Graciously, wonderfully, faithfully, he's still entirely active now today!

For the Foundational Text of today's sermon, please consider our reading from Acts chapter 1

PENTECOST : IT'S ENTIRELY EXPIRED!

WE RESPOND

Sung Response : O Holy Spirit, Enter In (red hymnal, 184, v. 3)

With a confident tone, this stanza moves from "petition and creed" which we've heard to "celebration and application" of that truth in our day-to-day lives. With the Spirit in our hearts, we live to make him known!



***O mighty Rock, O Source of life,
Let your dear Word, in doubt and strife,
In us be strongly burning
That we be faithful unto death
And live in love and holy faith,
From you true wisdom learning.
Your grace, and peace, on us shower;
By your power, Christ confessing,
Let us see our Savior's blessing.***

The Offering

Concerning the offering, the Lord says "each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7); if you're blessed to support Peace with an offering – tangibly here or electronically at peacelutheranboulder.org – thank you! As we carry on our Lord's work, whether the gospel moves your heart to offer a prayer, a gift, or an encouragement, please do know we appreciate you for it!

Our Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (sung verses: Holy Spirit, Light Divine; red hymnal, 183)

This prayer summarizes the needs and thanksgivings we've considered so far, approaches Heaven's Throne on behalf of those connected to our hearts and concludes with the prayer our Savior taught.



***Holy Spirit, Light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the gloom of night away;
Turn the darkness into day.***

A moment to offer today's prayer requests & a moment of silence to offer our own, private prayers.

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.

Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.



***Holy Spirit, Pow'r divine,
Dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down ev'ry idol throne;
Reign supreme and reign alone.***

Lord God our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth; protect and comfort us in all temptation; and bestow on us your saving peace. Hear us dear Father, as we pray in Jesus name; he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

 *See, to you, I give my heart;
Cleanse my life in ev'ry part;
Your own temple I would be
Now and for eternity.*

Concluding Prayer and Benediction

Where the LORD's name is, there his blessing also is. Again aware of his goodness, his gifts, and his grace to us, our service concludes with God's promise to be with us, to bless us, to keep us, and to give us peace (Numbers 6).

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.

*This sung response is the first stanza of the hymn,
Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit (red hymnal, 545)*

 *Send, O Lord, your Holy Spirit
On your people now we pray;
Let us all be faithful shepherds
That no lamb be led astray.
Your pure teaching to proclaim,
To adore your holy name,
And to feed your lambs, dear Savior
Make our aim and sole endeavor.*

*Dear friends, God bless your week! As it gets underway, please remember you enjoy the Spirit whose grace is here to guide you and a church-family here to petition for and encourage you!
Also, let's please remember the opportunities we have to serve him and one another in love and thanksgiving. As always, **thanks!***