

## Order of Worship for 11-14-21 8:30 AM

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you**

### Opening Hymn: “*Christ Is Our Cornerstone*” – Hymn #912

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

**C: Amen**

P: Lord God You have given us all we have. You call on us to be stewards, to take care of what you have entrusted to us—

**C: our bodies, our families, our work, our education, the world around us.**

P: But we neglect our responsibilities as stewards,

**C: we take for granted what You give to us. We abuse our bodies. We complain about what we don’t have or about how bad is Your choice in what You have given to us. We misuse so much of what You have entrusted to us.**

P: We have become like the servant who said of his master, “My master is a long time in coming,” and then abuses what the master had entrusted to him.

**C: Forgive us, Lord.**

P: Jesus Christ took on the duty of being the steward of our salvation. He faced death on the cross as payment for our lack of stewardship. By His command and by the power He gives to His people, the Church, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### Service of the Word

#### Psalm 50:9-15

P: I will not accept a bull from your house

**C: or goats from your folds.**

P: For every beast of the forest is Mine,

**C: the cattle on a thousand hills.**

P: I know all the birds of the hills,

**C: and all that moves in the field is Mine.**

P: “If I were hungry, I would not tell you,

**C: for the world and its fullness are Mine.**

P: Do I eat the flesh of bulls

**C: or drink the blood of goats?**

P: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**C: and perform your vows to the Most High,**

P: and call upon Me in the day of trouble;

**C: I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.**

**ALL: 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.**

**Hymn of Praise: “Lord of All Good” – Hymn #786**

P: The Lord be with you,

**C: and also with you.**

**Collect:**

P: Lord God, as You have given us far more than we can ask or think, give us the confidence to share those blessings freely, knowing that You supply all that we truly need and have given us eternal life in Your Son, Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Old Testament Lesson: 1 Kings 17:8–16**

R: Then the word of the LORD came to [Elijah], “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**The Holy Gospel: Mark 12:38-44**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 12th chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

P: In His teaching [Jesus] said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows’ houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.” And He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Children’s Message (8:30 AM):**

**Sermon Hymn: “O Day Full of Grace” - Hymn #503**

## **Sermon: “From Pentecost to Memorial”- Acts 2**

The introductory essay to the “1619 Project” won the Pulitzer Prize in 2020. “1619” is an attempt to reframe US based on the institution of slavery. It has certainly stirred up a lot of controversy among politicians and school boards. Whether you agree with “1619” or not, it does reflect the rethinking of history which has become so prominent since the War in Vietnam.

The word “propaganda” is historically linked to what came out of Nazi Germany or the Soviet Union. The idea is that if you keep showing claims among people, they will eventually believe it no matter how false those claims are. Claims made historically in US history are now seen as false, such as those who defended slavery or the principle of “separate, but equal” between races. Were the founding fathers just concerned with freedom and equality or were they more concerned about the loss of money to taxes? How do we justify the country’s role in the Mexican War?

In that desire to correct falsehoods many are attacking what we have believed about our faith. Besides the most well known about the six day creation are all miracles noted in the Bible. Since we do not see regular evidence of those things today, it is easy to conclude that people who were healed in the Bible had psychosomatic illnesses, that events like the Nile turning red as the first plague Moses warned about was caused by some natural event like red clay polluting the river, and Easter was just a vision seen by some people. So is the Bible outdated? Are we really wasting our time here when we could at least be sleeping in?

The story of Pentecost is usually called the starting point of the Church. We use the red color as a reminder of the power of the Holy Spirit who moved the disciples to boldly proclaim the Gospel. We read that thousands turned to Jesus after Peter’s sermon that day. Pentecost is seen as the way we need to be. If we would be “as on fire” as the disciples were that day, then people would be coming in droves to the Church.

But that misses the real impact of Pentecost. Pentecost shows us that God is the one making things happen, God is in control. Pentecost cannot be separated from what happened before it—the death and resurrection of Jesus. Peter in his sermon right away points the people to the prophecy of 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 Spirit appeared with the sound of wind, the tongues of fire on the disciples’, and with the disciples speaking in other languages, not so much to fire them up, but to fulfill the prophecy. “The signs and wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below” were seen around 50 days before when God darkened the sky, ripped the curtain of the temple, and raised dead

people from their graves on the day Jesus died. Many of the same people in Jerusalem for Pentecost had been there just 50 days earlier for Passover when Jesus died and rose.

We may have the impression that the disciples sat around in a room and cowered with fear until the Holy Spirit moved them on Pentecost. Certainly the disciples were locked up in fear on Easter night. But as Jesus appeared and taught them the Scripture in light of His resurrection, they did want to share the message. They stayed together in Jerusalem not out of fear, but because Jesus told them to wait until the Spirit came.

After Jesus ascended into heaven Luke says of the disciples, “Then they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.” The “room” that the disciples were in on Pentecost, was not some house in which they were hiding. They were in the temple where people could see them. The gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost was not so much to motivate them to share the Gospel, but to fulfill the Scripture, to show people “This is God’s doing! This is His will!”

When we hear the stories of Peter and Paul and others hearing the Gospel we can easily feel that it was great they did it, but how can we? They were these great giants of faith so fired up by the Holy Spirit. The word “Spirit” comes from the same word as “breath” or “air.” Think of a tire. It is no good if it isn’t pumped up with air. So how can we share the Gospel unless we are “pumped up” by the Holy Spirit?

But what we are missing is what the Holy Spirit was really doing on Pentecost. Pentecost is part of the whole story of salvation which began even before there was a world. It is the story of how God loved us despite our rebellion against Him and prepared the way for a Savior to come. It is how God became one of us in Jesus and lived the life we failed to live. It is how He suffered and died to take the punishment we deserve. It is how He rose on Easter to defeat death. And it is also how He fulfills His Word in the coming of the Holy Spirit who does “pump us up” with the gift of faith in Jesus. Pentecost is not gaining some special power within us, but about the certainty of God’s salvation in Christ Jesus.

That Pentecost goes on. The Holy Spirit continues to bring faith into the hearts of people. With fewer and fewer people going to church and the resulting closing of many churches it can seem as though the Holy Spirit has gone AWOL.

For years scientists believed that our universe began with a big bang. They knew from looking at the stars that the universe was expanding, but assumed that the expansion began with the big bang and continues, though it is gradually slowing down. But in recent years evidence points to the expansion accelerating, not slowing down.

From our perspective it may appear that God is “slowing down,” not having the impact on our world when more people in our culture went to church and followed what were believed to be Christian customs. But we are looking from our view, not God’s. We can look back and see how God has blessed this congregation with students who have gone on from here to bless others. But it is so hard to see what is happening now, much less in the future.

That’s where Pentecost as part of the story of salvation fits in. Jesus promised His disciples in the beginning of the book of Acts, “You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in

all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Those words come true during the course of the book. What God promises, God does. He promises that the Gospel will continue to be spread and continue to change lives until the world comes to an end. Pentecost helps us to see that, to trust that God is with us now, sending the Holy Spirit to change lives just as He has here for over 80 years.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 2:1-8

When the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples 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?”

**Hymn: “Praise and Thanksgiving” - Hymn #789**

**Stewardship Message:**

**Prayer on Stewardship:**

P: Lord God, help us to remember what Jesus saw as He was in the temple:

**C: “And Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny.” (Mark 12:41-42)**

P: Help us to remember what Jesus said about this:

**C: “And He called His disciples to Him and said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.’” (Mark 12:43-44)**

P: We have so much, but we complain about what we lack.

**C: “We do not have because we do not ask God. When we ask, we do not receive, because we ask with wrong motives, that we may spend what we get on our pleasures.” (James 4:2-3)**

P: Point us to Your overwhelming love for us in Jesus.

**C: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”** (2 Corinthians 8:9)

P; Make us see what really matters in what we think we have:

**C: “The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof.”** (Psalm 24:1)

P: “A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”  
(Proverbs 11:25)

**C: “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”** (Luke 6:38)

P: Give us that attitude of stewardship so that we follow this direction from St. Paul:

**C: “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”** (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

P: Guide us to see that You do not ask beyond our means.

**C: “For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.”** (2 Corinthians 8:12)

P: Help us to consider Paul’s final words to the Ephesians:

**C: “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”** (Acts 20:35)

(Other requests)

P: All this we ask in Jesus name.

**C: Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

**Closing Prayer:**

P: Lord God Almighty, even as You bless Your servants with various and unique gifts, continue to grant us the grace of Your Holy Spirit to use them always to Your honor and glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Blessing:** (Pastor)

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: “O God Our Help in Ages Past” – Hymn #733**