

Order of Worship for May 28, 2023 (Pentecost Sunday)

The Prelude

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

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

The Opening Sentences:

P: God spoke through His prophet Joel, “I will pour out My Spirit on all people.

C: **Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions,**

P: even on My servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

C: **I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.**

P: The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

C: **And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”**

P: Jesus promised His disciples before He ascended, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about.

C: **For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit.”**

P: We hear how this promise came true:

The Account of Pentecost: Acts 2:1-21

R: 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.’”

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Hymn of Praise: *“Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest”* – **Hymn #498 vs. 1-3, 6**

Service of the Word

Old Testament Lesson: Joel 2:28-32

R: “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out My Spirit.

“And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks Be to God.

Gradual Hymn: *“To God, the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray”* – **Hymn #768 vs.1**

The Holy Gospel: John 7:37-39

P: The Gospel According to St. John, the seventh chapter

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord:

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn: “Come Down, O Love Divine” – Hymn #501

The Sermon: “Are You Filled?” - Joel 2:28-32

I like to play badminton, but that can be hard to do here in Iowa unless you play indoors. The wind always seems to be blowing. In the past month we have had so many days when either the wind blows from the south and really warms things up or it blows from the north and cools everything down. The wind can wear us out as it beats at us. It brings tornadoes and ice storms. It creates major drifts out of an inch of snowfall. But without the wind there would be no weather—no rain, no snow, no pollination. Our land, our earth would be lifeless without wind. Wind brings life!

In the Bible the words for “spirit,” “breath,” and “wind” are interchangeable. When God created Adam, He breathed into Him. In other words the Spirit went into Adam. Job 27:3 says, “As long as I have life within me, the breath of God in my nostrils.” Life is defined as God’s breath in a person. Conversely Psalm 104:29 says, “When you take away their breath (Spirit), they die and return to the devil.” In Ezekiel’s famous vision the dry bones did not come to life until God breathed on them. A wind is what held back the waters of the Red Sea for the children of Israel to cross over on dry ground. As Psalm 18:15 says God did this, “By the breath of His mouth.” Psalm 33:6 says, “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of His nostrils.” In contrast idols were seen as breathless—lifeless. Psalm 39:5 says of us, “Each man’s life is but a breath.” James 4:14 says, “You are a mist that appears for a while and then vanishes.” The Holy Spirit, as we say in the Nicene Creed, is the “giver of life.” He is the wind, the breath, the power that brings life to you and me.

God spoke through His prophet Joel and said, “I will pour out My Spirit on all people.” That prophecy came true on Pentecost when the Spirit appeared in the sound of wind and the flames of fire over the disciples’ heads. But the prophecy comes true each time the Spirit breathes life in people through baptism and through how the Spirit comes to us in His Word and Holy Communion to strengthen and fill us. The Spirit should be with us giving us life as He did to the disciples on Pentecost. But is He? Are you and I filled? Think of a balloon. By itself it is just there, lifeless. But when we fill it with air, we can do things with it. It floats around. It can move when we release it. Are we a filled balloon or just limp?

People today talk a lot about spirituality—about being filled—filled with possibilities, filled with energy, filled with happiness and contentment. But do we have that spirituality? God spoke through Joel and said, but is that what we have experienced? Do we feel filled with that Spirit? I would like to suggest that we need to answer three things about the Holy Spirit: 1.) Why is the Holy Spirit given to us? 2.) Who is the Spirit poured on? 3.) What keeps us from being filled with the Spirit?

Why is the Holy Spirit given to us? God says in our text, “I will pour out My Spirit.” But why? So we can feel filled and feel good? If we look at the verses in Joel after our lesson for this morning, God tells us, “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”

The Spirit filled the disciples on Pentecost not to make them feel “spiritual” but to move them into action, the action of proclaiming His Gospel to the people gathered in Jerusalem for that first Pentecost. That resulted in many coming to faith, many “calling on the name of the LORD.” God gives His Spirit to us, not to make us “spiritual” or to make us feel more “spiritual”, but so that people can be saved.

Whom does the Spirit fill? When our text says, “I will pour out My Spirit on all people,” the “all people” refers to all Israel, to all God’s chosen people. God was giving all Israel the power and ability to proclaim His message. Moses had earlier expressed, “How I desire all of you to be prophets.” Today Israel (or “all people”) refers to you and me—the people of God, the followers of Jesus. The Holy Spirit fills you and me, not so we float around feeling good about how spiritual we are, but to move us into action.

But can we all prophesy? Isn’t that the pastor’s job on a Sunday morning? At a wedding a few weeks ago a young boy named Sam who was the ring bearer was patiently waiting for the wedding to start. He wrote these words which he gave to me:

Behold for the Lord has risen. He gave us plants, food, and drink, but above all
He made us and gave us His Son who died for us so we can be His people.

No, not all of us can preach or maybe even write what Sam did. But when God says “people” He is not talking about individuals. He is talking about the people of God. As a people we are filled by the Spirit into action. Look what happened to the disciples after Pentecost. They did miraculously speak in different languages, but what people really noticed for a lasting time is what they did later. We read in Acts 2, “Selling all their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of the people.” After describing that, Luke, who authored the book of Acts, wrote, “And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” The Spirit fills us not to make us feel good, but to direct us to share God’s love so that through that love God can save other people.

What keeps us from being filled by the Spirit? “I will pour out My Spirit.” That isn’t something we do. It doesn’t depend on our prayers or how devout we are. The Spirit is out and around breathing life, even if we don’t realize it. But do we stand in the way of letting the Spirit fill us?

9-year-old Sierra Ross recently moved with her family from Florida to Seattle. In her new home she picked up the phone, dialed it, and heard something strange. She called her dad over to the phone and asked him, “This noise on the phone, what is it?” Her dad listened and heard a busy signal. Sierra had never heard that before. She had heard answering machines, fax and modem noises, call waiting, multiple lines, and dial tones, but never a busy signal.

Do we have a “busy signal” in our lives? It can seem like a sin for us to admit we are too busy to do all that we want to do. We want to do everything and take care of everyone, but

does that give us the chance to say “do not disturb” and let the Spirit fill our lives? I am not talking about sitting up on a hill meditating, but do we take time besides Sunday morning for ourselves to read or hear God’s Word and pray and interact with God?

Auto experts tell us that one of the major causes of accidents and car problems is lack of tire care. Tires need to be kept inflated. It is not something that just happens. It needs to be checked regularly. We need “tire checks” again and again. That is what church, Bible study, time with Christian friends and family can do for us. Those can be opportunities for the Spirit to fill our lives and fill us for action.

The prophet Joel is giving that wonderful promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost describing the evil that was going on in his time. God would punish that evil by sending a plague of locusts. Locusts are grasshoppers on steroids. When in times of stress the grasshoppers are crowded and rub against each other they turn into “super-grasshoppers” that are much bigger, can fly long distances, and eat everything in sight. In minutes they can destroy a year of crops. But what stops them? Wind—the wind that blows them out to sea. The wind which describes the work of the Holy Spirit, the one who blows life into us.

The disciples on Pentecost were waiting as Jesus told them to do. They weren’t so involved with the concerns of this world that they didn’t have time for the Spirit. Jesus also calls us to wait, to make ourselves available for the Holy Spirit, so He can fill our lives. Are we filled? God promised, “I will pour out My Spirit.” He did on Pentecost, and He does today. The Holy Spirit comes to us now as we hear God’s Word and come to Jesus’ supper. God grant that we let Him fill us and fill us to share God’s love with the people in our lives.

The Third Article and Explanation: p. 323

Sharing Our Ministry:

Offering:

Prayers:

Service of the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C: It is good and right so to do.

Sanctus Hymn: “Holy, Holy, Holy” - Hymn #961

The Words of Our Lord:

Lord's Prayer:

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

C: Amen.

The Distribution of Holy Communion:

"Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling" – **Hymn #650**

"Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord" – **Hymn #497**

Prayer After Communion:

P: God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, as You sent upon the disciples the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, look upon Your Church and open our hearts to the power of the Spirit. Kindle in us the fire of Your love, and strengthen our lives for service in Your Kingdom; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing: (Pastor)

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: *"Holy Spirit, Light Divine"* - **Hymn #496**

The Postlude: