

May 28, 2023

DAY OF PENTECOST

## Breathe!

The disciples are scared. Might those who plotted their Lord's death come next for his followers? Surely a sweep of the city for known associates of Jesus would be the best way to crush all opposition. Days after the crucifixion, those who had been closest to Jesus are out of sight, huddled behind locked doors, frightened.

Of course, staying inside with the doors shut can get stuffy. Staying locked away anywhere can be almost suffocating after a while, especially when you are shut in because of fear. Imagining the disciples shut up in that room, you might want to ask them, "Can you breathe in there?" There, in that stuffy little room is the beginning of the Christian church, collectively holding its breath in fear. They are locked in, holed up, frightened that, at any moment, there will be a knock at the door.

Maybe that is the reason Jesus doesn't knock. He doesn't announce himself at the door and ask to be let in. He just shows up in the room where the disciples are. "Peace be with you," he says. And then he breathes on them and adds, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Jesus breathes life into his frightened little church, a church that has hardly been behaving like a church at all, bolting the doors and preoccupied with its own survival. Jesus breathes life--his new, restored life--into the disciples. With his Holy Spirit, the disciples receive the commission of Christ himself: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

The Holy Spirit gives disciples of every age both the comfort we need and the strength we need to *open the doors*. Out we go, sent into the very world loved by God so much that God sent Jesus, the Beloved, into it, that all who believe in him might have no reason any longer to lock themselves away, or to fear for their own survival.

First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Church Musician

Cheri Sergeant, Bell Choir, Director

Jennifer Hess, Office Manager

Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

May 28, 2023 - 9:00 am

**May 28, 2023**

**Day of Pentecost**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! Through the Summer months we offer on service. Holy Communion will be celebrated every Sunday throughout the Summer.

9:00 am

Worship

**LIVESTREAM AND RECORDED WORSHIP:** We livestream the service on our church website at [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com). Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website

**SMILE! YOUR ON CAMERA:** Please remember you may be on camera during the livestream and the recording of the service.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Please remember to silence your cell phone before church begins. Thanks!

**Sunday School & Catechism** are dismissed for the summer.

**Nursery** is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

**Restrooms** are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

**Flowers:** If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the lounge. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

**Memorials:** If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office.

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## God Gives More than Enough

It is the “first day of the week” (John 20:19), the day of the new creation, but to those locked away in the upper room in fear, the world is as it always has been. So entrenched are they in the ways of grief and guilt that the Risen One in their midst needs to offer his life-giving invitation twice: “Peace be with you.” The logic of the new age is peace, not retribution; forgiveness, not vengeance. With the invitation to new life comes also the means: the gift of the Holy Spirit, breathed upon them and within them. Just as the Father sent Jesus into the world, so now are these disciples sent as witnesses to God’s saving work.



Pentecost is therefore the crowning achievement of the Jesus story. Now, more than ever, these huddled disciples would have just cause to sing “It would have been enough” verses from the Passover seder meal, but revised:

- ◆ It would have been enough for the Word and wisdom of God to have been born in the flesh.
- ◆ It would have been enough for the Word to grow to adulthood and share his stunning parables about God’s gracious activity in the world.
- ◆ It would have been enough for this Word to say to his enemies, “Father, forgive them”.
- ◆ It would have been enough for this Word to have died on a cross for us.
- ◆ It would have been enough that he rose again in blessing, not vengeance.

But now, beyond what we would even expect—the Word becomes our word and it is written on our hearts at Pentecost. It is enough, and more than enough to enflame our ministry of reconciliation in a world in need of a healing word.

The work of the Spirit is often sidelined in the work of church committees, to the detriment of congregational life, says Martha Grace Reese in *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism* (St. Louis: Chalice). In one of her stories (pp. 43–45), the newly formed evangelism committee at Benton Street Church was encouraged to spend three months in prayer before taking any action. The intentional pause was not welcomed at first by the eager members, but afterwards they “leapt out of the gate like Preakness [horse race] winners,” organizing fifty new members in their evangelism efforts. While your congregation might respond differently, the Benton Street experience describes what can happen when, “nudged by the Spirit,” congregants find themselves “living into answered prayer.”

## ORDER OF WORSHIP—9:00 am

Prelude

Dr. Pattin

Ringling of the Bell (Please Stand)

Opening Hymn “Spirit of Gentleness”

No.393

### Confession and Forgiveness

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share the peace of the Lord.

## Passing of the Peace

The congregation may greet one another by shaking hands, fist bumping, or any other form of greeting with the words, **“Peace be with you.”**

We conclude the sharing of the peace by singing:

“Lord I Lift Your Name on High” No. 857

**“Lord I lift your name on high;  
Lord I love to sing your praises,  
I’m so glad you’re in my life,  
I’m so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth to show the way.  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord, I lift your name on high.”**

## Prayer of the Day

P: O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

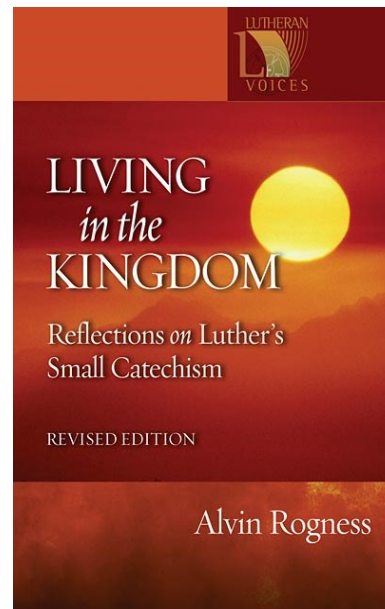
## Announcements

### Introduction

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God’s presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God’s presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God’s redeeming love to all the world.

### **FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21**

*Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the*



## COMING IN JUNE

A very special Bible study will be presented each Sunday **starting on June 4th.**, following the worship service at 10:30 am.

Join Pastor Rayl as together we discuss how the teachings of the Bible and the church help us meet the often perplexing problems of life? The book, “Living in the Kingdom” will be our resource (cost \$14.99 from Augsburg Fortress Press, also available for Kindle from Amazon).

Morning type refreshments will be served, (bagels, donuts, rolls, coffee, juice, etc.) Watch for details in the newsletter and future bulletin announcements.

This will be a great opportunity to grow and strengthen your faith and spiritual life, while having some of your big and small questions of faith addressed and hopefully answered.

(Interested in membership at First St. John Lutheran? This is your pathway.)

Here is a selection for the first chapter from the book.

*“You are a remarkable person, because God enrolls you in the greatest family on earth, the holy Christian church. In this great company God comforts you, guides you, and strengthens you. When death is done with you, god puts you on your feet again in another and more wonderful part of his vast empire. You belong to God, as a daughter or son,. God wants you forever.”*





**LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR**  
**GRADUATE RECOGNITION**  
**SUNDAY**  
**June 11, 2023**



We will publicly acknowledge all our graduates from high school and college at our worship service on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Please plan on having your graduate attend this service as all graduates will be recognized. If you know of a graduate, please complete this form and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or fax this page to 419-691-7220 by Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

NAME OF GRADUATE \_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATED FROM \_\_\_\_\_

DEGREE EARNED \_\_\_\_\_

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

YES, WE PLAN TO BE AT THE SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

*gathered and astonished people gathered in Jerusalem for the festival. Being filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.*

When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs--in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

<sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

*Send forth your spirit and renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 104:30)*

24How manifold are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures

**25Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many  
to number, living things both small and great.**

26There go the ships to and fro,

and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

**27All of them look to you  
to give them their food in due season.**

28You give it to them; they gather it;

you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

**9When you hide your face, they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their  
dust.**

0You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;

and so you renew the face of the earth.

**31May the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
O Lord, rejoice in all your works.**

2You look at the earth and it trembles;

you touch the mountains and they smoke.

**33I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will praise my God while I have my being.**

4May these words of mine please God.

I will rejoice in the Lord.

**5bBless the Lord, O my soul.  
Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

*Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good*

<sup>3b</sup>No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation

*(After all have received communion, please stand.)*

P: Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have  
our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have  
nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show our love and  
serve the world in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

## Blessing

P: The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by  
the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation..

**C: Amen.**

## Memorial Day Observation

### Closing Hymn

*"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"*

No.888

### Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

Dr. Pattin

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## ***PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE***

### ELDERS

Dick Haar, Darold Henninger

### READER

Bob Haar

### SOUND BOARD

Beth Hugueley

### ACOLYTES

Kimberly Donley

Vanessa Miller

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: To you, O God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**The Lord's Prayer** (*prayed by all*)

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.

**Invitation to Communion**

P: Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

**C: We come at our Lord's command.**

**The Communion** (*distribution will be continuous*)

*"All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's table."*

*Infant children and others who have not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing; please make an X with your arms across your chest if you are not receiving the bread and wine."*

*If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.*

of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

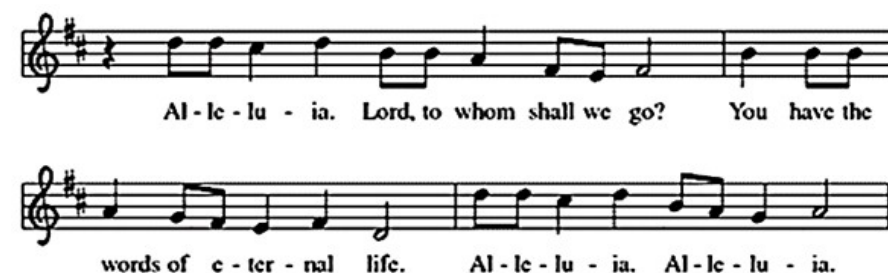
<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

(*Please stand*)

**Gospel Acclamation**



**Gospel Announcement**

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 20.

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

**GOSPEL: John 20:19-23**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

**Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

### Sermon Hymn

*"Spirit or Gentleness"*

Pastor Rayl

No. 396

*(Please stand)*

### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: Hear us O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*(Please be seated)*

### The Offering

### Offertory Music

Dr. Anthony Pattin

### Offering Prayer

P: Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

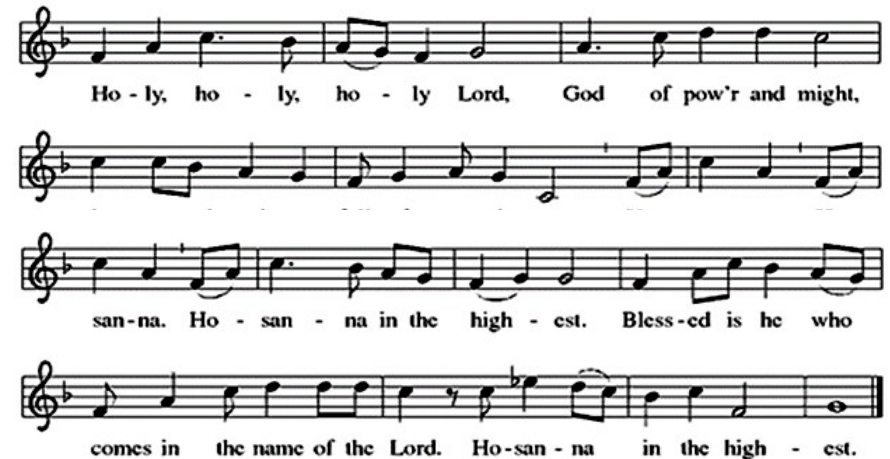
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

P: And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: