

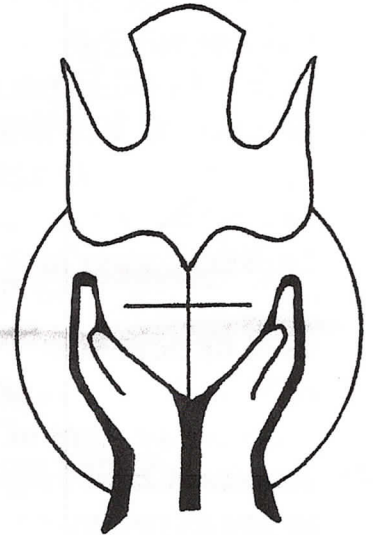
# SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN ~ STUTTGART, ARKANSAS

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

MAY 23, 2021



WELCOME



**SOLO:** "HOLY SPIRIT"

## INVOCATION & CALL TO WORSHIP

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

**C:** Amen. Alleluia!

**P:** On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and proclaimed in a loud voice, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.'

**C:** As the Scripture says, 'Streams of living water will flow from within Him.'

**P:** By this Jesus meant the Spirit, whom those who believe in Him were to receive. (*John 7:37-39*)

**C:** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful people and kindle in us the fire of Your love.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P:** It was on the day of Pentecost that, as Jesus had promised, the Holy Spirit was poured out on His disciples, enabling them to spread God's Word. In his explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, Luther wrote, "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength 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." Because the Holy Spirit has worked that faith in our hearts, we know that if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (*1 John 1:9*). Most gracious heavenly Father,

**C: we come to You in all humility, confessing that we have sinned against You and against our neighbor. Too often we have thought that we have courageously reached up to You, when in reality You have sent Your Holy Spirit down into our hearts. For the sake of Your Son, forgive our pride and all those things we have thought, said, or done that were contrary to Your will. Enkindle in us the fire of Your love so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P: Rejoice! Christ's righteousness, His obeying the Law of God, is credited to you as you are declared righteous in His sight. Faith given by God, rejoices in Christ's work on our behalf. "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (*Ephesians 2:8*). Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I joyfully forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

**C: Amen.**

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**



**(CATECHESIS: LUTHER'S EXPLANATION OF THE THIRD ARTICLE**

**P:** What does it mean that you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C:** I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength 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 richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day He will raise up me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

**HYMN OF PRAISE** "FROM ALL THAT DWELL BELOW THE SKIES".....#816

**(COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us pray: O Lord, our God, on the day of Pentecost 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.

**C:** Amen.

**O.T. READING** EZEKIEL 37:1-14 (*The Lord breathes life into our dead and dry bones.*)

**R:** This is the Word of the Lord!

**C:** Thanks be to God!

**N.T. READING** ACTS 2:1-21 (*The Holy Spirit enables the disciples to spread the Word.*)

**R:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**PRAYER FOR THE PREACHING, HEARING AND LIVING OF GOD'S WORD**

**BELL (CHOIR & SOLOIST "TO GOD BE THE GLORY")**

**HOLY GOSPEL** JOHN 15:26-27, 16:4B-15 (*Jesus tells us of the work of the Holy Spirit.*)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

**(CHILDREN'S MESSAGE BOX)**

**Hymn** "COME, HOLY GHOST, GOD AND LORD" ..... #497

**SERMON**

**OFFERING OF OUR FIRSTFRUITS**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

P: 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 in favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

**Hymn** "HOLY SPIRIT, LIGHT DIVINE" ..... #496