

From Babel to Pentecost: Turning Outward Toward God

Bible References: Genesis 11:19, Psalm 104:25-35, Acts 2:1-21, John 14:8-17

No, no, I just freaked out.

Hallelujah, Christ has risen. There is one body and one Spirit. One Lord, one faith, one baptism. The Lord be with you. Let us pray.

Almighty God, on this day, you open the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit. Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the gospel that it may reach to the ends of the earth. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

A reading from the Book of Genesis. Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly.

And they had brick for stone and by two men for mortar. Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city in a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves. Otherwise, we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. And the Lord said, "Look, they are one people and they have all one language.

And this is the only beginning of what they will do. Nothing that they propose to do will be now impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language there so that they will not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore, it was called Babel because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth.

And from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth. The Word of the Lord.

In wisdom you have made them all, The earth is full of your creatures.

God there is a great and white sea, With its living things too many to number. Wish you had made for us for it, All of them look to you to give them their food.

You hide your face and they are terrified. You take away their breath and they die and return to the past. You send forth your spirit and they are created.

May the glory of the Lord forever. May the Lord rejoice in all His words. He touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

I will praise my God. I will rejoice in the Lord. Bless the Lord my soul. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

"When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. 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. Divided tongues as a fire appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound, the crowd gathered and was bewildered because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking, Galileans? And how is it that we hear each of us in our own native language?

Parthians, Medes, 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 Arabs, and our own languages, we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." 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. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel. "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. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days, I will pour out my spirit and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portance in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. The Word of the Lord.

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfying." Jesus said to Him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me?

Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father, you do not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. But if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do, and in fact, will do greater works than these because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. And if in My name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

If you love me, you will keep My commandments, and I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him because He abides with you, and He will be in you. The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

And then come stand over here, right over here. There you go. All right, now go. They are weak but he.

Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so. Let us pray. Heavenly Father, thank you. They do return sometimes if you don't kind of usher them along. Come right back to the seat. Poor moms.

Father, thank you so much for the gift of your church and especially our children as we're celebrating seven baptisms today. These families bringing before you, their children, not only to be dedicated to you, but also to claim the promises that you have made for salvation and for the gift of your Holy Spirit and forgiveness of sins in the name of your Son Jesus Christ.

Indeed, you said through the prophet Joel, and it was in our Acts passage as well, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." So we ask, and we call upon Your name, Lord Jesus Christ, and we ask that You would fill us with Your Holy Spirit today and empower us to be Your witnesses in this world. And we bless you and thank You in Jesus' name. Amen. So, I was a member of the YMCA in Lake Mary, Florida.

I know some of you have heard this story before, but I only have like ten good stories, so sorry about that. But I was a member of the YMCA, and you know the YMCA, what the C stands for, right? No? Christian, YMCA, Young Men's Christian Association. So, one of the battles that takes place because our world has become so secularized, which means godless, where we've basically taken God out of everything.

One of the things that's a battle that happens is in the YMCAs across the country where there are people that want to see the sea become more emphasized and others that are trying to diminish it. And that was happening in the club in Lake Mary back when I was a younger person. And so, there was a trainer there

who they just got this new computerized system where you could put all your workouts and keep track of everything that you were doing.

And the trainers could put little messages to you when you had filled in your stuff. And so, one time I was putting in my workouts and tracking things, and all of a sudden, this Bible verse pops up that is the one that was from Acts chapter 2. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." And I thought, "Wow, isn't this great that we have a YMCA that puts an emphasis on the sea?" And I was so excited to see that that had happened.

And then I heard later that one of the members complained that she felt like she was being proselytized as this was a Jewish person, a Jewish member, she was being proselytized in the Christian faith by the members of the Y, and she complained to the director. And rather the director saying, "Well, you know it is a YMCA." He didn't do that.

Instead, what he did was he dismissed the employee. And I was so disappointed with that. And here's the irony of that. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved is actually from the Jewish Scriptures. That's an Old Testament passage that was being quoted by Peter on a New Testament day.

It was a New Covenant Day, but it was an Old Covenant, and it was a Jewish prophecy, actually, about the coming of the Holy Spirit and the Messiah, and the promise that if we will just turn back to Jesus and to, in that case, turn to the Lord is what the passage says. Everyone who calls in the name of the Lord will be saved. If we will turn to the Lord, we will find salvation as a people.

And this fundamentally is the problem with humanity. We read in our Old Testament reading about a very famous story. It's the Tower of Babel. If you want to know what the Tower of Babel looks like, it looks a lot like the European Union building. It's kind of they actually well, it looks like the Bruegel painting of the Tower of Babel made into the European Union building.

But the Tower of Babel was this moment where humanity seemingly was coming together. And as you read the story at first, you think, "Wow, this is actually a good thing." You know, a lot of the things that we hold as values of people coming together in a big humanistic enterprise to not be scattered apart from one another, but be united with one another.

And they are using some of the latest and greatest technological inventions. If it was in our day, they would be using AI and drones and these kind of things. But back then, the latest and greatest technology was instead of using stone and mortar, they were using clay to make bricks and bitumen, and that technological innovation made it possible for them to make cities in a much more safe and profound way.

And so, so far, so good. Everything sounds great. Humanity coming together, working together with one another, using the latest and greatest technology. But then you come to this line in the story of the Tower of Babel, and you see that this is a purely humanistic enterprise that is aimed at cutting God out of the equation.

And what they want to do is, and this is their words, "make a name for ourselves, to make a name for ourselves." Now, just contrast that phrase, we want to come together to make a name for ourselves with everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. And this is the fundamental contrast and battle that has been taking place among humanity ever since the first days of humanity.

The way St. Augustine put it is he described that there are two cities that are manifesting themselves in the world. One is represented actually by the city of Babel and Babylon, and those are the city names that we use in the Bible for the city of man is the way that Augustine called it. And then there's the city of God, which often is represented as the holy city in the Bible as Jerusalem.

And so the city of man and the city of God are actually at cross purposes with one another. The city of man and the city of God are both about loves and the manifestation of love, but the city of man is all about love of self, and it's a self-centered pursuit of humanity. It's based on ego and pride and ambition and so on.

Whereas the city of God is all about the love of God and the building up of His glory and His name and His ways. And what Augustine argues, and this is argued by lots of theologians down through the church

history, Martin Luther is one that built on a lot of Augustine's thinking, is that this building of a self-centered city or making it all about ourselves, all it really does is distort humanity.

He used a Latin phrase, "Incurvatus and say," it's kind of a fun thing to say if you want to say it with me. Incurvatus and say, yeah. And what it means is that our souls are curving in on themselves.

It's a turn to self in curvatus and say, "We're taking a curve into self." And listen to what Martin Luther, the famous Protestant reformer, says about this. "Our nature by the corruption of the first sin being so deeply curved in on itself that it not only bends the best gifts of God towards itself and enjoys them as is plain in the works of righteousness and hypocrites, rather even uses God Himself in order to obtain these gifts.

And it also fails to realize that it is so wickedly, curvedly, and viciously seeks all things, even God, for its own sake. I mean, just look at the history of the last century, which was one of the most violent and the most destructive of all time, but also one of the most humanistic of centuries.

I mean, that's when the United Nations was formed, and all of these amazing institutions of humanity, in a sense, coming together, World Trade Organizations and World Health Organizations, and all of these things, you see the corruption of humanity, as it also comes with the most violent of wars that the world has ever seen, World War I and World War II.

The innovations of humanity during this time that can be used for tremendous goods, such as nuclear power, is used to destroy entire cities of people. And then the technologies that bring us even to the ability to manipulate viruses and things, and now there's a question of whether that was actually our tinkering that resulted in COVID-19.

I mean, we are such a mixed bag, aren't we, as human beings, capable of such great heights, and yet in our arrogance and in our pride, when we try to make a name for ourselves, we actually become quite beastly and animalistic. And so, the day of Pentecost is the day when the Lord reverses all of that.

And we heard the people speaking in other languages. That was what happened on the day of Babylon. God said, "I'm not going to let humanity come together to make a name for themselves, so we're going to mix up the languages and scatter them across the face of the earth." The day of Pentecost, everybody comes into the city of Jerusalem, all speaking these various languages. And there these men from Galilee that were the followers of Jesus are all praising God.

They're making a name for God, it's what it says in our passage today. And as they're speaking, probably in Aramaic, everybody that's there from all over the world has this miraculous understanding of what they're saying. It's like the Holy Spirit translated across those different languages. I don't know how many different languages we just heard, but it sounds crazy, doesn't it?

I mean, I was standing right in the middle, and they're all speaking right to the back of my head there and I'm like, "This sounds so weird." I don't know if any of y'all felt like that, but like, when people speak all the different languages of the world, it sounds crazy. And that's intentional by God to confuse us so that the only way that we truly can come together and unite is in a common praise of His name and His name alone.

And so, on the day of Pentecost, when God pours out the Holy Spirit upon the people of that day, and in that moment, all of a sudden there's this miraculous translation of the languages where they can all understand each other because they're all not making a name for themselves, but they're making a name for Jesus and making a name for the Lord. And this is the call, actually, that comes down to us today on this day of Pentecost.

See, the Lord's still been doing that. He's been renewing the face of the earth ever since then. He's been bringing about the city of God in the midst of the city of man to our day. Or I love the words of Hans Irv on Balthasar, which is just a fun name to say, but he says, "It's the difference between the ego drama and the theodrama." The City of Man is all about our play and making a production about ourselves, whereas the City of God is about the Theodrama and tapping into God's grand story and allowing that story to be what informs and shapes our lives.

And one of the most exciting things about the Theodrama is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. And on that day when it happened and people were just wowed by it, one of the questions that came up from the crowd was, "What should we do? What should we do?" And Peter gives a sermon and he says, "I'll tell you what to do.

What you need to do is repent." And what that means is where you have been curving in on yourself, that incurvaceous day and say, you need to turn out of yourself. You need to turn away from self and turn towards the Lord.

Come out of yourself and call upon His name and stop calling upon your own name. That's repentance. It means to turn. And it means to turn outward, not inward. And then He says, "And be baptized every one of you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." And what he means by that is not just the water baptism which we're going to be doing today, but a spiritual baptism where the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon His people and immersing us in the power and presence of God.

And he says, "If you will do these two things, if you will turn out of yourself to the Lord Jesus Christ and be baptized in His name, you will receive the forgiveness of your sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit of the living God." And then he says these amazing words.

He says, "The promise is for you, and it's for your children, and it's for your children's children, and all who are far off whom the Lord our God will call." You know, here we are celebrating Pentecost Day a couple thousand years later, but the Lord is still doing what He promised back then, that those who will turn to Him and to call upon His name and be baptized will receive the forgiveness of their sins and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

And that's not just for these families who are baptizing their children today, but as Peter said, that promise is for you, for you who are sitting here, for you who are watching online, for you who are hearing the message of the gospel. The promise of forgiveness and the Holy Spirit is for you if you will be filled with the Spirit of the living God and turn out of self towards Jesus. And so I want to invite us to do that very thing.

And many of you have probably already been water baptized, but being filled and immersed in the Spirit of the living God is something that we can do at any time in our life, and multiple times throughout our life. But we need to ask continually for the Lord to give us that gift of His Holy Spirit. And this is the gift of Pentecost Day, the gift of the Spirit of the living God, which will renew the face of this earth.

As He turns us out for Himself, He will then empower us with His Spirit to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth and reverse the curse of Babel. So let me pray for us, and I want to just teach a very simple prayer of repentance and calling on the name of the Lord and asking to be filled with the Spirit. So let us pray. Heavenly Father, we do turn to You. We want to renounce self.

This world puts a lot of emphasis on pride and pride of self. We celebrate pride in our day, but we want to be a people of humility who don't lift up our arrogance and our egos to you, but we want to be filled with your presence and glorify your name. So, we renounce self and we call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And in your own words, you may just want to do that for yourself. I call upon you, Lord Jesus. I renounce self. And then just a simple prayer, but Lord, fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Lord, fill me with Your Holy Spirit. The Lord promises that anybody who knocks on the door, He will answer.

Anyone who seeks will find anyone who asks. It will be given to Him. The Lord is like a good Father. Lord, you are such a good Father that you will never give any bad gifts to your people. You will always give to your children good gifts and that anyone who asks will be given the gift of the Holy Spirit of the living God. And I pray that you would pour out your Holy Spirit on your church and through your church renew the face of this planet and bring about the city of God, even in the midst of the city of man.

We bless you in Jesus' name. Amen. All right, we're going to sing a gathering song and then we're going to have the families come up here.

Holy baptism will now be presented. I'm going to start down here and-- to perceive the sacrament of baptism. I present Charlotte Elizabeth to receive the sacrament of baptism.

Baptism. I think we have one more, don't we? Edward Hicks received the sacrament of baptism. So cute. So this is addressed to all of you as godparents and parents.

Will you be responsible for seeing let me ask y'all to be seated just so you can see everything. Sorry about that. Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith in life? Will you, by your prayers and witness, help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ? And then we have three renunciations of the unholy trinity and then three affirmations.

Do you renounce Satan in all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God? Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God? Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God? And here's the turn. Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept Him as your Savior? Do you put your whole trust in His grace and love?

Do you promise to follow and obey Him as your Lord? Are y'all sneaking up on me? Come on down. Come on down. Sit right here. Yeah, just right there. Come on down, come see. So this is going to be asked of the entire congregation. We're on page 303 at the bottom of the Book of Common Prayer. "Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

We will. Then let us all confess our faith and join in the renewal of our baptismal covenants. Do you believe in God the Father? I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God? I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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. Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? 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.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and the fellowship and the breaking of bread and in the prayers? I will with God's help. Will you persevere in resisting evil? And whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord. I will with God's help. Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ? Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being? Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the sacrament of new birth. Lord, hear our prayer. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, hear our prayer. Keep them in faith and communion of Your Holy Church. Lord, hear our prayer. Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit. Lord, hear our prayer. Send them into the world and witness to your love. Lord, hear our prayer. Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory. Lord, hear our prayer.

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, Your Son, may live in the power of His resurrection and look for Him to come again in glory, who lives and reigns now and forever. Amen. Okay.

The Lord be with you and also with you. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give Him thanks to praise. It's like living water, like a fountain.

Do you remember your baptism, any of y'all? No? Here. It's like this. Did you get some? That's what it was like. We thank You, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it, the Holy Spirit moved at the beginning of creation. Through which you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise.

In it, Your Son, Jesus, received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah of the Christ to lead us through His death and resurrection from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We

thank You, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in His death. By it we share in His resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to Your Son, we bring into His fellowship those who come to Him in faith, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray You, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that those who are here cleansed from sin and born again may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To Him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory now and forever. Amen. Okay. I'm going to have you. Yeah, that's good. And name this one. Charlotte Elizabeth.

Charlotte Elizabeth. Hey, Charlotte Elizabeth. I know. It's okay. It's okay. Charlotte Elizabeth, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. There we go. Thank you. Yeah. Here, come up here. Here, let me seal. Charlotte Elizabeth, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own forever.

We'll just leave that off. I'm going to get this one next. All right. How are you? Hi, it's okay. Soraiah Grace, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son. I know, and the Holy Spirit. Oh man, that's okay. It's okay.

Sarah Grace, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism, and marked as Christ's own forever. Aww. It's the mean priest. Do you want to come over here? Here you go. It's OK. Here, maybe mom will hold. OK. We'll let you hold this one. All right. What's your name? Tell me. Sophie Jana Lee.

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Sophie, Jenna Lee, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. Amen. Amen. My record's not too good today. Name this one. John Douglas. John Douglas. John Douglas, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. John Douglas, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. Amen. And what is this? Eleanor Louise. All right, Eleanor Louise. Hi there. Eleanor Louise, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. You want to see what's in there, huh?

Okay. Yes, she does like the water. Eleanor, Louise, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. That's right. Edward Hicks. Okay, come here, buddy. Edward Hicks, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Edward, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. All right. Beau Broughton, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Bo, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. All right. Good job. Is that it? No more? Okay. No walk-ups, that's right. Any of y'all? We're good? Okay. Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank You that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these Your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, and Your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen. Please stand. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We receive you and to the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim His resurrection, and share with us in His eternal priesthood. The peace of the Lord be always with you. Peace, good job, yeah. Oh, well done, yeah. Let me, can I take Beau and show him off?

Yeah. Hey, let's show these babies off down the, let's show them off down the aisle. Yeah. Yeah, okay, okay. Come on, Bo. Here we go. Say hi. Hey, hi there. There's Beau.

All right. So cute. All right. Thank you. Well, welcome, everyone. Please be seated and welcome to those who are visiting today.

If this is your first time at St. Mark's, we're very blessed to have you. If you're looking for a new church home, we would love to be that for you. Also, welcome to those who are watching online, and that's one of

the great modern technologies that actually can be used for good and for the Lord is the live streaming. So, we're very grateful to be able to do that for those traveling or shut-ins or watching from other parts of the world. We actually have a lady that watches our church service every Sunday in Scotland, which is kind of cool.

So, hey, Lynn, nice to see you. So, in your bulletin, you'll see these little flyers. One of the things that, you know, baptism is not the end of your relationship with the church, but the beginning. And one of the things that we want to do is continue to support and help you raise your children in the Christian faith in life. And so, we want to offer different programs and ways to do that.

So, our Children's Sunday School, and the nurseries, and all the different programs, vacation, Bible school. One of the things that we're doing this summer is a new initiative called Family Flicks and Parenting Fixes. You'll see information about that in the bulletin, but it's going to be a series of movies where you can watch a movie as a family, and then on the Sunday morning, we're going to have a Christian psychologist come and share ways in which, as parents, you can talk about the meaning and significance of a movie with your children.

And so, all movies are teachable moments where we can talk about the faith and so on. And so we're just going to kind of empower as parents and have some good discussions. So you watch the movie one night, and then you come on Sunday morning. It's a shameless ploy also to get you to come to church. If you want the backstory of the movie, and you got to come to church. So I do hope you'll engage with that. Also, the Steen Hatchy trip is a great family event.

That's coming up July 5th, so please sign up for that if you're interested. And then on lots of things going on with our youth program, every Sunday morning they meet at 10 o'clock in the breakfast and have breakfast together and talk. And also all through the summer, different parishioners are making breakfast. So this morning was fantastic. I mean, we had these casseroles and this French toast thing, and man, it was good. So you missed out if you didn't come for breakfast.

So every Sunday, great breakfast. So that's probably enough announcements. Every Sunday we do an altar call called Communion. And this is a fantastic place every single week to come before the throne of grace, the Lord, and ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit. It's a place to, you know, if you find yourself struggling turning to self and the despair of that and the challenges that come when we turn in, here's where you can turn out every single week.

And so as you come before the throne of grace today, I just, again, want to invite you on this Pentecost day, that simple prayer. As you put your hands out, you might just say, "Lord, fill me with your Spirit and allow the Lord to renew you in His communion.

Walk in love as Christ loved us as He gave Himself up for us in offering and sacrifice to God."

In Salem Street was gathered, a crowd from all in their tongues did the gospel understand of the sun.

The curse of the Spirit Sow to the blessed three in one

Christmas spirit.

The Lord be with you. Lift up your hearts. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of His true promise the Holy Spirit came down on this day from heaven, lighting upon the disciples to teach them and to lead them into all truth, uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith in giving to your church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood and to preach the gospel to all nations.

Therefore, we praise you joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

Holy and gracious Father and your infinite love you made us for yourself. And when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you and your mercy sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son to

share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross and offered himself an obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death. Our Lord Jesus Christ took bread and we had given thanks to you, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said, "Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup of wine.

And when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption of Father in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling His death and resurrection and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the body and blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy sacrament and serve you in unity, constancy and peace.

And at the last day, bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through Your Son, Jesus Christ, by Him and with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, the honor and glory yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Sacrifice for us.

Therefore, let us keep the gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on Him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Seek that he shall the door shall be opened up to you.

There you go. In the name of this congregation, I send you forthbearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and Christ's blood. We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of Your Son and heirs of Your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work You have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord to Him, to you and to the Holy Spirit. Be honor in glory now and forever. Amen. Before Billy does his blessing, I want to just acknowledge that James Hoyer is going to be going on a sabbatical for a couple of months with his family and today was just one of the examples of why our organists and choir director is such an amazing gift to our congregation.

Can we appreciate him and we thank you so you will come back. Yeah, you can't leave forever, but we have a great lineup of some musicians to help be in his place and we look forward to your return, James. Thank you for all that you do for us. We're very grateful. Well done, man.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain on you always. Amen.

Ready? Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of God's Holy Spirit. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.