

This Week at Grace

Sunday, May 27, 2007

The Day of Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

An ancient Hebrew harvest festival that came to be associated with the giving of God's law at Mount Sinai, Pentecost became for Christians the occasion for the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church. The Spirit is the power of the resurrected Jesus in our midst, claiming us in baptism, feeding us at the eucharist, and sending us into the world to be bearers of that divine word that can raise the dead to new life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God our creator,
the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth.
By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love,
empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 2:1–21

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples they would be filled with the Holy Spirit and become witnesses for him to the ends of the earth. As the people spoke in many languages, the all-encompassing nature of the church and its mission was revealed.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.² 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.³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

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

God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ '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.

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

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

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

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

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.

²⁵**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too man- | y 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.

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

²⁸You give it to them; they | gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled | with good things.

²⁹**When you hide your face, | they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return | to their dust.**

³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they | are created;
and so you renew the face | of the earth.

³¹**May the glory of the LORD en- | dure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in | all your works. R**

³²You look at the earth | and it trembles;
you touch the mountains | and they smoke.

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

³⁴May these words of | mine please God.
I will rejoice | in the LORD.

³⁵**Bless the LORD, | O my soul.**
Hal- | lelujah! R

SECOND READING *Romans 8:14–17*

Here Paul speaks about the mystery of baptism: through the Spirit we are adopted, gathered, welcomed into Christ's body, the church. And we receive new names: brother, sister, child of God.

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

GOSPEL *John 14:8–17 [25–27]*

On the night he was betrayed, in his final address to his disciples, Jesus promises that though he must now leave them, they will soon receive the presence of an Advocate, the Spirit of truth, whom God will send to comfort and enlighten them.

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹ 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'?" ¹⁰ Do you 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. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

¹⁵ If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ 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.

²⁵ I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY:	8:30a	and 11:00a	Worship Services
	9:30a		Coffee Fellowship
MONDAY:			<i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Church Offices Closed</i>
TUESDAY:	11:00a		Pastor's Text Study
WEDNESDAY:	9:00a		Staff Meeting
	5:30p		Yard Clean-up and Geranium Planting
	6:30p		Worship Telecast, Cable Ch. 6
	7:30p		Adult Choir
THURSDAY:	6:00a		Early Morning Bible Study
	7:00p		Thursday Evening Worship Service
NEXT SUNDAY:	8:00a		Worship Service
	9:00a		Coffee Fellowship
	9:00a		Graduating Senior Brunch
	10:00a		Worship Service with Baccalaureate

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [May 27: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [May 27: Sunday School] [May 28: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [May 29: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [May 30: GLCW] [May 31: In memory of uncle, James Rippentrop given by Mr/Mrs James Munyer.] [June 1: In honor of Ray & Joyce Langerud on their 50th wedding anniversary given by Alan & Pat Arends.] [June 2: In honor of Bill & Gwen Groskurth on their 50th wedding anniversary given by Alan & Pat Arends.].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Raymond Ewing (Rochester).

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Carol Fisher (mother of Lynn Stadheim), Theresa Gamble, Shirley Gold, Burnette Grunhovd, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Norman Johnson, Glenn McDaniel, Ethel McGill, Gary Mesch (son-in-law of Dick & Arlyss Haug), Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyne Oakland, Marian Odson, Lissa Parrish, Bob Richerson (brother of Nancy Greiner), Mark Stevens, LaVon Stewart, James Vangen, Leland Wadding, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

IN YOUR PRAYERS, please also remember the family of Leonard Jepson whose funeral was held this past week.

GREETERS FOR OUR SERVICES today are Larry & Penny Harmdierks, Perry Loge, and Mary Harriman at 8:30; and Elizabeth Baker, and Melvin & Peggy Bangert at 11:00.

ACOLYTES are Alison Maiers and Cameron Solie at 8:30; and Dyllan Engebretson and Marissa Loge at 11:00.

FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given in honor of Bill & Gwen Groskurth's 50th wedding anniversary (May 26th) by their daughters and families. Their children invite you to an open house held this afternoon from 2:00-4:30p at their home, 204 Lee Place. No gifts please.

LESSON READERS are Todd Lange at 8:30; and Judy Swee at 11:00.

WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ throughout the Southeast Minnesota Synod today in praying for Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Lyle, Grace Lutheran in Fairmont, Our Savior's Lutheran in Faribault, and St. John Lutheran Church of Montgomery.

REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES are being served today by McKinzey Christian and her parents, Mark & Sharon.

SPECIAL THANKS to Jerry Bizjak who is serving as van driver today. Our church van picks up riders every Sunday for the 11:00 worship service. If you or anyone you know is interested in riding the van, please call the church office to be added to the pick up schedule.

MAY is Foster Care Awareness Month. Are you interested in making a difference in a child's life? Family Focus Inc. of Austin and Rochester are looking for Foster Parents. These are local agencies serving Southern Minnesota. Their services include licensing foster parents as well as in-home counseling and support for these youth and families. If you have ever thought of becoming a foster parent, an informational meeting will be held at the Austin Public Library on Tues., May 29th, from 6:30-7:30p. Come with your questions, or you may call the Austin office at 434-3586.

LIKE WORKING OUTSIDE? Come to church at 5:30p on Wednesday, May 30th, for yard clean up, geranium planting, and pizza eating. (*Thrivent* members especially needed to help out.) Please remember to bring your own tools for planting, trimming, raking, digging, etc. **Please note that geranium planting has moved from the previous day listed in *Grace Notes*. Thank you to everyone who provided geraniums today!

TELECAST NEWS: A reminder that our worship services are now telecast at 6:30 on Wednesday evening due to a change in equipment at the local Charter Communication site. Please help us get the word out.

THE LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF truck was in Albert Lea on Saturday, May 19th. Grace Lutheran sent 131 quilts, 3 blankets, 2 afghans, 14 school bags, 17 layettes, and 21

health kits. Many thanks to Rich Behrens, Julie and Drew Sorenson, and Harlan & Ardis Bang for loading the boxes and taking them to the truck. Thanks also to everyone who contributed in any way.

MUSICIANS NEEDED during the summer months for sharing special music during our worship services. Please contact Robert Tewes (377-8364) so you can be scheduled.

BOOK CLUB will meet again on Monday evening, June 4th, 7:00p, at the home of Jeanne Gross. The featured book is *The Road to Home* by Vanessa Del Fabbro. Join us for great discussion and fellowship.

WANTED: Youth and Adult Relay for Life Teams

Help raise money for the American Cancer Society, be a part of a great team, and have a lot of fun doing it! Team members assist in fundraisers, sell luminaries, and participate in the Relay, Aug. 10th and 11th. This community-wide event is a great mission to be a part of. Sign up sheets for **youth and adults** are in the back of the narthex. Contact Denae Juntunen, Pastor Todd, or Becky Tennis Hanson if you have any questions.

THE ANNUAL VALLEYFAIR TRIP for youth in grades 6-12 is set for Thursday, June 28th. We will leave the church at 8:00a and be home around 6:00 or 7:00p. Cost of the trip is \$25.00 which includes ticket and transportation. Sign up is on the bulletin board outside of Denae's office.

GLCW NOTE: Please save 8 oz. cool whip containers and their lids to keep in our church kitchen closet. Many times we need this size container to give leftover food from events to people to take home. Any donations can be left on the kitchen counter and we will stick them away to be used for that purpose. Thank you for your help.

NEEDED: white t-shirts in sizes 4, 6, 8 (mixed boys and girls); 10-12, 14, 16 for boys; and 10-16 for girls. During VBS this summer we will be decorating new t-shirts for the Children's Orphanage in Bogota, Columbia, at the request of Jeanene Thicke. Please help us out with your donations. They can be dropped off at the Education Office.

GIVING AT GRACE:

The Property and Finance Ministry appreciates your generous support.
Your faithful stewardship is essential for us to continue to support our ministries at Grace.

	Sunday, May 20th	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 9,499.00	\$ 218,609.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 201,920.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 47.00	\$ 961.75
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 162.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 357; Last Sunday - 452

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Albert Lea, Minnesota

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