

## The Spirit Marches Victorious through the Word

The Day of Pentecost

## BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

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## SERIES THEME: VICTORIOUS

To the world he seemed like a defeated man: opposed and killed by his enemies, his followers scattered in fear. Yet three days after Jesus' death he rose victorious from the dead. Nothing would ever be the same. The rest of eternity is now a victory march for the risen Christ. During Easter, we should not think of ourselves as passive observers in Christ's victory. We are more than fans cheering for our favorite athlete! Rather, we are active participants in Christ's triumph. Just as his death was our death, so also his life is our life. Buried with Christ in baptism, our life is now hidden with him on high. The victory is ours, now and forever.

Easter is more than a day. It is an entire joyful season. The six solemn weeks of Lent are eclipsed by seven weeks of unbridled joy. These seven weeks correspond to the period of fifty days on the Jewish calendar between Passover and Pentecost. The Church reserves its highest praise for the Easter season. We do not merely watch from the sidelines as Christ marches in victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell. We join in the festal procession!

## THE SPIRIT MARCHES VICTORIOUS THROUGH THE WORD

Jesus ascended into heaven. That does not mean the gospel has ceased to march victorious around the world! Jesus promised to send another advocate to represent God to the world: the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the constant companion of believers in these Last Days. This raises an important question. If God now reveals himself by his Spirit, where is the Holy Spirit found? God has not left the answer to that question in doubt. When Jesus promised to send the Spirit, he indicated that his work would be connected to words, specifically God's Word. As a result, we need never wonder where we can find the Spirit. He marches victorious through the Word.

## Worship Leader Organist/Pianist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner Mrs. Kathy Bremer

## Acknowledgments

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## Hymn: 585 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

#### Stand

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

#### Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.
We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.
We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done.
Have mercy on us, Lord!
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

#### Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

#### Amen.

#### Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

## Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

## Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

## Amen.

## Glory to God in the Highest



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## THE WORD

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Holy Spirit, God and Lord, come to us this joyful day with your sevenfold gift of grace. Rekindle in our hearts the holy fire of your love that in a true and living faith we may tell abroad the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, now and forever.

#### Amen.

Be seated

#### **First Reading**

Genesis 11:1–9

The whole earth had one language and a single vocabulary. <sup>2</sup>As people traveled in the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they settled there. <sup>3</sup>They said to one another, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used mud brick instead of stone for building material, and they used tar for mortar. <sup>4</sup>They said, "Come, let's build a city for ourselves and a tower whose top reaches to the sky, and let's make a name for ourselves, so that we will not be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

<sup>5</sup>The LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the people were building. <sup>6</sup>The LORD said, "If this is the first thing they are doing as one people, who all have one language, then nothing that they intend to do will be too difficult for them. <sup>7</sup>Come, let's go down there and confuse their language, so that they cannot understand one another's speech."

<sup>8</sup>So the LORD scattered them from there over the face of the whole earth, and they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup>It was named Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm of the Day: 104A Lord, Send Out Your Spirit





How many are your / works, LORD!

In wisdom you / made them all.

All creatures / look to you

to give them their food at the / proper time.

When you give it to them, they gather / it up;

when you open your hand, they are satisfied / with good things. Refrain

May the glory of the LORD endure for- / ever; may the LORD rejoice / in his works he makes winds his / messengers, flames of fire his / servants. I will sing to the LORD / all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long / as I live. Glory be to the Father and / to the Son and to the Holy / Spirit, as it was in the be- / ginning, is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

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### Second Reading

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly a sound like the rushing of a violent wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>They saw divided tongues that were like fire resting on each one of them. <sup>4</sup>They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, since the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak fluently.

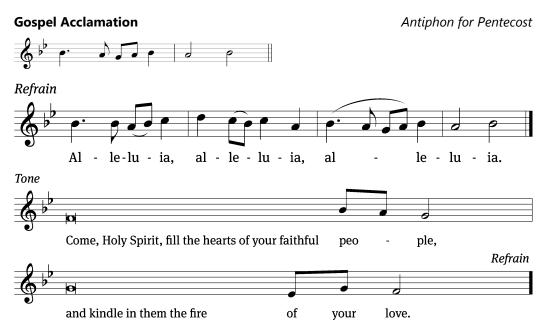
<sup>5</sup>Now there were godly Jewish men from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>When this sound was heard, a crowd came together and was confused, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. <sup>7</sup>They were completely baffled and said to each other, "Look, are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>Then how is it that each of us hears them speaking in his own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, and of Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt, and the parts of Libya around Cyrene; visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring in our own languages the wonderful works of God." <sup>12</sup>They were all amazed and perplexed. They kept saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others mocked them and said, "They are full of new wine."

<sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: "Men of Judea, and all you residents of Jerusalem, understand this, and listen closely to my words. <sup>15</sup>These men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup>On the contrary, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>This is what God says will happen in the last days:
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.
Your sons and your daughters will prophesy.
Your young men will see visions.
Your old men will dream dreams.
<sup>18</sup>Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
<sup>19</sup>I will show wonders in the sky above,
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and a rising cloud of smoke.
<sup>20</sup>The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
<sup>21</sup>And this will happen: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

## The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Stand



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#### Gospel

John 14:23-27

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will hold on to my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. <sup>24</sup>The one who does not love me does not hold on to my words. The word that you are hearing is not mine, but it is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup>"I have told you these things while staying with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I told you.

<sup>27</sup>"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, and do not let it be afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day: 479 God's Holy Spirit Came

#### Sermon

Stand

**Apostles' Creed** 

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

Be seated

## **Prayer of the Church**

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Praise to you, Holy Spirit! We worship you as the Lord and adore you as the giver of life. As you were present at the beginning of the world to give life to all created things and as you enlightened and equipped the disciples on the Day of Pentecost by the baptism of fire, so by the baptism of water with the Word you made the light of faith shine in our hearts to know Jesus as our Lord. We confess:

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing 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.

Holy Spirit, Spirit of truth and source of all spiritual gifts, stand by us in the weakness of our sinful nature. Grant us a right understanding of the truths that Jesus taught. Give us strength to endure with patience whatever afflictions God may send into our lives. Help us, intercede for us, and train us that we may pray to the Father with boldness and confidence. Preserve us by the power of your Word in our most holy faith as members of the Church, the body of Jesus.

## In this Christian Church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

Holy Spirit, you comfort and counsel us in every need. In dark and difficult days strengthen our feeble hands, steady our weak knees, and encourage our fearful hearts. Support us with the promise that in your final creative act you will raise up our bodies so that together with all believers we may see and enjoy the glorious return of Jesus Christ.

# On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true. Amen.

Special Intercessions

Come, Holy Spirit, renew our hearts And kindle in us the fire of your love. Amen.

## Offering

Hymn: 962 Hail Thee, Festival Day (Pentecost) (TUNE 463)



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#### Stand

## Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### Lord's Prayer

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.

## Blessing

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 with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.** 

## Hymn: 477 O Day Full of Grace