

Day of Pentecost

May 31, 2020



Greeting and Prayer of the Day

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!

C: And also with you!

A: Let us pray together, **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. Amen.**

O Living Breath of God

Verse 1

O living Breath of God, wind at the beginning upon the waters; O living Breath of God, bearing the creation to wondrous birth;

Chorus

Come now, and fill our spirits; pour out your gifts abundant. O living Breath of God, Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.

Verse 2

O living Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth among us; O living Breath of God, who to the creation gives life anew;

Chorus

Come now, and fill our spirits; pour out your gifts abundant. O living Breath of God, Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.

Verse 3

O living Breath of God, bearing us to life through baptismal waters; O living Breath of God, sighing with creation for freedom's birth;

Chorus

Come now, and fill our spirits; pour out your gifts abundant. O living Breath of God, Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.

“Team Psalm (by Zoom)” – Ps 104:24-35b

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

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵Now there were devout Jews from every

nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” ¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, 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. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

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.

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁹When 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.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Paul

Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace / Interlude

Lord’s Prayer (in varied languages, via Webex)

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.

Announcements / Final Blessing / Dismissal

P: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

A: Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

(see next page for Sending Song)

Send the Fire

Verse 1:

O God of burning, cleansing flame: Send the fire! Your blood-bought gift today we claim: Send the fire today! Look down and see this waiting host, and send the promised Holy Ghost. We need another Pentecost! Send the fire today! Send the fire today!

Verse 2:

God of Elijah, hear our cry: Send the fire! And make us fit to live or die: Send the fire today! To burn up ev'ry trace of sin, to bring the light and glory in, the revolution now begin! Send the fire today! Send the fire today!

Verse 3:

It's fire we want for fire we plead: Send the fire! The fire will meet our ev'ry need: Send the fire today! For strength to always do what's right, for grace to conquer in the fight, for pow'r to walk the world in light! Send the fire today! Send the fire today!

Verse 4:

To make our weak hearts strong and brave: Send the fire! To live, a dying world to save: Send the fire today! Oh see us on Your altar lay, we give our lives to You today, so crown the off'ring now we pray: Send the fire today! Send the fire today! Send the fire today!

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Bethlehem
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May, 2020

The JUNE issue of the STAR is ready. Copies are available in the Shooting Star box outside the church entry. Also check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > “The Online Bethlehem Star” or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

With Gov. Whitmer’s stay-at-home order now extended through June 12th and new guidelines by the Governor regarding different “phases” of safety regarding gatherings, etc, Bethlehem is working on plans to **hopefully start some sort of gatherings and/or worship sometime in June (note: this is an update from information in the May STAR; we will not be resuming on June 7th)** We are exploring plans but have not yet settled in on a date to resume gathering. Safety is our primary concern. Details will be sent out as we get closer, and we give thanks always for your support, understanding and prayers.

Keep "Hope Spreading": Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to *Pastor Paul* at paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

The outdoor **"Shooting STAR Dispenser"** at BLC is now full with new DVDs for April and May virtual church services and several paper publications, including the June STAR.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is going virtual!!! Because of all the COVID-19 precautions and changes, BLC joins other churches in altering our VBS plans. **Introducing "Bible Stories" each Monday during the summer.** Plans are now fully underway, so let Annie know if you are interested in helping out this summer or registering a child. If you would like to volunteer or receive more information, please contact Annie Slabaugh at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org

Pr Paul and the staff (Sharon, Phil, Annie and Barbara) you are staying safe and healthy. We miss seeing you in look forward to being able to worship and have together.



pray that person and fellowship

Our next Jubilee service is scheduled for Sunday, August 30th at 10:00 am.

The Annual Chili Cook Off has been postponed date, as was our May Jubilee service. Please stay lookout for more updates, and we can't wait to and share some chili with you all when we can the fall!)



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Online Fellowship Time on ZOOM continues and soon as worship is over, or approximately

Sundays and 7:45pm on Wednesdays. We will **not** be sharing the Zoom information publicly on Facebook or our website, so we can avoid hacking. An email will be sent out the day before either the Fellowship or the Bible Study. If someone you trust wants to join our Zoom Fellowship time or the Wednesday Bible Study, feel free to share this information with them privately.

will start as 10:45am on

To login to our Zoom ministry sessions, you can type into your web browser (or click on) the weblinks provided via email. **You may need to have the ZOOM app (from Zoom.com) installed on your device. We now have the ability for you to dial into simply the audio portion on a landline.**

"Zoom Bible Study", gathering via Zoom is going strong each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship. Pastor Paul and Annie co-lead this study. Our subject matter is "Luke and Acts ToGather" and whatever life and ministry guides us as we meet... which gives us plenty of good stuff to talk about. *Please note that you don't need to be a biblical scholar to join us.* In fact, much of our time might be just as social as it is theological. Like the Sunday Fellowship, the meeting ID and password will be emailed out the day before the Bible Study. Contact Pastor Paul if you would like the login sent to you.