

Name: _____

May 27-28, 2023



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN

Please use this card to reflect on the sermon. It can be used for discussion in a group, for personal study of the Word, and as a “sermon summary” for our Confirmation Students. May God bless our listening and study of His Word!

God kept his promise to bless the disciples with the Holy Spirit to enable them to do the work of sharing the Gospel with every nation. The Jewish festival of Pentecost – 50 days after Passover was one of the three major festivals where Jews made every effort to return to Jerusalem to worship and bring offerings to God (time of the wheat harvest) – was the time and place God chose to deliver this gift.

Acts 2:1-21

“God the Holy Spirit is the Gift that keeps Giving.”

Verse 1-12: Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promised Holy Spirit. And here the Spirit came upon each of them on Pentecost. Three miracles are observed.

1) *A sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house.*

What effect would this have on those gathered in Jerusalem for the Pentecost festival when they heard this noise?

It filled the house where the disciples of Jesus and his followers were gathered. What would that say to those who followed the sound about these people?

2) *What seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.* What message did this send about each person on whom fire rested?

What confidence could they have as they went to do the work God called them to do?

3) *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.* These primarily Galilean-raised Jews were now able to speak in the languages of many people gathered there to proclaim the wonders of God – namely all about Jesus. What message did this send to those Jews from all over the world about Jesus?

What message did this send about God’s want for them to know Jesus?

Verses 13-15: People who reject God’s Word and his love find any made-up excuse to discredit the message and messengers. The softball they lobbed at Peter was that the speakers “had too much wine.” What were clear evidences that they weren’t drunk?

Verses 16-20: Peter points to the fact that what they were witnessing is the fulfillment of the prophet Joel’s prophecy 800+ years before (Joel 2). God gave his Spirit so that the message of the Gospel would be spread. Men and women still share it today in their God-given roles and vocations. What signs and wonders accompanied the disciples as they shared the message on Pentecost and thereafter?

We still have the joy and privilege of hearing, living and sharing this message – a message clearly laid out and attested in God’s inerrant, inspired, infallible Word - the Scriptures. More signs and wonders will come on Judgment Day when Jesus returns as Scripture has revealed. Why will the day Jesus returns be a “*glorious day*” for believers?

Faith is not brought about by our decision or effort, but a gift from God. Paul wrote, “No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor. 12). The Holy Spirit worked through the Gospel Message given us in Word and Sacrament to create and strengthen faith in our hearts. We are Pentecost proofs. “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” What comfort does this bring us?

How does it encourage us to share Jesus with others?