

Sermon followed by Service - June 8, 2025 - Acts 2:1-21

Do you ever wonder: “Where has Pentecost gone?” We don’t hear any Spirit-wind; we don’t see tongues of fire on our heads. We don’t do miracles or speak in tongues. So do you ever wonder: “Where has Pentecost gone?”

I’m still seeing Pentecost. Earlier this year, a young girl in a world of hurt heard God’s promise for baptism. The Spirit moved her and she answered: “I want to be baptized.” Last week, I saw Pentecost. I shared Jesus’ promise: **“Do not let your hearts be troubled ... I go to prepare place for you.”** Jesus promised; the Spirit moved; tears flowed and peace and hope smiled with the tears. Then, another time, another place, another world of hurt, “I just want to know that I’m forgiven.” I got to point to Jesus - his life and death for us - I got to share Jesus’ promise: “Peace, your sins are forgiven.” I talked, but Jesus promised; the Spirit moved; and hearts were relieved. [Thank you for making our shared ministry possible.] Where has Pentecost gone? Oh, we might not have the bells and whistles, but we definitely still do have Pentecost. **The Lord Is Still Pouring Out His Spirit!**

So what makes for a Pentecost? Listen in on the first Pentecost, ten days after Ascension Day. Jesus’ disciples are in Jerusalem waiting for Christ to send his Spirit. **“Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy**

Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

So what makes for a Pentecost? The sound of a wind? Tongues of fire? Speaking in tongues? No. Check out the rest of the book of Acts; check out all the letters written for our New Testament church; you won't hear of another Spirit-wind; you won't see any more tongues of Spirit-fire. We do hear more speaking in tongues. But Paul downplays the importance of speaking in tongues. And nowhere do we have the promise that we will speak in tongues or the command to speak in tongues. The Holy Spirit isn't working that way today. Instead of using amazing signs and wonders to get people's attention, today the Spirit works a different way to get people's attention – how? - by the amazing love you show and the amazing words you say.

The signs of our lesson - the sound of the wind, the tongues of fire - were signs for a special day, the birthday of the New Testament church. The Spirit-powered speaking in tongues, the Spirit-given dreams and visions were ways the Spirit worked to give God's word in that first century church. For today, the apostles don't tell us to expect dreams or visions from God. Even Peter – who Pentecost preached **“your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams”** – in all the rest of his sermons and in his letters, Peter doesn't ever tell us to expect dreams and visions direct from the Spirit.

So how is the Lord pouring out his Spirit? What does God say will happen when he pours out his spirit? **“Your sons and daughters will prophesy.”** Now to prophesy isn't just to tell the

future, to prophesy is to speak out God's word. So how does the Lord pour out his Spirit, how does he make prophets? Through people speaking out God's Word.

And who are those prophets? Pastors? Teachers? People in the church who have some special gift? Sure, but that's not what our lesson is talking about. Being a prophet is not the same thing as being a pastor or having some special position in the church. Being a Spirit-made prophet of God is simply speaking out God's word, sharing God's word with other people.

So whom is the Spirit making into prophets? **“God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy ... even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.”** Through his word and prophets, God is pouring out his Spirit on all people, to reach all people, to make a world of prophets. It doesn't matter whether you are young or old, man or woman – God has poured out his Spirit on you to make you his prophet speaking out His Word.

Think of what that means. Whom do you know ... in your family, among your friends ... who needs the Spirit to work faith in their hearts? Whom do you know with a faith that seems weak, a faith under attack? Who needs the Spirit to strengthen and protect their faith? Whom do you know who is hurting or struggling? Who needs the Spirit to comfort and counsel them? ... to light them up with hope and joy?

You can't pray the Spirit into their hearts; God doesn't pour out his Spirit through prayer. You can't wish the Spirit into their lives; God doesn't pour out the Spirit through your best wishes. And don't expect a church building to get the Spirit into their lives; the Lord doesn't pour out his Spirit through doors and buildings, no matter how much we might like to think so. The Lord pours out his Spirit through his Word – through prophets, living prophets speaking out God's word. And God has poured out His Spirit on you – so you can be God's prophet to lead them to Jesus – so you can be God's prophet to comfort them with the Spirit's comfort – so you can counsel them with the Spirit's answers.

When you hear that, what do you think? “Yes, thank you, Lord, for making me your prophet”? Or, “No, I can't do that”? “No,” can come easily. “NO, God, I won't be your prophet to my family, I don't have time for family devotions.” “NO, God, I won't be your prophet to my neighbors; they might not like what I say.” “No, God, I won't be your prophet; you couldn't ever help me enough to share your Word.” “No, God.” Doesn't sound right, does it? And it shouldn't. “No, God” thinking is why God is torching this world. And “no, God” thinking is why there is a hell.

“No, God,” is what this world shouts at God. And yet the Lord is pouring out his Spirit on this world. Why? **“So that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord [may] be saved.”** God wants this world of nay-sayers to be saved. That's what Christmas and Good Friday and Easter were all about. Jesus, as

God's yes-man, took our place on the cross and paid the price for us saying "no, God." Jesus, as God's yes-man, said, "Yes, God" for us; he did what we said "no" to; he did what we don't get done. And now, Jesus, as God's yes-man, says, "Yes" to you – "Yes, you are forgiven; yes, I have you covered; yes, God does love you; yes, believe me and be saved." That's what Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter were about.

Now today we have Pentecost and we celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit. Because of the Spirit, you know Jesus and his "Yes." Because of the Spirit, you believe Jesus and are saved. But Pentecost is about more than getting faith and getting saved. Pentecost is also about the Spirit of Christ changing us from nay-sayers to "yes, God" prophets. With the Spirit, "It won't do any good," becomes "With God all things are possible." With the Spirit, "I can't," becomes, "I can do all things through him who gives me strength." With the Spirit, "I don't have time," becomes "Now is the time of God's grace." With the Spirit, we change from nay-sayers to "yes-God-prophets." We put God's Word to work and the Spirit works. We put God's Word to work, and the Spirit changes hearts. We put God's Word to work and the Spirit grows his church. That's what Pentecost is about.

That's the way the Spirit worked on Pentecost. That's the way the Spirit works today. So let's put the Spirit to work. Amen.

NEW MORNING PRAISE

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we celebrate the Festival of Pentecost. By the power of God's Holy Spirit, we have been made alive in the family of God. As the Church of Christ and the people of God, we now have the Spirit of God to equip us and power us for the lives God has for us. Come, Holy Spirit! Renew our hearts and kindle in us the fire of your love!

OPENING HYMN

"Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest"

Hymn 586

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest, and make our hearts your place of rest;
come with your grace and heav'nly aid,
and fill the hearts which you have made.

To you, the Counselor, we cry, to you, the gift of God most high,
the fount of life, the fire of love, the soul's anointing from above.

In you, with graces sevenfold, we God's almighty hand behold
while you with tongues of fire proclaim to all the world his holy name.

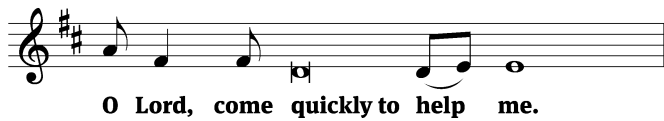
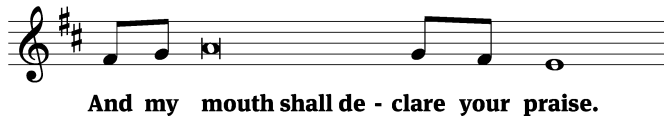
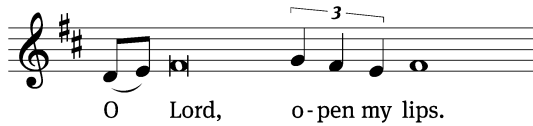
Your light to ev'ry thought impart, and shed your love in ev'ry heart;
the weakness of our mortal state with deathless might invigorate.

Drive far away our wily foe, and your abiding peace bestow;
with you as our protecting guide, no evil can with us abide.

Teach us to know the Father, Son, and you, from both, as Three in One
that we your name may ever bless and in our lives the truth confess.

Praise we the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit, with them One,
and may the Son on us bestow the gifts that from the Spirit flow!

OPENING SENTENCES



CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SINS

- M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
- C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will. **Amen.**



Give glory to God, our light and our life.



Come, O come, let us wor - ship.

COME, O COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD



Come, O come, let us sing to the Lord,



let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;



come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,



come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.



1 You are a great and a won - drous God,

2 Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,



cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.

kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.



You made the hills and the moun - tains high,

You are the God whom we call our own,



Refrain

you made the seas and the dry land.

we are the flock that you shep - herd.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

FIRST READING

Acts 2:1–21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

“Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

“ ‘In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

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

HYMN

"Come, O Come, Life-Giving Spirit"

Hymn 588

Come, O come, life-giving Spirit, God from all eternity!
May your power never fail us; dwell within us constantly.
Then shall truth and life and light banish all the gloom of night.

Show us, Lord, the path of blessing; when we trespass on our way,
cast, O Lord, our sins behind you and be with us day by day.
Should we stray, O Lord, recall; work repentance when we fall.

Spirit, guard our faith forever; let not Satan, death, or shame
ever part us from our Savior. Lord, our refuge is your name!
When our hearts oppose your will, let your Word prove stronger still.

And when life's frail thread is breaking, then assure us more and more,
as the heirs of life unending, of the glory there in store,
glory never yet expressed, glory of the saints at rest.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 7:37–39

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

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

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.

HYMN

"Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord"

Hymn 585

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord! May all your graces be outpoured
on each believer's mind and heart; your fervent love to them impart.
Lord, by the brightness of your light you gather and in faith unite
your Church from ev'ry land and tongue:
this to your praise, O Lord our God, be sung. Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, holy Light, guide divine, and cause the Word of life to shine.
Teach us to know our God aright and call him Father with delight.
From ev'ry error keep us free; let none but Christ our master be
that we in living faith abide, in him, our Lord, with all our might confide.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, holy Fire, comfort true, grant us the will your work to do
and in your service to abide; let trials turn us not aside.
Lord, by your pow'r prepare each heart,
and to our weakness strength impart
that bravely here we may contend,
through life and death to you, our Lord, ascend. Alleluia, alleluia!

SERMON

Acts 2:1-21

HYMN

"Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling"

Hymn 592

Holy Spirit, ever dwelling in the holiest realms of light,
Holy Spirit, ever brooding o'er a world of gloom and night,
Holy Spirit, ever raising those of earth to thrones on high,
living, life-imparting Spirit, you we praise and magnify.

Holy Spirit, ever living as the Church's very life,
Holy Spirit, ever striving through us in a ceaseless strife,
Holy Spirit, ever forming in the Church the mind of Christ,
you we praise with endless worship for your gracious gifts unpriced.

Holy Spirit, ever working through the Church's ministry,
teaching, strength'ning, and absolving, setting captive sinners free,
Holy Spirit, ever binding age to age and soul to soul
in communion never ending, you we worship and extol.

OFFERING PRAYER

O Spirit of Christ and our Father, work in us to appreciate and to reflect our Father's generosity in giving us Jesus and all we need; work in us to appreciate and reflect the determined grace of Jesus in giving himself as Lamb of God and Shepherd of his Church. O Spirit of Christ and our Father, work in us to show the glory of our God. **Amen.**

OFFERING

If you prefer to give online, the code at the right will take you to our Online Giving page. We invite our online givers to join in our offering with an "I Give Online" card in the pew racks.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, we thank you that you kept your promise and sent the Holy Spirit to your Church. Move us to celebrate the Day of Pentecost with special joy because you continue to send your Spirit to equip and empower us to be your witnesses in the world.

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

The signs of fire and wind accompanied the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. We seek no signs but rely on your promise that the energy of the Spirit will encourage us as we believe and proclaim the good news.

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

You, Lord Jesus, received the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit to equip you for your mission. Send those blessings to us, we pray.

Cause your Spirit to rest on us and enrich us with wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, and the knowledge and fear of the Lord. Guide us to seek these gifts and use them as we share the message of your love.

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

Through the power of the Spirit grant us a determined zeal to reach out to the lost. Give us courage to confess the truth clearly and compassion to confess the truth in love. Guide us as we encourage brothers and sisters to join us in your mission and enable us to work together to make disciples of all nations.

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

We pray that your Spirit may raise up many more men and women who are willing to be our voices in our nation and around the world. Prepare these witnesses in their education and life experiences to be able to reach out to every nation, tribe, language, and people. Keep them in your care as they serve in our place and for your cause.

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

Restrain the evil of Satan as we proclaim your truth. Protect all your people from social and physical persecution. When we endure the cross for following you, provide courage and patience. Safeguard our economy and guide our political leaders so that we may proclaim the gospel freely to all.

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

We pray each day that you keep in your care all who are enduring the troubles and tragedies of life: those whose bodies are racked with pain, those who struggle with depression and fear, those who endure the frustration of poverty, those who grieve because of a sudden loss, and those who are facing the reality of death.

[We pray especially for...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Let your Spirit bring their prayers and ours to your Father's throne of grace.

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

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Lord Jesus, continue to pour out your Holy Spirit that he may renew us with his pentecostal power. May his love ignite our hearts and his breath impel our steps to preach the gospel to every creature.

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

PRAYER AND 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.

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING - SUNG

The Lord bless and keep you. **Amen.**

The Lord's face ever shine upon you. **Amen.**

The Lord grant you peace for all your days. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Holy Spirit, Light Divine"

Hymn 593 vs. 1, 3-5



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, light di - vine, shine up - on this heart of mine;
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, joy di - vine, cheer this sad - dened heart of mine;
4 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, dwell with - in this heart of mine;
5 Ho - ly Spir - it, fill my heart, cleanse my life in ev - 'ry part;



chase the gloom of night a - way, turn the dark - ness in - to day.
fill me with your heav'n - ly peace, let it grow and still in - crease.
cast down ev - 'ry i - dol throne, reign su - preme and reign a - lone.
your own tem - ple I would be now and for e - ter - ni - ty.

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LIBERTYVILLE DAYS AND VBS ARE ALMOST HERE!

Last summer at our Everyone Outreach event we learned and discussed “How to Be More Welcoming to Guests” ... Multiple times a year we pop-up after church to encourage recruitment for our school ... At St. John, God has connected us to live as a family of Christians growing in a faith that shows itself in love and action.

Libertyville Days and VBS are great opportunities to put that love, that welcoming, that encouragement into action! Volunteering at our St. John booth gives us the opportunity to share the blessings of our church and school and to welcome our community to St. John. Walking in the parade shares with our community that we are excited about our school, our church, and our lives as a family of Christians. Attending and helping at VBS allows for opportunities to share Jesus’ love and welcome our guests to St. John.

LIBERTYVILLE DAYS BOOTH - JUNE 13-15

We have several one-hour time slots to fill at this year's Libertyville Days booth. It's a great time to tell others about our church and school. You don't need to be an expert about our ministry - just willing to smile, let people know we are here, and that we would love to have them come and check us out. If anyone has questions that you can't answer, simply give them a business card, and have them contact Mr. Retzlaff or Pastor Raddatz. If you are able to get contact information, we will be sure to reach out to them. Recruit someone to work at the booth with you and enjoy time visiting and sharing our ministry with others.

The easiest way to sign up and check for open slots is to scan the QR code. Otherwise, hardcopies are found at both entryways. Thank you for your help!



PARADE WITH US AT LIBERTYVILLE DAYS

Parade starts Saturday, June 14, at 10, from the Metra Station; we gather and leave from St. John at 9 a.m. Wear your St. John-wear or dress as campers. Be part of our **Float Design and Decorate Team** - contact Brooke (Brooke.Gast@StJohnsLib.com) or Paul Massey (Paul.Massey@StJohnsLib.com).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN

June 24 – June 29, 9 to 11:30 am

Scan the QR for more details and to register. Please reach out to Brooke Gast with any questions.

