

## Augustana

where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

PENTECOST SUNDAY May 23, 2021

Welcome to Augustana – where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together. I would like to acknowledge we gather on Treaty six territory and the homeland of many people of the Metis Nation. You are welcome to worship with us. We aim to share the unconditional love of God with people of all abilities, ages, colours, culture & ethnicities, or sexual orientation & gender identities. This is a work in progress and you are welcome to join us on our way.

### OPENING DIALOGUE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

After fifty days of Easter rejoicing, the church cries out: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

All those living in resurrection light sing with joy; **Come, Holy Spirit!**

All those dying under the weight of sin and grief plead; **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Come, Holy Spirit: fill the hearts of your faithful people, **and kindle in us the fire of your love.**

GATHERING HYMN “God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind” ELW # 400 verses 1-3

God of tempest, God of whirlwind,  
as on Pentecost descend!  
Drive us out from sheltered comfort;  
past these walls your people send!  
Sweep us into costly service,  
there with Christ to bear the cross,  
there with Christ to bear the cross!

God of blazing, God of burning,  
all that blocks your purpose, purge!  
Through your church, Christ’s living Body,  
let your flaming Spirit surge!  
Where deceit conceals injustice,  
kindle us to speak your truth,  
kindle us to speak your truth!

God of earthquake, God of thunder,  
shake us loose from lethargy!  
Break the chains of sin asunder,  
for earth’s healing set us free!  
Crumble walls that still divide us;  
make us one in Christ our Lord,  
make us one in Christ our Lord!

### CHILDREN’S TIME

Last year, our first year celebrating Pentecost on-line: “There is a phrase – and you’ve probably heard or even used it before – “To light a fire under someone”. It means to get a reluctant worker working. It comes from the time when chimney sweeps – young children – were afraid to climb up the chimney and so someone would light a fire in the hearth to make them to keep climbing.

Well Pentecost is the time when God lit a fire under the disciples and blew them out the door. I’m not sure that they were reluctant, but they were hesitant to leave their place of safety.

We have been blown out the door too – not by fire or by the wind – but by a pandemic. Perhaps while we are here outside our comfortable upper room we too will be given the words to tell others what we believe ... to share our faith in the language of the people around us.”

This year celebrating Pentecost: What lights a fire under us?

When I am uncertain ... light the fire with a spirit of wisdom  
 Confused ... Understanding  
 Don't know what direction to turn ... Counsel  
 Weak .... Might  
 Don't know what I need to know .... Knowledge  
 When I forget God ..... Respect God  
 When I am sad .... Joy in God's presence

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

God of wind and flame, send your life-giving  
 Spirit upon your people:

give fire to our words, strength to our  
 witness and boldness to our proclamation of  
 your wondrous work in Christ; who, with  
 you and the Spirit, lives and reigns now and  
 for ever. **Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS:

##### **Acts 2:1-21**

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

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are

speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’

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. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

“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.

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

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

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

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

Word of God, Word of life **thanks be to God**

### **Romans 8:22-27**

<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Reader: Word of God, Word of life **Thanks be to God**

Please join in singing our Gospel Alleluia

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL:

The Holy Gospel according to St. John chapter 15:26-27; 16:4B-15 **Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>26</sup>“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. <sup>27</sup>You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

<sup>4</sup>But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup>But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup>But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. <sup>7</sup>Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup>about sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

<sup>12</sup>“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

MEDITATION

Every once in a while I get to spend time with our granddaughter. It has been a bit patchy with covid in our midst, but recently spending time with her has been so much fun. One of the new things she does is count. As she puts her blocks from one place to another: one, du, tdee. The numbers don't always match the blocks, but it's still amazing to watch and listen. The numbers – the one, du, tdee -- aren't really the important thing. It's what they represent that means so much more: that she is learning and developing .... A new thing or word every time I see her.

And our number today – 50, the Pentecost number – means so much more than that as well. Pentecost is simply a day 50 days after Easter ... but it means so much more than the number.

The numbers are just numbers but what they represent is so much more Powerful: for our granddaughter and for today's remembrance of the day of Pentecost.

Pentecost has a powerful meaning that is represented by powerful forces: wind and fire: both of which we have experienced lately with strong winds fueling fires around PA and West of Saskatoon (and it was around this time 5 years ago when Fort McMurray was on fire). Powerful .... Powerful forces!

I don't really know much about fire other than that you don't play with fire ... and fire can be unpredictable. I know more about the wind, I grew up in Alberta where a strong chinook wind can blow winter away in a snap – I recall going to sleep with winter in full force and waking up to instant Spring. The wind is a powerful, invisible force – you can't see the wind itself ... but you can see the trees swaying, the dead branches breaking off and zinging their way down to the ground and so on .... But the wind isn't always like that ... sometimes it is only a light kiss on the cheek. And you still can't see it. Like the numbers .... It is not just the wind or the fire ... they represent so much more.

What they represent to us means so much more: God's presence and hope

BIG: wind ... hope that is like the cavalry coming to the rescue , you hear the bugle call and know that you are safe. The wind and fire. The voices speaking loudly and clearly in words that can be understood. The account of that first Pentecost day is one of those times when God's Spirit is present in a spectacular way.

No less real and no less powerful than the whirlwind is the SMALL wind. In contrast to the whirlwind it is the "spirit that intercedes with a sigh". From WHOOSH to wwwhhheewww.

It's not a matter of one being better than the other. Not surprisingly, we notice the big wind more than that small, still breathe. But they both represent God's strong presence in our lives. [Sometimes the Spirit seems more extroverted – WHOOSH -- and sometimes more introverted -- wheeeew] Both the big and small winds surround us and are always there,

Paul writes to the Romans "Hope that is seen is not hope. We hope for what we do not see." Like the wind we do not see the Holy Spirit .... Not directly ... nor can we see or touch hope.

Today we celebrate the Spirit of God, the advocate that comes from God. We celebrate, we trust in, we depend upon, that Spirit. " We hope for what we do not see." Spirit and hope are linked. Spirit, hope and trust. We trust that God is with us, that God is pulling for us.

God's Spirit is all of that and so much more. The Spirit fulfills that hope, the Spirit can be trusted. In big ways and little ways. Again I return to Paul's words:

*26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

The whirlwind and the sighs too deep for words ... whatever is needed to light a fire under us ... And then to support us after the fire gets us going ...

RESPONSE TO THE WORD – *from Isaiah 11 and recall them from our Baptism and Affirmation of baptism*

Come, Holy Spirit, come; And sustain us with your gifts.

The spirit of wisdom; **Come, Holy Spirit!**

The spirit of understanding; **Come, Holy Spirit!**

The spirit of counsel; **Come, Holy Spirit!**  
 The spirit of might; **Come, Holy Spirit!**  
 The spirit of knowledge; **Come, Holy Spirit!**  
 The spirit of the fear of the Lord; **Come, Holy Spirit!**  
 The spirit of joy in your presence; **Come, Holy Spirit!**  
 Come, Holy Spirit, come; **and sustain us with your gifts.**

CHOIR ANTHEM "Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us join hearts and voices together in prayer. Each short prayer will end with the words, "hear us, O God" and you can make the prayer your own by responding "Your mercy is great."

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you give the Holy Spirit to your church, filling it with many and varied gifts. In the church throughout the world, strengthen us in our visioning and dreaming, that it may discover anew the Spirit's creative work. We pray for the people and clergy of the Diocese of Ottawa and Bishop Shane Parker and for Saskatchewan Synod's staff and Assistants to the Bishop Pastor Dennis Serfas and Pastor Jerry Borkowsky. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, your mighty works are too numerous to count. The earth is full of your creatures, living things both great and small. Open your hand and give them the necessities of this life. Send your fresh Spirit over the face of the earth.

Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, at the sound of the rushing wind, people speaking different languages proclaimed and heard together your deeds of power. Fill the leaders of nations with your Holy Spirit, so that they exercise your gracious will in the lives of people. Grant wisdom to Premier Scott Moe, Mayor Charlie Clark, and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Saquib Shahab. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

God of peace, protect the people of Israel and Palestine. Provide leadership willing to work for peace and justice. We pray especially for the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan, and for all people of faith in the Middle East. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

God of faithfulness, you tend to the needs of your people, even the sighs of our hearts. Hear those who cry out to you in distress. Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day *especially* Katherine, Paul and family, Angie, Edith, Earl, Audrey, Orville and Carol, Bruce, Marie, Gloria, Marcus, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Shelby, Alice, Deanna, Ron, Marlene, Mildred, Minnie, Louise, Lyssa, Karen, for those

whose lives and livelihoods are at risk due to fire, drought, and flood; and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts .....*(a pause to offer time to name others)*.

Give them courage and peace in the face of illness and grief. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

God of new beginnings, grant hope and security to those who are incarcerated. Provide safe haven for refugees especially the Alhamad-Wahid and Iqbal families. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, fill this congregation, Augustana Lutheran Church, with gratitude for the gifts we have received from you. Renew our ministries, heal our divisions, and open us to the needs of our neighbours. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

God of hope, those who have died in you raise their eternal song of praise. We give your thanks for the many gifts of your people and rejoice in the witness of your saints. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, O Lord, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pastor Marilyn: Knowing how God loves us as a Mother and Father we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

May the Spirit of the living Christ fill you with faith and trust, burn in you with the fire of love, enliven your bones, body, and life, and breathe through you the breath of life. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. AMEN. DISMISSAL  
the wind and flame tell us – force us -- to get out there ... out of our places of comfort ... and we have words that tell us that as well: Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia!**

SENDING SONG Spirit of Gentleness # 396, verses 1 – 4

*Refrain:*

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free;  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,  
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons you called to each thing:  
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." *Refrain*

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,  
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;  
and when they are blinded with idols and lies,  
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. *Refrain*

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;  
and down in the city you called once again,  
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. *Refrain*

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.  
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;  
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions your people arise. *Refrain*

### **Thank you's**

Worship Assistant: Katie Ottley

Musicians: Deborah Buck, Augustana St. Timothy Choir

Technicians: Gregory Fowlie-Neufeld, Bryan Tastad

Permissions:

OneLicense: hymns and liturgy

Sundays and Seasons (Augsburg Fortress)



