**Pentecost Sunday**

*Modified Common Service*

May 31, 2020

***Preservice Music and Bell Peal***

**Opening Hymn: CW # 182 v. 1** *Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling*

**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 on earth to thrones on high,**

**Living, life-imparting Spirit, You we praise and magnify.**

**Call to Worship**

M: Upon the hill the cross is deserted--for Christ has fully paid for all our sins!

**C: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

M: In the garden, the tomb lies empty--for Christ has risen!

**C: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

M: The Mount of Olives is barren--for Christ has ascended to heaven!

**C: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

M: In this place, our hearts are full--for Christ has sent his Holy Spirit!

**C: Alleluia and Amen!**

**Confession**

M: Prompted by the Holy Spirit, we draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in**

 **my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For**

 **this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and**

 **trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning

 sacrifice for our sins. Our sins are forgiven in him. Amen.

**Hymn: CW # 182 v. 2**

**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.**

M: The Lord be with you as we pray...

 O Holy Spirit; Jesus our Lord promised that you would come as our Comforter,

**C: Bless us with your presence that we may know the comforting truth of forgiveness**

 **through Christ.**

M: Jesus promised power to his disciples when you would come on them,

**C: As you made them bold to preach of salvation in Christ,**

 **give us power to proclaim the Good News.**

M: As you appeared in tongues of fire, and made it possible for the apostles to speak in the native

 languages of many people,

**C: So also free our tongues to share Christ in the language of those around us, and help us to**

 **speak the language of compassion and hope for all people. Amen.**

**Hymn: CW # 182 v. 3**

**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.**

**First Lesson** : Joel 2:28,29 (EHV)

*The events of the first Christian Pentecost are foretold.*

After this, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions. Even on the servants, both male and female, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

**Second Lesson**: Acts 2:1-41 (EHV)

*Luke reports the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy. Peter connects the prophecy and fulfillment*

 *and urges people to take advantage of the opportunity the Lord provides to come to him.*

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

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

14 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. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 “‘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.

18 Even on my servants, both men and women,

    I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

    and they will prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in the heavens above

    and signs on the earth below,

    blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20 The sun will be turned to darkness

    and the moon to blood

    before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

21 And everyone who calls

    on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 25 David said about him:

“‘I saw the Lord always before me.

    Because he is at my right hand,

    I will not be shaken.

26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

    my body also will rest in hope,

27 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,

    you will not let your holy one see decay.

28 You have made known to me the paths of life;

    you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

29 “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

“‘The Lord said to my Lord:

    “Sit at my right hand

35 until I make your enemies

    a footstool for your feet.”’

36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

**Verse of the Day**

M: Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people,

 and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

**C: ♫ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Gospel Lesson**: John 16:5-11 (EHV)

**C: ♫ Glory be to you, O Lord!**

*The disciples were surely disturbed every time that Jesus said was going to leave this world.*

*But often Jesus connected his departure with the blessing of the Holy Spirit coming. In coming,*

*the Spirit can bring people faith and righteousness for the Day of Judgment.*

“But now I am going away to him who sent me, and not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ 6 Yet because I have told you these things, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth: It is good for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment: 9 about sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; 11 about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

**C:** ♫ **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**Hymn: CW # 176** *Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!*

**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**

**In holy faith your church unite**

**From ev’ry land and ev’ry 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 2:6-23; 32-38

**Hearing Problems Corrected by the Holy Spirit**

Fellow recipients of God’s gift, the Holy Spirit: Most of us, I imagine, have experienced the embarrassment of meeting someone and not quite catching their name. We may be afraid for address them for fear of pronouncing the name wrong, or just using the wrong one. Shamefully, I’m still uncertain about many of your names, sorry. A little hearing problem can be embarrassing.

From my dad’s line of work as a tool and die maker, a person might have been sent to get a certain size drill bit but comes back with a bit for a milling machine. Or an architect may request a protractor but is given a projector. A little hearing problem can lead to mistakes.

Or we hear what we want to hear. Someone might say: “You may have already won…” More than once people have maxed out their credit cards thinking they were in line for a nice payout, only they heard wrong. Hearing what we want to hear can lead to problems.

The same hearing problems are possible in spiritual matters.  Take Judas as an example: He heard his conscience tell him he was guilty for betraying Christ. Because he didn’t hear about forgiveness, he despaired and committed suicide. Or in hearing what we want to hear: we hear about forgiveness, and then assume we can sin all we want, because we fail to hear that God still demands obedience. Hearing problems can get us into deep trouble.

Of the first Christian Pentecost, many of those to whom Peter preached experienced spiritual hearing problems. There are still people whose ears don’t work well when it comes to the word of God. However, we see hearing problems corrected by the Holy Spirit. Let’s compare what the human nature hears with what the Holy Spirit teaches.

One hearing problem became evident even before Peter stood up. In response to the gift of tongues, “Some…made fun of them and said, ‘They have had too much wine’.”

Over ten different languages were identified that morning, so part of the time every person in the crowd did not understand what was being said. On the other hand, at some point every person in the crowd heard preaching in his/her own native tongue.

Refusing to accept the message God was presenting, some looked for an excuse not to listen. They didn’t like God’s message in their own language, they only heard what they wanted to hear, the foreign tongues—and mocked it as drunken babbling.

The human nature never really wants God’s message and will look for ways to ignore it. There is some unavoidable biblical terminology such as “salvation”, “justification” and “sanctification”. Some will hear those words and laugh, “Them’s mighty big words, that’s not the way I talk.” Most preaching is in clear and simple words. But they’ll hear what they want to hear and use it as an excuse not to hear anything.

In spite of this hearing problem, the Holy Spirit teaches God’s truth. There were at least 3,000 people that day with whom the Holy Spirit connected. They all rejoiced, “We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” They heard the message, and the Holy Spirit led them to its truth and value.

But it took God the Holy Spirit to convince them. After all, there were certainly obstacles to overcome, for as Peter preached, other hearing problems cropped up.

For example, the human nature heard what it considers false accusations. In his sermon, Peter declared, “(Jesus) was handed over to you…, and you…put him to death by nailing him to the cross.” Think about it though. This was 50 days later. We can imagine many in the crowd defending themselves, saying, “Hey, we weren’t even there!”

Even those who were there didn’t want to accept the guilt. As Peter’s preaching got around, the chief priests and rulers of the people hauled Peter before their court to say, “Look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man’s blood down on us,” (Acts 5:28)! The very people who publicly demanded Jesus’ death and handed him over to Pontius Pilate for crucifixion, didn’t want to hear about it. Truth is truth, even if it’s not pleasant.

Yet we also try to escape guilt by claiming we weren’t there. “It’s not our fault Jesus was crucified. We would have defended him.” So, we hear the accusation of murder and try to squirm out of it.

In contrast, the Spirit teaches responsibility for sin—and our own part in Jesus’ death. We cannot deny what God clearly says, “All have sinned,” and “the wages of sin is death.” Through Isaiah the Spirit teaches, “the Lord has charged all our guilt to him,” (53:6). Now, if sins cause death, and our sins are put on Jesus, then our sins caused his death. The Holy Spirit makes the accusation of murder stick. You did it. I did it. Maybe we don’t want to hear it, but we crucified Jesus.

But that’s only the first stumbling point. After Peter spoke of Jesus’ death, he also preached, “God raised him from the dead.” The human nature cries out, “Now, I’m hearing wild fantasies! The dead do not rise.” Further in his sermon, Peter referred to the resurrection of all the dead on Judgment Day. This meets no more approval than does Jesus’ personal resurrection.

The American Humanist Association on May 11, 2020 reaffirmed its adherence to the three humanist manifestos—or declarations of belief—which deny any supernatural element to the world, specifically reject any life hereafter or the ability of any deity to save us, for “we must save ourselves.” (HM II)

No surprise there, for in his letters Peter foretold, “First, know this: In the last days scoffers will come with their mocking…. They will say, “Where is this promised coming of his? …all things continue as they have from the beginning of the creation,” (II Peter 3:3,4). Actually, in their rejection of God, the humanists prove the existence of God, who knew both them and their beliefs before they invented those beliefs. But they don’t want to hear that.

Yet the Holy Spirit teaches the power of God. Referring to Psalm 16, Peter quoted, “Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay,” (vv 9,10).

Peter could have turned to the other disciples and said, “Here are eleven eyewitnesses.” And if the crowd chose to pursue it, there were over 500 eyewitnesses to Jesus’ resurrection. The human nature may hear what it considers “wild fantasies”, but the Spirit teaches the reality of Jesus’ resurrection, and of the resurrection of judgment of all people. The human nature’s hearing problem is corrected by the Spirit’s truth.

As the Spirit worked on this crowd through the apostles, he confronted the human nature with a few other things it would rather not face. When listening to Peter, the human nature hears some frightening facts.

Among them is this statement: “God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

Imagine that you ran over—may it never be so—and killed a young boy. You would feel terrible, right? But imagine you discover that this was the son of a famous political leader, or a brilliant actor. You’d feel worse, wouldn’t you? At least the media would want you to. What makes one thing bad, and the other worse? A tragic death is a tragic death. It shouldn’t matter if the person were famous or not.

Unless it’s the case given in Peter’s sermon. The crowd had been convicted of murder in crucifying Jesus. Then to hear that this Jesus is the Lord. This death is different than all the rest! On top of that, Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me,” (John 14:6). Here’s your only hope for heaven and you killed him! That’s not what a person wants to hear!

Our text records, “When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do’?” They knew what they had done. The human nature hears things which make it tremble.

Still should. The book of Hebrews warns, “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God,” (10:31)! When we realize our responsibility for any sin, and for our part in the crucifixion of Christ, our own hearts cry out, “What must I do to be saved?” Our hearts hear horrifying implications.

In contrast, the Holy Spirit teaches comfort. Peter answered the crowd’s question with the simple encouragement: “Repent and be baptized…in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.” Remember, he even prayed for the soldiers nailing him to the cross. So, while the human nature hears frightening facts, the Spirit is teaching the calming comfort of Jesus’ death for our sins.

Today we celebrate the Holy Spirit’s work. Our human nature always seems to get it wrong. It hears what it perceives to be drunken babbling; false accusations; wild fantasies and terrifying truths. The Holy Spirit has corrected our hearing problems.

On this subject of preaching and hearing, a few other things might be mentioned. You see, often during sermons what the human nature hears are birds chirping, the wind blowing, even the imaginary whine of a motorboat, or the thwack of a golf ball. And what about the unique sounds of home, as you’re listening online? Isn’t it true that we tend to daydream?

Or we may not listen because something the pastor once said rubbed us wrong, or we don’t care for his way of dealing with things. Our human nature has a hearing problem.

Those also are the kind of things the Holy Spirit works with. Peter certainly would not claim to be a mistake-free pastor. He wouldn’t claim perfect eloquence so that no mind would ever wander. But the Spirit motivated him to preach, and through his preaching, the Spirit corrects hearing problems.

So today, the Holy Spirit works in us. He uses the tool he used that first Christian Pentecost: preaching. He uses an imperfect pastor to present his perfect message. Maybe our human nature doesn’t want to hear what’s preached. Maybe we’re only paying half-attention and don’t get it quite right. The Holy Spirit corrects our hearing problems. Listen to what the Spirit teaches. AMEN

**Confession of Faith --** **Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed and Explanation**

**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.**

***What does this mean?***

**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. In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers. 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.**

**Prayer of the Church**

O Holy Spirit, divine Counselor, who on Pentecost established the Christian Church through the preaching and hearing of the Word of truth: continue to bless this Word, both upon the lips of Christ’s witnesses, and upon the hearts of all who hear, that countless souls may trust in Jesus alone as their Savior.

Having called us to faith and sanctified us, you have commissioned our bodies to be your holy temple and dwelling place. Purify, therefore, our every thought, all our words, and each deed so that they are done to glorify our Lord.

Adorn our lives with the fruits of faith: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. May these attitudes motivate our service to Christ, to one another, and to all the world. Help us to eagerly seek ways to share with fellow men, so that people may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven. Filled with your grace, may we have the boldness to witness Christ’s saving name to an unbelieving world.

Remind us that we are God’s dear children through faith, so that we never hesitate to bring all our wants, our troubles, our worries and our illnesses to him for help and healing. On that basis we now pray silently for our particular concerns.

 *Brief silence for prayer and meditation...*

In the name of Jesus we place these requests before you, and confidently also pray...

**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.**

**Words of Institution**

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Hymn: CW # 186 v. 1,4** *O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God*

**O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God,**

**Revealer of God’s holy Word,**

**You come to us from God’s great throne,**

**From God the Father and the Son,**

**O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God.**

**O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God,**

**Lead us to love your sacred Word;**

**The holy flame of love impart,**

**That kindness may inspire each heart,**

**O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God.**

**Closing Prayer and Blessing**

Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ’s holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

**C: ♫ Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: CW # 185** *O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace*

**O Holy Spirit, grant us grace That we our Lord and Savior**

**In faith and fervent love embrace And truly serve him ever,**

**So that when death is near at hand We at his cross may firmly stand**

**And there find our salvation.**

**Help us that we your saving Word In faithful hearts may treasure;**

**Let e’er that bread of life afford New grace in richest measure.**

**Make us to die to ev’ry sin; Each day create us new within**

**That fruits of faith may flourish.**

**Then when our earthly race is run, Death’s bitter hour impending,**

**May your good work in us begun Continue till life’s ending,**

**Until we gladly may commend Our spirits into our Savior’s hand**

**To rest in peace eternal.**

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**Notes and News**

**Holy Communion** Following the worship service this morning, we will serve the Lord’s Supper to our members who come to the parking lot between 10:30 and noon. May you be blessed through this spiritual gift from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A table will be set outside near the office entrance with individually sealed packages containing a piece of bread and a small cup of wine. Please drive up to that table and select a tray containing the correct number of packages. *(Meditations, Forward in Christ and Portals of Prayer will also be available.)*

Then drive forward to the canopy at the church entrance. Cones will mark off a preferred zone. Pastor Suckow will meet you there and speak the words of distribution, as each person opens first the bread packet and then the wine cup. Following the blessing each car will return home, disposing of the remnants in their own homes.

**Needs for the parsonage/teacherage** Mr. Nathan Lemke comes to us straight from Martin Luther College, so he has not accumulated a full household of furnishings yet. If you can help with the gift or loan of the following items, it would be greatly appreciated. Please send an email to the church office osinfo@oursaviorswausau.org or leave a message on the phone 715.845.3253.

* **Washer and dryer**
* Kitchen table / chairs
* Microwave
* Spare bed
* End tables
* Lawn and garden tools
* Dresser
* Chest freezer
* Lawn mower

**Farewell for the Hutchinsons** On June 21 we will bid farewell to Ethan and Katie Hutchinson who have served Our Savior’s school very ably these last 4 years. Specific plans will be announced soon, so please save the date.

**Memorials** We offer our thanks to the following members for gifts given in memory of Carol Smith’s brother, Gordon Borchardt: Michael & Lois Fasse, Angeline Marquis, Elaine Radtke, Kathy Stubbe, Bill & Sue Unruh.

*Blessed be his memory. Thanks be to God for the love which led to these gifts.*