

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2024

The Day of Pentecost



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## **WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!” (Psalm 84:1) We are thankful that God has brought you here with us this morning to hear His Word and receive His gifts! You’ll find everything you need for the worship service in this bulletin and in *Lutheran Service Book*, our hymnal. If you have any questions about our worship service, our congregation, or what we believe, please ask our pastor or any of our members.

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### **OUR COMMUNION POLICY:**

Lutherans believe in Real Presence, that during the Lord’s Supper we receive the True Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ present in, with, and under the Bread and Wine for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, those not instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession different than that of The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an Elder. (Please refer to 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 for self-examination.)

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### **SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:**

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh  
Musician – Gina Sanders

*Initial and ongoing funding for Epiphany Lutheran Church has been received through a grant made possible by the Roy D. and Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund.*

## AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

### *The Holy Spirit Brings the Dead to Life by the Righteousness of Christ*

In returning to His Father by way of the cross and resurrection, Christ Jesus sends “*the Helper*” to His Church, that is, “*the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father.*” The Spirit testifies of Christ and glorifies Him by taking what is His and declaring it to the world in the preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (John 15:26; 16:7, 14). He convicts the world of sin by the word of the Law, He forgives sins and justifies sinners by the Word of the Gospel, and He bestows the faith that says “Amen” to this righteousness of God (John 16:8–11). Therefore, the Lord pours out His Spirit on the apostles, that by their preaching, the Spirit should be given to His entire Church. As the multitudes are gathered from all the nations by “*this sound,*” that is, by the preaching of “*the mighty works of God*” in Christ Jesus, so does God the Father pour out the Spirit of His Son “*on all flesh*” (Acts 2:6, 11, 17). The Lord God breathes upon the slain, and so shall they live; for so the Lord has spoken, and He shall do it (Ezek. 37:5–14).

#### DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

**Prelude**

Selected Music

**Welcome and Greeting**

Pastor

**Announcements**

**Opening Hymn**

“*O Holy Spirit, Enter In*”

LSB 913

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

*Psalms 124:8*

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

*Ps. 130:3-4*

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *[Luke 18:13]*

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.** *[John 20:19-23]*

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Introit**

Psalm 104:24, 27-28, 30

**P** O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

**C** **These all look to you,  
to give them their food in due season.**

**P** When you give it to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

**C** **When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.**

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

# Kyrie

Mark 10:47



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

# Gloria in Excelsis

Lue 2:14; John 1:29



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>And I

will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

Acts 2:1-21

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup>And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup>both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” <sup>12</sup>And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup>But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. <sup>15</sup>For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup>But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>“And in the last days it shall be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams;

<sup>18</sup>even on my male servants and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,

blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;  
<sup>20</sup>the sun shall be turned to darkness  
 and the moon to blood,  
 before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.  
<sup>21</sup>And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord  
 shall be saved.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia and Verse**



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

*John 20:31*



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Holy Gospel Reading**

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth and sixteenth chapters.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus said:] “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness



about me. <sup>27</sup>And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. . . .

“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, and 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 heart. <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 Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup>concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

<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 authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Hymn of the Day**

*“Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord”*

LSB 497

**Sermon**

*“Paraclete Sunday”*

John 15:26-27; 16:4-15

**Nicene Creed**

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and  
the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

### Passing of the Peace

*When Jesus himself appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, he greeted them by saying, "Peace be with you" (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 26) – and so we do likewise.*

### Prayer of the Church

**P** Lord, in Your mercy  
**C**hear our prayer.

### Offering

Usher

*Please sign the attendance books as they are passed.*

*If you would like to transition to making your regular tithe or offering online, you may do so at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home>*



## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

*For those unfamiliar with our congregation's practice regarding the Lord's Supper, please refer to "Our Communion Policy" located at the beginning of the bulletin.*

### Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

*[Colossians 3:1]*

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

*[Psalm 136]*

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who ascended above the heavens and, sitting at Your right hand, poured out on this day the promised Holy Spirit on His chosen disciples. For all this the whole earth rejoices with exceeding joy. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

### Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**C** **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.**

## The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24  
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

**P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## Pax Domini

*John 20:19*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

*John 1:29*



**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



**1** O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
**2** All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Benedicamus and Benediction

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

*[Psalm 103:1]*

**C Thanks be to God.**

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

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**C Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

*“O Day Full of Grace”*

LSB 503

**Postlude**

Selected Music

## SERMON NOTES

### John 15:26-27; 16:4-15 | *Paraclete Sunday*

1. In the English of our day, \_\_\_\_\_ with a lower-case p means \_\_\_\_\_; with a capital P it's another name for the Holy Spirit.
  2. The function of this promised Paraclete is to \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. The Spirit takes all of Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ and by means of the \_\_\_\_\_ spreads its saving power to the ends of the Earth.
  4. God has been gracious to us and has given us a Comforter, who, as God Himself, is much stronger with His \_\_\_\_\_ than the devil is with his \_\_\_\_\_.
  5. The Spirit has \_\_\_\_\_ us from the law of sin and of death, that it searches the depths of our hearts, prays in us when we cannot find the words, pours the \_\_\_\_\_ of God into our hearts, and gives us \_\_\_\_\_.
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## PRAYERS AT EPIPHANY

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please share any prayer request on the Prayer Requests sheet as you enter on Sunday. You may also email a prayer request, as well as a request to become a part of Epiphany's prayer chain, to [secretary@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto:secretary@epiphanybastrop.org).

Please continue to pray for...

- Deaconess Carol Halter – missionary in Hong Kong



## INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

The first step to becoming a member of our congregation is to speak with our pastor.

We believe, teach, and confess that we are all broken sinners in need of God's salvation, which He freely gives through His Word and Sacrament. Church is not a club for the sinless— it's a hospital for sinners!

You may become a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church by transferring your membership from a sister congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) or you may receive instruction from the pastor and become a communicant member of Epiphany and the LCMS through Adult Instruction Class or through a profession of faith.

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Epiphany Lutheran Church has a podcast! Our ***Peace Be With You*** podcast is still very much a work in progress that we hope will help us reach those in our community and beyond with the Gospel message of hope and salvation in Christ. In the coming days it should be available on popular podcast apps, but you can always find it at [peacebewithyou.podbean.com](http://peacebewithyou.podbean.com) (or just scan the QR code).



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### THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

#### Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

#### Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

**Adult Sunday School video study** started April 7<sup>th</sup>! When we start with the Bible, we find that there is only one race—the human race. Join us for ***One Race, One Blood***, a 12-week biblical journey to discover what God’s Word reveals about the unity and diversity of mankind.

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**Zoom Bible Study:** Ever wondered if there was just a bit more to some of those lessons you learned in Sunday school? Join us for our next Zoom study, ***Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me in Sunday School***, beginning at **6pm on Thursday, June 6** (through August 29) Registration is open now: [bit.ly/ELC-Stuff](https://bit.ly/ELC-Stuff)

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**Lutheran Hour:** Next Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – “Penultimate Sacrifice” – Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Memorial Day honors those who made “the ultimate sacrifice” in service to country, but there was one Sacrifice infinitely greater. (Acts 10:1-2)

Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday on station KBUK-FM 104.9 at 7:00 a.m. or on station KANJ-FM 91.5 at 12:30 p.m. or go to [lhm.org](https://lhm.org) for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live.

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**CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE.org:** Begin studying Ezra on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), continue studying Proverbs on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and study Baptism in the Apology of the Augsburg Confession on Concord Matters (5/25 at 11:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfuo.org](https://kfuo.org) and the KFUE Radio app!

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FAITH LUTHERAN  
HIGH SCHOOL OF CENTRAL TEXAS

### **Final Chapel**

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service. This week, chapel will be on Tuesday, May 21, beginning at 12:04 pm, with Pastor Nate Hill from St. Michael's in Winchester leading us.

### **Graduation**

Graduation for the fourth class of Faith Lutheran High School will be Saturday, May 25th at 1:30 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Please join us as we celebrate all our seniors and celebrate their accomplishments.

### **Close of 2023-2024 School Year**

Thursday will be the last day of classes at FLHS for this school year. Please pray for the students as they prepare to take finals and pray for our seniors as they graduate. Thank you for keeping FLHS in your prayers and gifts this year! We have been blessed beyond measure!

### **7th Annual Golf Tournament**

Faith Lutheran High School will be holding their annual golf tournament fundraiser on Friday, May 31st at Frisch Auf Country Club in La Grange Texas. Shotgun start at 8:00 AM with the possibility of an afternoon flight also. For more information on entering a 4 person team or to sign up as a sponsor, please call (979) 242-2889 or visit our website at [www.flhstx.org](http://www.flhstx.org).

### **Youth Camps**

Summer camps are back! We are excited to offer a variety of camps for youth this summer. Ages are for grades NEXT school year.

May 28 to May 30 - Volleyball - Grade 3 to 8 - \$25

June 10-12 - Basketball - Grades K to 8 - \$25

June 17-19 - STEM Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$50

June 24-26 - Art Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$50

July 1-2 - Archery - Grade 4 to 8 - \$20

Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information! Don't wait --- Sign up today!! Space is limited!

Answers to Sermon Notes:  
1. In the English of our day, *parade* with a lower-case p means *advocate* with a capital P it's another name for the Holy Spirit.  
2. The function of this promised Paraclete is to *testify to Christ*  
3. The Spirit takes all of Jesus' *work* and by means of the *Gospel* spreads its saving power to the ends of the Earth.  
4. God has been gracious to us and has given us a Comforter, who, as God Himself, is much stronger with His *comfort* than the devil is with his *terror*.  
5. The Spirit has *freed* us from the law of sin and of death, that it searches the depths of our hearts, prays in us when we cannot find the words, pours the *love* of God into our hearts, and gives us *hope*.

3-minute



Seminary

## What is Pentecost?

On Christmas, Christians celebrate the Incarnation—the idea that God became human in the person of Jesus Christ. On Easter, Christians celebrate the Resurrection—the belief that Jesus rose from the dead, a sign of the promise of resurrection given to all God’s people. And on Pentecost, we celebrate the Holy Spirit—the gift of

God’s comfort, power, and strength given to God’s people.

In the Hebrew Scripture, the Jewish people celebrated a holiday known as the “Festival of Weeks” (see Exodus 32 and Deuteronomy 16). This was a harvest festival, a time when the Israelites celebrate the generosity of God, shown in a successful harvest of grain. While the Temple stood in Jerusalem, each farmer would bring their first fruits—the first ripe samples from their fields—and give them as an offering of thanksgiving in the Temple. This meant that many Jews from all across the countryside would gather in Jerusalem in order to present their offering at the Temple.

The Festival of Weeks happened fifty days after the Passover. For this reason, the Greek-speaking Jews of the first century called the festival “Pentecost”—from the Greek word meaning “fiftieth day.”

It was during the Festival of Weeks, fifty days after Passover, that the disciples of Jesus were gathered in Jerusalem. They had spent the last fifty days making sense of their experiences of the resurrection of their teacher, Jesus, and the fact that he had just ascended into heaven. While the disciples were gathered, the Holy Spirit filled them. They began to tell to the pilgrims who were gathered in Jerusalem about Jesus. As they preached they were amazed to discover that all the pilgrims—regardless of what language they spoke—were able to understand them.

The Christian celebration of Pentecost is rooted in this historical event—an event sometimes called the “birthday of the church” because it marks the day that Jesus’ disciples began to share the story of Jesus and invite others to share in their faith in Jesus as the Son of God. But Pentecost is more than just remembering a historical event.

On Pentecost, we invite the same Spirit that filled the disciples that day to transform our lives. Even more important than looking backward and remembering what God did two thousand years ago, we look forward and invite the Spirit to pull us into the future.

The Holy Spirit has a way of turning things upside down. The story of Acts is all about how the lives of the disciples got turned upside down—and by extension, how the world turned upside down by this new, Spirit-filled faith.

On Pentecost we invite this disruptive presence of God into our own lives.

[From *What is Pentecost?* by Rev. David Hansen, posted to sojoy.org on 5/23/2017]