

Sermon for Pentecost-2021

Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 139:1-6, John 15:26-27, 4-15

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Michelle, parents, and all the baptized gathered here this morning, grace, peace, and mercy from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Michelle, on January 5, 2019 you were baptized into the faith of the Christian church. During this time, we have asked you to believe in things that are difficult to explain. That is why we have spent the last year and four months trying to explain it all. Did we do a good job?

Such as at Christmas time we celebrate the birth of Jesus from the virgin Mary. About God becoming man. Hard to figure out in our human understanding.

Then we observed this baby who grew up and died on a cross to free us from our sins, so that we can be forgiven and be in relationship with God.

At Easter, the mystery continues. This baby born at Christmas grew up to die on cross rose from the dead for our salvation so that you may have the hope of eternal life in heaven.

His birth, His death and resurrection, our human mind says hold on, that cannot happen. Again, it is a mystery. Then Jesus ascended into heaven where sit at The Father's right hand. That is hard to wrap our minds around. I do not know if we did a good teaching, you this, but we had help. The Holy Spirit. He has brought you to this point and The Holy Spirit is why in just a short bit you will be standing up here saying, "I believe All of this" when you recite the Apostles' Creed. It is work of the Holy that is connecting you Jesus.

This Day is a bit is a bit mysterious too. What do we make of the Wind filling the room where Jesus's followers were staying? How about the tongues of fire? Then they, fishermen, and a tax collector, and others pouring out into the street and speaking The Good News of God in Jesus in languages they never studied so that all who heard could understand. Again, a mystery. Like so many mysteries there are some doubters who will try to explain it away. "They are filled with new sweet wine." They have been hitting the bottle early in the morning.

Then Peter, yes, the one who said he did not know Jesus because he was afraid, he would be killed, now stands up to correct the doubters. "Men of Judea, and all who live in Jerusalem let this be known to you today and listen to what I say. These are not drunk as you suppose. It is only nine in the morning." Then Peter adds the mystery on top of the mystery. "This was spoken by the prophet Joel, 'In the last days it will be, Go God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall dream dreams...'"

Did you catch that? In the Last days...So the day that we celebrate today is the Kick-off into the Last days when Jesus will return and bring everything to fulfillment. This is the beginning of the end times. But we have been told not to worry about when that when Our Lord will come

again to judge the living and dead. It is just to enough to know we are living in between Pentecost and when Jesus will return.

So today in our lives we are living in the time of Pentecost. This is the time for the Holy Spirit to do His work.

God the Father did His particular work when He created the heavens and earth. Jesus the Son did His work when died on the cross as the sacrifice for our sins and rose from the dead for our salvation, and Today we celebrate the Particular work of the Holy Spirit to connect boys and girls, men, and women to Jesus. The Holy Spirit makes the connection between you and your Lord. It is a great mystery, but it is all true and it is for you.

This what we heard in the Gospel reading for the day. “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, He will testify on my behalf.”

The Father Sends the Holy Spirit at the request of Jesus so you and you and you can be connected to Jesus and learn what he has taught and done for you. “He will guide you int all the truth.”

In Luther’s explanation of the Apostles’ Creed, we read, “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ.” That statement of I believe that I cannot believe leaves us right in a place of no hope of salvation.

But Luther continues driving home the point that God loves us too much to leave us in place with out hope.

Luther continues, “But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, Sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

The Holy Spirit Brings the Lord and Savior to you and to all of us. The Holy Spirit brings you to the Lord and Savior and introduces you and He says,

“Hello.”

And you say, “Hello.”

And He says, “I love you and have loved you for a long time. Would you take my hand? And we say, “Sure! Where are you taking me?” And He says, “I am taking you to my Father’s house.” And we ask, “Where is that?” And He says, “Follow Me.” And just like that our life is changed.

Peter preached a sermon that day and the lives of 3,000 changed as they were baptized. Throughout the 2,000 years since that first Pentecost a multitude too great to be counted has been changed through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Michelle, how are you named? “Michelle Amber.” Meet your Lord and Savior Jesus. Say Hello Michelle... And He says, “Michelle, I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb.”

Welcome to the family. Here Michelle, take my hand and follow me. There is so much more to show you.