

ILCW Year-C Scripture Lessons for the Feast of Pentecost

Old Testament

Genesis 11:1-9 NIV

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. 3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." 5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. 6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." 8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel -- because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Epistle (Sermon Text)

Acts 2:1-11 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 them speaking in his own language. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own 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!"

Gospel

John 15:26-27 "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. 27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. 16:1 "All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. 2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. 3 They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. 4 I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you. 5 "Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. 7 But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I 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 of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; 10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL, USA
The Feast of Pentecost  *Coming of the Holy Spirit*
May 19th 2013  9:30am



Woodcut illustration from a 1695 Bible – Acts 2

The **Holy Spirit** descends on the believers on **Pentecost** in the form of a dove and the sound of rushing wind, so they could preach in peoples' native tongues.

Image courtesy of Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
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OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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PHONE (863) 859-3400— www.osllakeland.com

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:30 AM

Pastor Andrew Burmeister (863) 430-5859

Organist: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

May 19, 2013 Pentecost(C) Whitsunday “Holy Spirit”

WELCOME to Our Savior! We are happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time, we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. If you are seeking a church home, our pastor would be glad to share information about our church with you and discuss membership at your convenience. Come and worship with us again! Thank you.

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD’S SUPPER: If you are new to the area and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please wait to take communion until the pastor can speak with you. Out of Christian love and consideration to you the visitor, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you.

ORDER OF SERVICE *(See insert.)*

PLEASE NOTE: The service folder insert has been written so that it may be used more than once. If you prefer to use the hymnal, see page 15. Feel free to leave the service folder insert with an usher after the service. Thank you. May the Lord bless your worship!

Service		
Opening Hymn	227 (5v)	Come Holy Ghost in Love
Hymn of Day	224 (3v)	Come Holy Ghost, God and Lord
Sermon	Acts 2:1-11	At Pentecost = “Babel is UNdone!”
Offering Hymn	644 (4v)	Praise God From Whom All Blessings...
Communion Hymn	235 (8v)	O Holy Spirit, Enter In
Closing Hymn	215 (5v)	Draw Us To Thee

PROPERs for WHITSUNDAY = PENTECOST SUNDAY ☽ MAY 19th 2013

INTROIT: The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole world. Alleluia! Let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God; Yes, let them exceedingly rejoice. Alleluia! Alleluia! Let God arise; let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him. ...from *Wisdom of Sol. 1:7 & Psalm 68*

COLLECT: O God, You taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending to them the light of Your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives, and reigns, one true God, now and forever. **C: ♪ A-- -men.**

GRADUAL: Alleluia! Alleluia! You send forth Your Spirit, they are created, and You renew the face of the earth. Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. **Alleluia!** ...from *Psalm 104 & the Sequence Veni, Sancte Spiritus*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: *(printed on the outside back page of the bulletin)*
Genesis 11:1-9 The confusing of languages and scattering of peoples.
Acts 2:1-11 ~ ~ ~ The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost. ~ ~ ~
John 15:26-27 (Jesus promises:) “The Holy Spirit will testify of Me.”

SERMON: Text: (Genesis 11:1-9 &) **Acts 2:1-11** ☽ **“BABEL ...UN-DONE!”** ☽

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Madeline Beck	Delores (Dee) Kurczewski
Richard Birkenmeier	(past member) Dan Elwing
Jonathan Jumper (grandson of Elaine Jones)	Jeanette Kubly
Tyler Kirby (nephew of Andrea Sawyer)	Mariah Sawyer
George Wendt (brother of Steve Wendt)	Ann Wentz

	This week	Next week
Volunteers		
Greeter	Jim & Elma Hendricks	Tom & Vivian Temple
Usher	(Volunteer)	(Volunteer)
Treats	(Welcome Potluck Lunch)	Bev Weinke

COFFEE & TREATS are generally served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Everyone is invited to stay! We thank our volunteers for serving. We are **IN NEED OF SERVERS** for future Sundays. If you can help, PLEASE SIGN UP. Thanks!

Statistics	Last week	Year to date (average)
Sunday Worship	39	40
Communion Attendance	--	30
Sunday Bible Class	10	8
Thursday Bible Class	8	9
Sunday Offering	\$	(YTD total) \$

Calendar of Events

Sunday, 5/19	8:30 am	Bible Study
Today is:	9:30 am	Divine Worship (with Lord’s Supper)
Pentecost Sunday	11:00 ff...	Welcome Luncheon - New Family
Tuesday, 5/21	6:00 pm	Catechism Class with Prescott
Thursday, 5/23	6:30 pm	Bible Study at Madeline Beck’s
Saturday, 5/25	1:30 pm	Catechism Class with Sawyers
Sunday, 5/26	8:30 am	Bible Study
Trinity Sunday	9:30 am	Worship (no Holy Communion)
	10:30 ff...	Fellowship time: Drinks and Treats

Congregational Notes

Please contact our Elders with any concerns about church matters: **Jim Vanesky 644-7807, John Weber 853-5458 & Don Wienke 863-815-8892.**

Schedule Notes - for today and this week

(Today) “Welcome to the Dux” Leroy & Robin, Prescott after church.

Birthdays this week: 21st(Tue.) Jim Vanesky; 24th(Fri.) Don Wienke

Have a Blessed week all, & See you all next Sunday!

PENTECOST (Genesis 11:1-9 & Acts 2:1-11) "BABEL UNDONE?" 05.19.13

INTRODUCTION: *"We believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets...."*

Today is the Holy Spirit's day, Pentecost Day, a day full of grace and favor. It is the day the crucified, risen, and reigning Lord Jesus Christ breathed out on His church – 120 believers gathered together in a room. Pentecost means "Fifty" in Greek. **Fifty days.** Fifty days after Jesus' Resurrection from the grave, the first-fruits of the Resurrection's harvest is gathered – 3000 people heard the proclamation of salvation in the name of Jesus, **believed, and were baptized.**

Pentecost is also the "Beginning of the End" - beginning of the "**last days,**" the days leading up to the Last Day. Everything has been **done** for your salvation. Christ has **died.** Christ has **risen.** Christ has **ascended** to the throne of glory at the Father's right hand. **It is finished.** Nothing more needs to be done except to **broadcast the Victory.** Proclaim it. Preach it. Make it known far and wide. That takes breath. The Church must have breath if she is to proclaim the victory and reign of Christ. (In singing or yelling) Before you can shout or sing, you need to **inhale, take in a good deep breath.** That's Pentecost. The Spirit is the Church's breath. The rushing wind and tongues of fire. That's Jesus breathing the living Breath of God into the Church giving life and vitality and breath to speak.

The breath of God blew through the church like a mighty wind. Divided tongues of fire rested on each of the disciples gathered there. Jesus promised He would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. They were all filled with the Spirit and began to speak in various languages and dialects. And the people who were gathered in Jerusalem from all over the Mediterranean world **heard the Good News** of Jesus in their very own language and dialect. Pentecost is a miracle of both **speaking** and **hearing.** The Holy Spirit works both at the **mouth** and at the **ear** to convey the Word.

That's why two people can **get two different things** from the same sermon, or react in two different ways. I've heard that of preaching. No two people hear the same sermon the same way. I believe, on the basis of Pentecost, that this is **precisely how the Holy Spirit works.** He always works through Means, in this case **Words.** Nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, subjects, predicates. Human language. When you think of it it's one of the most amazing gifts of the Spirit. That same Word of God that **kills and makes alive,** that **tears down** and **builds up,** that is sharper than any two edged sword, can be conveyed in **ordinary human language.** It's really no different than Baptism using ordinary water, or ordinary bread and wine being the Body and Blood of Christ. God works through means. Ordinary, human, earthly means.

The languages spoken here were **coherent human languages.** People heard the Gospel in their own native tongues. It was God's way of saying "**For You.**" This death and life of Jesus, this Baptism, this forgiveness is

"**for you.**" Take it personally and trust it. Own it. The words "for you" require hearts to believe.

Our OT reading spoke of a different language event - **the Tower at Babel** where God intervened in the ambitious plans of men to build a city and a tower to the heavens by confusing their languages. It's wonderfully simple and subversive. If you want people to scatter, make it so they don't understand each other's subjects and predicates. Confuse languages and people scatter.

It was a protective act of judgment, lest a united humanity do something worse. It reveals God's mistrust of our unity as sinners. You always hear talk about everyone all being together as one and how great that would be. The Lord doesn't appear to think that one world anything is a good idea. God knows the mischief that sinners will make if they "just all get together."

The place where God confused the languages of men was called **Babel.** It sounds like what it is – babbling. We are reminded, by way of this account, that the ambitions of man without God will result in nothing but confusion and chaos. All of our attempts to be united, to be "**one people,**" will be nothing more than Tower-building **without the Lord.** It also reminds us of who runs the **verbs** - the actions. **We don't, God does.** We don't reach up to him, neither with our towers reaching to the heavens nor with our religions that attempt to do the same. God comes down to us. God becomes one of us and one with us. "The Word became Flesh."

At Pentecost, the confusion of Babel is undone in one way, but in another it's **not.** The diversity of languages remains. Instead, **God uses the diversity of tongues as a sign of His Spirit,** and He brings people together not by giving them a common language but by giving them a common Savior. "There is one Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all. There is one Spirit, one bread, one cup. Our union in Christ is the true unity of the Church and the only way in which we can be united without us destroying one another in the process.

The world remains skeptical. Some thought the disciples were drunk at nine in the morning, though I've never met anyone whose language skills improved much less expanded with drinking. As the last days play out, the **skepticism is bound to increase,** as will false teaching and teachers, deceptive spirits and spiritualities, any distraction from Jesus and His cross. The apostle **Paul** wrote in **1 Timothy:** "*Now the Spirit expressly says that in the later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared.*" Our day is one of many spirits and many beliefs. It's a religious Babel out there, and sometimes that babbling confusion even leaks into the church.

We ourselves are tempted too. We have this itch for things new. We are fascinated by things spiritual. Some people expect the church **always to be like its "Opening day,"** with wind and tongues of fire and speaking in languages and **thousands baptized** at one time. And that may indeed happen

here and there where it's needed. But that's not the ordinary way. The ordinary way is what goes on here.

The **ordinary way of Pentecost is the preaching of Jesus**. Baptism. Body and blood. Immediately after this episode in the book of Acts it says of those who were gathered, *"They continued in the doctrine of the apostles, in the fellowship, the Breaking of the Bread, and in the prayers."* In other words, they **worshipped together in much the same way that we do here**. Preaching, teaching, fellowship in the Bread which is the Body of Christ and the cup that is His Blood, and in Prayer.

Can you imagine what would happen if wind and fire and tongues were **part of every service every Sunday?! -** We'd get bored with it within a month or two. We'd **complain** about the wind, we'd worry that the tongues of fire were going to **singe** the carpet or our hair. And that chatter of all those languages. Couldn't we just settle on one?

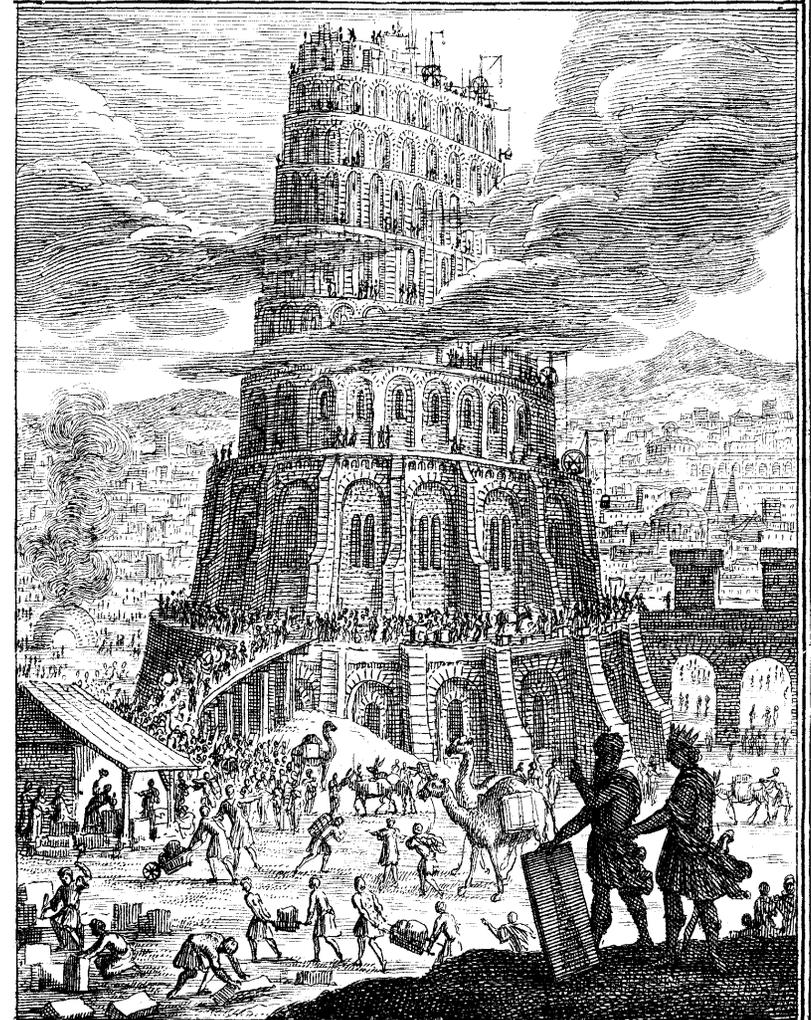
Jesus knows this. **He knows what is best for His Church**. And He's promised always to be with us. The Spirit is how Jesus can both "go away" and "come to us." In one sense, Jesus "went away" when He ascended. He didn't go "somewhere" in the sense of place, but He withdraw His visible and touchable presence. We can't see Him as His disciples did. But in another greater sense, He comes to us. He comes to us by the Spirit He sends, in the "Spirit-ed" Word that has Jesus' own stamp of approval, that the apostles who wrote did so guided by the Spirit who brought everything to their remembrance.

That same Spirit is at work here among us. Subtly, humbly, hiddenly. Delivering the peace of Jesus. *"Peace, I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."* That's the peace **of sins forgiven**. The peace of standing before God **justified**. The peace of having **death conquered for you**. The promise of Resurrection to life and the peace of **eternal life**. Pentecost peace and joy. In Jesus' Name, **it is yours. Amen. SDG**

Now, the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen. SDG

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL
The Feast of Pentecost  *Coming of Holy Spirit*
May 19th 2013  *SERMON: "We Believe in H.S."*

GENES : XI.
Turrim inmensa altitudinis Babelici moluntur



*Woodcut illustration from a 1695 Bible – Genesis 11 Tower of Babel.
The Tower of Babel built; & God confuses the languages of the builders.*