

Glynde Lutheran Church

a multi-cultural community of faith



Church@Home

Sunday 28 May 2023

Pentecost, Year A

9am Worship Service

HYMN: LH129/TiS 407 BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD.

<https://youtu.be/a9s8BFHThfc>

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love all that You love
and do what You would do.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with You I will one will
to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
and all my life refine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with Your fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God;
so shall I never die,
but live with You the perfect life
of Your eternity.**

Words: Edwin Hatch 1835-89

*Music: Original form of melody from
Aaron Williams 'Psalmody in Miniature' London 1778
Harm David Evans 1874-1948*

WELCOME & WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will tell of your praise.

O God, deliver me.

O Lord, be quick to help me.

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

SENTENCES OF INVITATION

O come, let us worship the Lord,
For he is our maker.

O COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD

- 1 O come, let us sing to the *Lord*,
let us shout aloud to the rock of *our* salvation.
- 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving,
let us shout aloud to *him* with songs of praise.
- 3 For the Lord is a great *God*,
and a great King *above* all gods.
- 4 In his hands are the depths of the *earth*;
the heights of the mountains are *his* also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he *made* it,
and his hands *formed* the dry land.
- 6 O come, let us worship and bow *down*,
let us kneel before the *Lord*, our maker.
- 7 For he is our *God*,
and we are the people of his pasture, *and the *sheep* in his care.
Glory to the Father and the *Son*
and the *Holy Spirit*,
as it was in the beginning, is *now*,
and will be forevermore. Amen.

O come, let us worship the *Lord*, for *he* is our maker.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

(Let us pray for the power of the Holy Spirit. [*silence*])

Almighty and merciful God,
you sent your Holy Spirit at Pentecost,
making the disciples bold to preach the good news.
Send us out with the power of the same Spirit
to spread the fire of your love.
We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Acts 2:1-21

“Follower of Jesus, start your engine”

READINGS

The reading is written in [1 Corinthians 12:3b-13](#)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

The gospel reading is written in [John 20:19-23](#)

RESPONSE AFTER THE GOSPEL

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

RESPONSE

Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth.

Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth.

Make me wholehearted in fearing your name,

that I may walk in your truth.

Glory to the Father and the Son

and the Holy Spirit.

Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth.

HYMN: LHS 773 FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT'S POWER

<https://youtu.be/DyBNuAeqaM4>

Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord

the infant church confessed its risen Lord:

O Holy Spirit, in the church today

no less your power of fellowship display.

Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,

that unity may be our great desire:

give joy and peace; give faith to hear your call,

and readiness in each to work for all.

**Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace
in your strong care all people of each race:
like wind and fire with life among us move
till we are known as Christ's, and Christians prove.**

*Words: John Peacy (1896-1971)
Music: Walter Greatorex 18??-1949
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WE DWELL IN THE WORD: [Acts 2:1-21](#)

“Follower of Jesus, start your engine”

By Pastor Wayne Kerber

On Pentecost, we celebrate the coming and triumph of Holy Spirit—over all of our differences, even the difference of our nationalities and our languages, of class, of race, of gender, over all these differences, Holy Spirit prevails—on Pentecost, over all of the hindrances to speech, Holy Spirit prevails.

You see this so dramatically in Acts 2—there they were, gathered, so many different, divisive languages, and nationalities, and at Holy Spirit's descent, those differences were overcome—Holy Spirit prevailed at Pentecost—and He prevailed against every human spirit—and continues to do so today.

Let's be clear—there is a “*human spirit*”—many speak of the human spirit as that power within humanity—where the human spirit is “*resolute*”—like when a track star stumbles, then recovers, gets up, picks up the baton and finishes the race—and the sports commentator says; “That woman has great spirit”—meaning the human spirit.

So many people believe that the human spirit will prevail in all circumstances in life—but that's not the truth, is it—the same human spirit which, in times of difficulty, is able to take a deep breath, to clench its fist and move forward is also the spirit which clenches its fist in disobedience and rebellion against God—how ironic that the

human spirit can be both the source of some of our greatest achievements, and also that which brings grief.

So let us today focus upon the person of Holy Spirit—and if we are honest, we will find that Holy Spirit and our human spirit have at times been at odds, at times they have danced together, encouraged one another, at times they have been in combat with one another—yet always, thank God, Holy Spirit will prevail—if we let him.

Over selfishness, leaping over human walls of free will, comes Holy Spirit to prevail—in the church, in this congregation, time and again, when one has been cold of heart, slow to move, timid with fear, Holy Spirit can prevail.

In your own life, in those moments when all seems lost, when there is no way out, no way forward and yet you have been surprised when a door was opened, or a way forward is made when there was no way, Holy Spirit has prevailed—He has worked in you and for you to overcome.

We therefore never need lose hope—never need to be kept on tiptoes, expectant, eager, sometimes even nervous—for Holy Spirit which gave birth to the church continues to prod, persuade, and call forward the church—meaning, you and me.

Just when one gets all settled down, comfortable with present arrangements, there comes a rush of wind, or a still small voice, a breath of fresh air, tongues of fire and Holy Spirit—so followers of Jesus *“start your engines.”*

This phrase is used to start a famous race in the USA—the Indianapolis 500—I think it’s also been used for many other car races around the world—and this phrase fits in well with the great celebration of the person of Holy Spirit and the Church of today.

The thing that makes the Indianapolis 500 and other car races around the world what they are, is the great invention called the internal combustion engine—where fuel ignites, combustion

happens, and off they go—without the ignition there is no movement—without combustion, there is no race.

And so it is with the Christian Church—the disciples of Jesus were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish festival of the Feast of Weeks, or Shavuot in Hebrew (*the giving of the law at Mt. Sinai*)—one of the three pilgrimage feasts of Israel during which each adult male was required to be present in Jerusalem—(together with Pesach (*which recalls the sacrifice of the lamb whose blood that was painted on the doorposts of the Hebrews*) and Sukkot (*known otherwise as the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles*))

It was a holy time, and the people were ready to pray—but something even greater happened...ignition, combustion—**"Fiery tongues appeared on them, and all of them were filled with the person of Holy Spirit"**

Holy Spirit ignited a new moment and a new people—the fire of Holy Spirit lighted a communication that overcame the former languages of division and competition with a new language of God's love and Spirit—the fire had begun.

Many songs and hymns being sung today around the world have a focus about the ignition that began on that first Pentecost day—and they proclaim the hope that might continue to burn within the church so that it will never lose its passion or burning desire to be followers of Jesus.

They are a prayer for the work of Holy Spirit to continue in us individually and as the whole Body of Christ, so that we might live our faith with a passion, obedience, and commitment, and do the work of God's mission boldly and creatively.

A prayer to believe and know that there is a God here in this universe—invisible, mysterious, powerful, who can't be controlled any more than one can control the wind—and the person of Holy Spirit, this Wind, gives life—physical life—spiritual life.

And this person of Holy Spirit is all around you—in you, above you, below you, beside you, invisibly present—Holy Spirit is present with us, whether we feel him or not—when we are thinking of him or not—when we are good or bad, rich or poor, indifferent or concerned—when we are working, golfing, singing, sailing, hiking, living or dying, Holy Spirit is here...which is pure grace.

Holy Spirit is mysteriously near you, not because you are good, not because you are kind, and not because you are religious—for indeed, none of us are any of those qualities without the work of Holy Spirit, who is graciously present in our life because the person of Holy Spirit is God—and **the purpose of Holy Spirit is to make His presence alive in us.**

The promise of Pentecost is that every person of faith will be ignited by the person of Holy Spirit for a deeper expression of belief and a more powerful expression for Christian living—and Holy Spirit brings a number of purposes to help one achieve what God wants—**the first purpose** being to daily remind one that Jesus is alive in them.

Holy Spirit is to remind us that Jesus is alive in us, and that we are alive in Him—to make the love of Jesus alive in us individually—alive with His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—all His virtues alive in us.

Holy Spirit makes the teachings and words of Jesus **ALIVE** in you and me—his words about forgiveness, eternal life, unconditional love—Holy Spirit makes the words and teachings of Jesus become living realities in our lives.

The second purpose of Holy Spirit is to make the church alive—Holy Spirit gets into the church like a wind to blow us out of the pews, to blow us out of our institutions and safe communities and out into the world.

A meteorologist will tell you that "*wind is air on the move*"—when the air is heated up, it becomes wind—that's what the church is to be—air on the move—moving us into our communities to be present in

the lives of others—we are to be Holy Spirit filled air—this Ruach (*the breath of God*) on the move.

And this air is here in this room today, filling this sanctuary—filling you and making you strong—to heal your wounds, to give you comfort, to give your life meaning, to forgive you when your life is lived in a way contrary to the will of God.

But even more than that, the person of Holy Spirit that surrounds you, that is in you, is given to you that you may have power—Holy Spirit is given to you so that you would have power to be the living presence of Jesus in this world—to continue the ministry of Jesus to help grow His kingdom by giving you His gifts: a word of knowledge, words of wisdom, discerning on spirits, faith to completely trust, a working of healings and a working of miracles, prophecy, tongues and interpretation of tongues.

Pentecost is where the Church was given the power—power that is greater than tornadoes—power to proclaim with authority the message of Jesus—**YOU**—not just the person next to you—**YOU** have been given that power, for **YOU** are a Holy Spirit-filled person.

That's where we find Holy Spirit alive—in you and me—working with His power in all sorts of situations—in the gathering of this community for worship and prayer, where we are enlightened by Holy Spirit to understand the words we hear as good news of salvation—in Holy Communion when Holy Spirit works with the words of Jesus to transform ordinary bread and wine into the food and drink of life—the Body and Blood of Jesus—where the person of Holy Spirit transforms and unite us all the more to Jesus?

Yes, Holy Spirit is at work—not simply in the air—not simply as fire—not simply on the tongue—Holy Spirit is at work in human hearts and minds, and souls—Holy Spirit is at work in the places where He chooses to take up residence—in common, ordinary ways, in common ordinary people—like you and me.

What extraordinary power Holy Spirit has, to work in such ways—we may be tempted to think that the winds, the flame and the tongues are where Holy Spirit is, but to think only like this is to miss the person of Holy Spirit who is in and with us every day—eager to start our engines of faith and trust to do what Jesus has called us to do.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. Amen.

HYMN: LHS 776 SPIRIT OF GOD, UNSEEN AS THE WIND

<https://youtu.be/dy8AZ46GKqc>

***Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove:
Teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love.***

**You spoke to men long, long ago,
gave us the written Word;
we read it still, needing its truth,
through it God's voice is heard.**

**Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live his way;
we need your power, we need your strength,
following Christ each day.**

*Words: M V Old
Music: Traditional*

OFFERING PRAYER

**Holy God,
may the Spirit you give us
make us more and more like your Son,
loving and self-giving.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

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

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Call to prayer

Let us pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the church.

Response

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Suggested intercessions

- * We thank you, holy Father, that, as you had promised, you gave your Holy Spirit to all your people at Pentecost. Pour out your life-giving Spirit on your holy church throughout the world and equip its members with the gifts of your Spirit.
- * You brought light out of darkness and order out of chaos by your Spirit in the creation of the world. Let your Spirit move over our unruly world and heal its broken people.
- * You sent out your Spirit on the disciples like the rush of a mighty wind and distributed tongues of fire on their heads. Burn out all that is evil in us; consecrate all your people for holy service, and empower them to work with you for the salvation of the world.
- * You inspired the disciples with your Spirit to praise your marvellous deeds in many different languages. Unloose the tongues of all your people, so that they may joyfully confess you as their Lord and boldly proclaim their common faith to all the world.
- * Your Spirit touched the hearts of those who heard the gospel from Peter. Sharpen the consciences of those who hear your word and convince them of its truth, so that they may turn from their sins and receive the gift of forgiveness.
- * You gave the Holy Spirit to all those who were baptised on the day of Pentecost. Let your Spirit renew the faith of all those who have been baptised, so that they may devote themselves in public worship to the teaching of the apostles, the giving of gifts to you, the breaking of bread in the Lord's supper, and the prayer of the church for the world.

Concluding prayer

You united people from many different nations and cultures by your Holy Spirit. Bring together those who have been divided by misunderstanding, hatred, and mistrust, and join us with them and all the angels as we adore you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reign with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all
Amen.

HYMN: LHS 844 SENT OUT BY GOD'S BLESSING

<https://youtu.be/-Q9HOEDvBwI>

**Sent out by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended; O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all,
His grace did invite us, his love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer his call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing his children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and his name that we bear.**

*Words: Omer Westendorf 1916-
Music: Traditional Welsh Melody*