



All of them were
filled with the Holy Spirit

ACTS 2:4

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 186 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

Our Communion is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.



Flowers This Week

*The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God
and in memory of David Boyer's birthday on June 14th
by his wife, Mim.*

Join us for bag lunch and opportunity for Christian Fellowship following the liturgy this morning. We extend our appreciation to the Fellowship Committee members for making this possible today.

| STAFF | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Pastor | Rev. Stanley Reep | prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net |
| Youth Director | Kelly Moore-Spencer | kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net |
| Organist, Choir Director | Victor Fields | vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net |
| Children Choirs Director | Cody Messersmith | cmessersmith.stpaulsyork@gmail.com |
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| Secretary | Patee Pizzirusso | st.paulsyork@comcast.net |
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| Preschool Director | Deb Becker | director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com |

The Feast of Pentecost
Sunday, June 5, 2022
Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. on the South Lawn

GATHERING MUSIC

Morning Has Broken

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Traditional Gaelic/ arr. Ken Young

Anthony J. Showalter/arr. Clark Cothern

Brass Ensemble

Matthew Inkster, Trumpet 1

Michael West, Trumpet 2

Amelia Reep, French Horn

Richard Auen, Trombone

Cody Messersmith, Tuba

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, **And renew the face of the earth.**

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lord, have mercy on us. | Lord, have mercy on us. |
| Christ, have mercy on us. | Christ, have mercy on us. |
| Lord, have mercy on us. | Lord, have mercy on us. |

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, as you sent upon the disciples the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, look upon your Church and open our hearts to the power of the Spirit. Kindle in us the fire of your love, and strengthen our lives for service in your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-21

(back cover)

PSALM

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Spoken responsively by half verse.

²⁴ Man goes forth | to his work*

and to his labor un- | til the evening.

²⁵ O LORD, how manifold | are your works!*

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full | of your creatures.

²⁶ Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too man- | y to number,*
creatures both | small and great.

²⁷ There move the ships, and there is | that Leviathan,*
which you have made for the | sport of it.

²⁸ All of them | look to you*
to give them their food | in due season.

²⁹ You give it to them; they | gather it;*
you open your hand, and they are filled | with good things.

³⁰ You hide your face, and | they are terrified;*
you take away their breath, and they die and return | to their dust.

³¹ You send forth your Spirit, and they | are created;*
and so you renew the face | of the earth.

³² May the glory of the LORD en- | dure forever;*
may the LORD rejoice in | all his works.

³³ He looks at the earth | and it trembles;*
he touches the mountains | and they smoke.

³⁴ I will sing to the LORD as long | as I live;*
I will praise my God while I | have my being.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:14-17

(back cover)

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:8-27

(back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Reep

Stand

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin
Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one
Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Holy God, burst open barriers that keep us from you and from one another. By your Spirit drive us out into the world proclaiming your mighty deeds. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Feed and care for creatures that remain hidden to us yet contribute to the vibrancy of your creation. Train us to interact with creation from a place of wonder, awe, and reverence. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Send your Spirit to places where language is a barrier to justice and mercy for those who seek it. Bless the work of translators, interpreters, teachers, and preachers. Promote understanding for the sake of those longing for true freedom and peace. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Comfort all who live in constant fear and any who are suffering (*especially Katie Guyer, Eddie Turner, Gloria Kendrick, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glaudel, Orven Cook, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, James Young, Jim Flinchbaugh, Porter Stacey, and Courtney Snell*). Remind them that your Spirit has made them your children and that they are never far from your glory. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Guide all bishops, pastors, missionaries, and other ministers of the Gospel in the way of your truth. Foster our relationships with partner synods and local ministry partners, that our visions and actions are Spirit-led. We especially pray for our sister congregation, Mpuguso Lutheran Church Tanzania, God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Gather your people across regions, nations, and lands with the hope of eternal life in you. Root our common life in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, and by your Spirit bind us together with all the saints who have gone before us. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Sit

BRASS ENSEMBLE *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* Robert Jackson/arr. Dan Boone

Stand

OFFERTORY “Old Hundreth”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,
we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is said.*

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who rose beyond the bounds of death and, on this day, as he had promised, poured out your Spirit of life and power upon the chosen disciples. At this the whole earth exults in boundless joy. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able;

we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving

and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,

and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,

and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

THE 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**

FRACTION RITE

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.

***Sit** The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.*

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Please gather on the sidewalk surrounding the lawn. The ministers will bring the Communion bread (host) to you. Today we are receiving Communion in one kind only.

BRASS *I Vow to Thee My Country* Gustav Holst/arr. William Dyson
Every Time I Feel the Spirit African American Spiritual/arr. Dean Mounts

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. God our Father, may the Spirit you sent on your Church to begin the teaching of the Gospel continue to work in the world through all who have received this heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. **Amen**

HYMN *God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind (ELW 400) (next page)*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind



1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl - wind, as on Pen - te -
 2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your
 3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from
 4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's



cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;
 pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,
 leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,
 rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,



past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,
 let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,
 for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;
 may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;



there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!
 kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!
 make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!
 claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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This Week at St. Paul's
Church office open 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mon—Thurs

Sunday, June 5 Pentecost

8:45 AM Fellowship Breakfast
9:15 AM Holy Eucharist - Outside Service
Brass Ensemble
10:15 AM Lunch after service
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Tuesday, June 7

9:30 AM Pantry

Sunday, June 12 Holy Trinity

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist
10:15 AM Fellowship—Good Shepherd Rm
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Our next Outdoor Service will be held on Sunday, June 26, Vespers at 7:00 PM. The service is preceded with a covered dish supper at 6:00 PM. Please bring something to share and join us for prayer!

Pastor Reep will be enjoying some days of vacation. If you are in need of Pastoral care please contact the Church Office.

Harvest Dinner Tickets are on sale. The dinner will be held on October 8, 2022. Proceeds benefit the Food Pantry. This year will feature select regional wines and local microbrews paired with the menu. Contact the office for tickets.

Altar Flowers—Please check out the Springettsbury Hallway bulletin board for the sign-up sheet and available dates for the year. Many Sundays are still available! Cost is \$30 per vase.

Ukraine Offering—Offerings to give aid to Ukrainian refugees, orphans, widows and humanitarian help can be given through St. Paul's website



Sunday Coffee Hour Donations Requested. If you would willing to help by contributing baked goods, fruits or veggies for Fellowship following any of our Summer 9:15 AM services simply notify the church office or sign up in the Good Shepherd room and we can add you to the schedule. The desire is to have fellowship opportunities following worship each Sunday throughout the summer. A member of the Fellowship Committee will provide oversight for each gathering.

Serving the Lord with Gladness

| DATE | TIME | Assisting Minister | Crucifer | Lector | Greeters | Ushers | Early: Altar Set-up Late: Altar Clean-up |
|--------------------------|---------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| 6/5 Pentecost Outside | 9:15 AM | Tristan Ericson | Denise Rider | Leah McComas | Scott & Nikki Herdson | Alex Bastian , Michael Poster, Kem Vaught, Larry Becker, Steve Heistand, Dan Garber | Bob & Connie Reed |

Worship during June, July and August

Combined liturgy 9:15 AM

We begin the summer season with the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday June 5th. The liturgy will be held outside on the south lawn. Please bring a lawn chair with you. The Fellowship Committee is working in conjunction with the Worship and Arts Committee to make our celebration meaningful and memorable. With the deep appreciation expressed from participants who attended the Palm Sunday breakfast the Fellowship Committee is preparing for a breakfast opportunity prior to the service at 8:45 AM. A brass ensemble will provide music themed for the day as we gather to celebrate Holy Communion. We will hear the story of the mighty power of God as the Spirit of God rests on the early followers of Christ Jesus. Following the liturgy a time of fellowship is being planned so that we can become better acquainted with one another.

For the remainder of the summer season we will gather indoors for a combined liturgy. As worship leaders change each week it will help us learn names and strengthen relationships within our faith community. The musical settings will be primarily from the “*With One Voice*” supplement. Fellowship opportunities are being planned. If you would like to help by contributing baked goods or fruits or veggies simply notify the church office and we can add you to the schedule.

Family Ministry - Picnics in the Park God’s Beautiful Creation 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Join your friends from St. Paul’s for an evening picnic and bible activities at one of York Counties local parks. Each family is asked to bring their own picnic dinner to enjoy as we gather. The evening will include an interactive bible story along with a family activity and craft. All pavilions are located close to the park playground so your children can enjoy time playing with their friends. Restrooms and parking are located within walking distance.

5:30 – Picnic

6:00 – 7:00 – Bible Story, Camp Songs, Activity and Craft

| | |
|--|--|
| June 21st Rocky Ridge Park Grey Squirrel Pavilion God Creates the Land and Plants | August 16th Kain Park Perch Pavilion God Creates the Creatures in the Sea |
| July 19th John Rudy Park Blue Spruce Pavilion God Creates the Animals | |

Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me, the NPR news quiz accompanies me on my home from church. It has been that way for years. I listen on the radio to WITF on the way home nearly every Sunday at noon. Often I arrive at home, pull the car into the garage, turn off the engine, and continue listening to the comedic banter. Mostly the host, Peter Sagal, is setting up material so that the array of guests can make jokes about things in the news. It is remarkable how much material the writers come up with each week. And it is even more astounding how the panel of comedians can turn things around, poke fun, and trip up the host!

Last Sunday the show was from the Sydney Goldstein Theater in San Francisco California. The joking centered on the release of the new Top Gun movie, ***Top Gun: Maverick*** starring Tom Cruise. I have not yet seen the movie. It is the new release since the 1986 original movie (36 years ago). Tom, along with some of the other original cast members, has aged a bit since 1986. One of the younger panelists on the show didn't know who Tom Cruise is. A fellow guest pointed out that the lead actor; Tom Cruise is the same person who starred in all of the Mission Impossible movies; thinking such a reference might help. "Heaven knows there were enough of those movies," the panelists joked! The panel of guests couldn't remember how many Mission Impossible movies there actually were but it seemed like 34! Paula Poundstone quipped, "After 34 of those movies is the mission still impossible?" There was lots of laughter from the live audience.

Today, the Feast of Pentecost is all about the coming of the promised Spirit to do the impossible. This day encompasses the Spirit sending the community of faith on an impossible mission. Now historically we have been at it a pretty long time since we are in year 2022! The congregation has been at it 186 years. And as individuals each one of us who comprise the faith community is confronted with the impossible mission.

This is a theme for the gospel writer Luke. He begins the story of God's love with the promise of the Spirit to do the impossible; and we learn of Mary and Elizabeth; a teenager and an aged woman. The angelic messenger Gabriel proclaims to Mary, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.*" And then the angel continues "*And now your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.*" And then the all-important phrase; "*For nothing will be impossible with God.*" Notice it is not "for God" but "with God."

The promise made to the disciples and the followers of Jesus on Ascension Day, the day marking Jesus being taken up into heaven, the day when Jesus returns to the Father, is to wait and pray for the Spirit. According to Luke, Jesus stated it like this; "*And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.*" Then Jesus hiked out to Bethany, blessed them, and was carried up into heaven. And while Jesus' followers worshiped, prayed, and praised God, they waited for the sending of the power from on high. Today we celebrate the sending of that power from on high that was promised by the Father and proclaimed by Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit that drives the body of Christ, the Church, the faith community to do the impossible mission. We are a community moving into the world sharing God's loving embrace.

One of the things that I enjoy about *Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me* is how something that seems little or insignificant often becomes the funniest story, getting the biggest laugh, or makes me rethink things that I overlook.

“Power” is one of those words in the English language that is laden with all things; strong, mighty, in charge, upper hand, commanding, strength. In God’s realm power is often manifest in what the world labels “weakness.” The church being sent out with an impossible mission is not sent out alone. God is with us. Which points back to the angelic message; “*For nothing will be impossible with God.*” This is about a relationship.

About two weeks ago a group of avid gardeners gathered on the north side of the building to plant 2,100 pachysandra plants. It was a project undertaken by the Property Committee. Jeff ordered the plants. Kem lined up the dump truck of mushroom soil. I pleaded from the chancel for planters to bring their gardening tools and come and help! The plants arrived. The soil arrived. And the planters arrived with their gardening tools in hand on the designated Tuesday evening. I confess that I never for a minute conceived of this project to beautify the grounds as anything more than another evening spent working at the church. The only religious component to the event in my head was that most of us would be on our hands and knees, a posture of prayer! And then it happened, the power of the Most High overshadowing us, being with us.

This is a story of the Holy Spirit and the Christian life. First it was one 7 year old from Jackson Street riding up the sidewalk. He parked his sister’s pink bike by the playground fence and asked if he could help. Cheryl responded affirmatively and handed him a shovel. For the next fifteen or so minutes I overheard bits of conversation about school, play, spelling words, counting, how deep to dig the hole, and how good the soil felt. Then the boy took a break to go get his sister. She was 5. She rode in on her pink bike. He followed on foot slightly out of breath. The two of them worked the soil preparing for the plants. Everyone working that evening welcomed them, included them, encouraged them, engaged them, and when the task was complete, thanked them, and invited them to come back, including invitations to Sunday worship.

Most of the time, the mission to the surrounding neighborhood seems to be impossible or fraught with unsurmountable obstacles. That Tuesday evening the impossible mission to embrace the world with God’s love was lived, expressed, experienced. We have on many occasions tried to engage with neighbors. That night, I expected to rejoice when the 2,100 pachysandra plants were firmly in the ground. But the true rejoicing was the sustained joy of working with members of the faith community and working alongside the children as they lent a hand, talked about school and life and learning, and digging in dirt. The impossible mission was not impossible at all with God.

That is precisely what this day on our liturgical calendar marks. Pentecost, the power from on high given for the church’s mission; to proclaim to the world God’s loving embrace through the message of hope and salvation that Jesus brings. “*Wait, wait, don’t tell me,*” you are beginning to think of other examples of the faith community in mission, ideas for mission that pushes us out into the community and world. To be sure there are times that the mission may seem to be impossible, but not with God. Pentecost assures us of the Holy and life giving Spirit at work *with* us as we live, serve, work, worship, and pray. Amen.

Konde Devotions, The Week of Pentecost, Sunday, June 5, 2022

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

The passage that I chose is Luke 24:13-35, commonly named, “The Road to Emmaus. This Scripture means a great deal to me because it is the text on which I preached at a Konde Synod whose theme was “Do Not Be Angry on the Way”, and the subject of an icon that became our synod’s symbol for our companion relationship. It is also the text I chose for my retirement service.

This scripture depicts Cleopas and an unnamed believer walking together, talking about the events that they recently experienced. Jesus, their Lord, had been crucified on the cross. And now there had been reports that some women and other companions went to the tomb in which he was laid and found it empty. As they walked together, a stranger appeared and walked with them. They told him of these events. And he explained all that was said in Scripture concerning himself. In the breaking of bread, they recognized him as their Lord. After he departed from them, they rejoiced, saying, “Didn’t our hearts burn within us when he opened to us the Scriptures.

Through our companionship relationship, Mpuguso congregation and the congregation of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, York, have been walking together for twenty-six years, sharing our joys and our sorrows. What has held us together over these many years is the knowledge that we are not walking alone along this road of life and faith, but our Lord Jesus is walking with us. Through this journey, we have been growing together in the faith as we have witnessed to Christ’s love in word and deed. I myself have been richly blessed by my association with my faithful brothers and sisters in the Konde Diocese and in Mpuguso congregation. My faith has grown through the courageous witness of our companions often in difficult circumstances as well as by experiencing our companions’ gracious and generous hospitality, abundant love, and joy-filled lives. For this I am most thankful and most humbled.

It is my hope that through our mutual sharing of our favorite scriptures, we may continue to grow in our faith and in our understanding of God’s Word and God’s will for our lives. It is my hope that through our sharing of our stories about how God has touched our lives, we may grow in our love and commitment to the Gospel. May we say with Cleopas and his partner on the road, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us.”

Prayer: Dear Lord, our Loving Heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise for your many blessings. Particularly today we give you thanks for the companion relationship between Mpuguso congregation and the congregation of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, York, and for the knowledge that your Son Jesus Christ is in the center of this relationship. We are thankful for our shared witness to the Gospel and for the blessings bestowed upon us by being part of this journey together. Continue to bless this relationship that as we journey together, we may grow together in faith, in love, in joy, and in hope. We pray in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Pastor Tom McKee, [St. Paul’s Lutheran Church](#), York

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and
glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
shall be saved."

or Genesis 11:1-9 [not printed]

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**SECOND READING: Romans 8:14-17**

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

or Acts 2:1-21 [see First Reading]

GOSPEL: John 14:8-17 [25-27]

Philip said to [Jesus,] "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

[²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."]

Next Sunday's Readings: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15.

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