

Receive the Holy Spirit

JOHN 20:22



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

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Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

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 190 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Offerings Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org or use the QR Code provided.

An AED/Defibrillator unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

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

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors. The liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Quiet activities are also available in the Narthex for infant through preschool children to use with an adult.

Parents, please do accompany your child to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.



Lutheran Church in York, PA - St.
Paul's Lutheran...

stpaulsyork.org

Pentecost

May 24, 2026

Holy Communion 9:30 AM

Musical Setting 5 With One Voice

PRELUDE

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

Flor Peeters

ENTRANCE HYMN

O Day Full of Grace (LBW 161)

1 O day full of grace that now we see ap - pear - ing on
 2 O day full of grace, O bless - ed time, our Lord on the
 3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own, when he on the
 4 God came to us then at Pen - te - cost, his Spir - it new
 5 When we on that fi - nal jour - ney go that Christ is for

earth'sho - ri - zon, bring light from our God that we may
 earth ar - riv - ing; then came to the world that light sub -
 cross was hang - ing; and then he a - rose and moved the
 life re - veal - ing, that we might no more from him be
 us pre - par - ing, we'll gath - er in song, our hearts a -

be re - plete in his joy this sea - son. God, shine for us
 lime, great joy for us all re - triev - ing; for Je - sus all
 stone, that we, un - to him be - long - ing, might join with an -
 lost, all dark - ness for us dis - pel - ling. His flame will the
 glow, all joy of the heav - ens shar - ing, and walk in the

now in this dark place; your name on our hearts em - bla - zon,
 mor - tals did em - brace, all dark - ness and shame re - mov - ing,
 gel - ic hosts to raise our voic - es in end - less sing - ing,
 mark of sin ef - face and bring to us all his heal - ing,
 light of God's own place, with an - gels his name a - dor - ing.

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.**

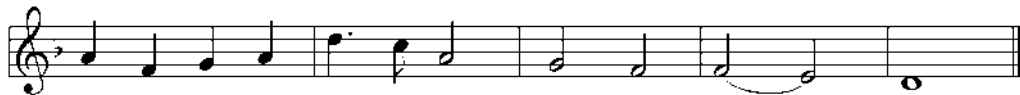
KYRIE



Al Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: C Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord. have mer - cy:



Al Chri - ste e - le - i - son: C Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ. have mer - cy:



Al Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: C Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord. have mer - cy:

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . 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.

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST LESSON Acts 2:1-21 *back cover*

PSALM Psalm 104:25-35, 37 sung unaccompanied cantor/congregation

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.
- ³⁵ May these words | of mine please him;*
I will rejoice | in the LORD.
- ³⁷ **Bless the LORD, | O my soul.***
| Hallelujah!

SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 12:3b -13

³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Stand

ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL

John 7:37-39

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.' " ³⁹ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive, for as yet there was no Spirit because Jesus was not yet glorified.

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Stanley 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

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

O God, send your Spirit to renew the church. Inspire all ministers of the gospel to speak prophetic and hope-filled words to all whom they encounter. Bless the work of interreligious dialogue. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Send your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Protect all living things, bring forth clean water and abundant food, and grant us wonder as we contemplate all that you have made. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Send the Holy Spirit to open up constructive communication among nations. Bestow peace in war-torn areas, guide all in government and society to work for justice, and guard those serving in the armed forces, especially this weekend as we remember those who died in service to their country. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Send the Holy Spirit to accompany those who feel abandoned. Provide food for those who hunger and drink for those who thirst, soothe those who are anxious or bereaved, comfort those who are sick or suffering, and answer all who call upon your name (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You send the Holy Spirit through the gift of baptism. Bless both those preparing for or affirming their baptism. May they be encouraged by this community of faith as they live out their baptismal promises. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You send the Holy Spirit to console us in our grief. We give you thanks for our ancestors in the faith (*especially scientists Nicolaus Copernicus and Leonard Euler*) whose witness to your mighty works continues to inspire our lives. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray trusting in your mercy through your Son, 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

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Chancel Choir *Come Down, O Love Divine* Hilary Tadman-Robins

Stand

OFFERTORY *Let the Vineyards*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you,
O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DIALOGUE *Spoken by Pastor and congregation*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
that by this Holy Communion we may know
the unity we share with all your people
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen

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

THE 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.

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

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

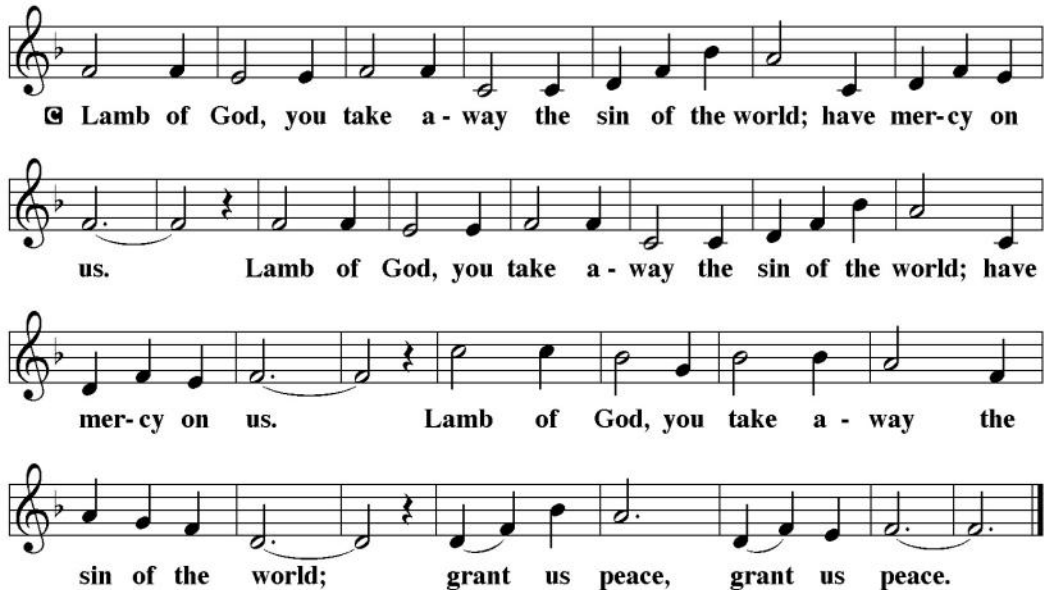
FRACTION RITE

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

When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

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

AGNUS DEI



☒ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Our Communion is “open” to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist. We receive communion by intinction today.

Procedure for receiving Communion:

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle.*
- 2. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 3. Take your place along the chancel step.*
- 4. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
- 5. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 6. Return to your pew using the side aisle*

COMMUNION HYMN*Loving Spirit (WOV 683)*

1 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—
 2 Like a moth - er you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own,
 3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,
 4 Friend and lov - er, in your close - ness I am known and held and blessed:
 5 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—



you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.
 feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.
 hoist me up up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.
 in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.
 you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

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

*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart (LBW 486) next page
 sung 4 part harmony*

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Veni Creator Spiritus

Leo Sowerby

All stanzas sung 4 part harmony . Stanza 4 is sung unaccompanied.

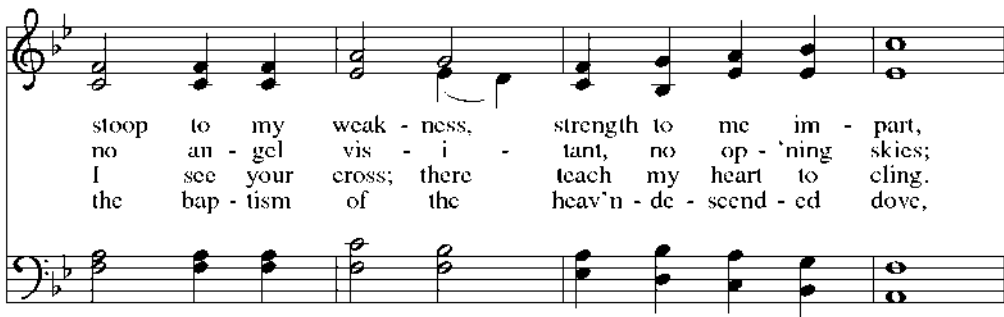
Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart



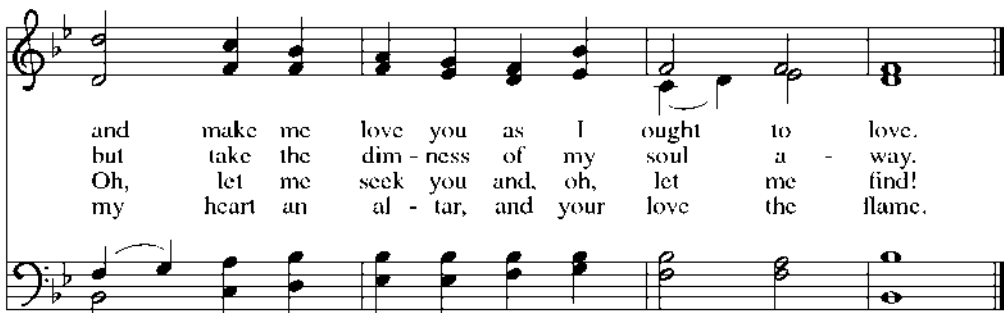
1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies;
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wear it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

It is not too late to **volunteer to share your musical talent** during the summer months. A sign-up sheet is available on the stand in the Good Shepherd Room. The Worship and Arts Committee has already begun their work of arranging for instrumentalists and ensembles for Sundays while Victor is on sabbatical.

**MUSICIANS
WANTED**

This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open Mon–Thurs 8:00 AM—4:00 PM Fri 8:00 AM—11:30 AM

Sunday, May 24—Pentecost

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
 10:30 AM Summer Fellowship
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Monday, May 25—Memorial Day—Office closed

Tuesday, May 26

9:30 AM Pantry
 6:00 PM Property Committee

Sunday, May 31—Holy Trinity

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
 10:30 AM Summer Fellowship
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
 In loving memory of Gene R. Shue by Norma Shue & Family*

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers -	Early: Altar Set-up Late: Altar Clean - up	Bread Bakers
5/24	9:30 AM	Patty Snyder	Harrison Palmer	Scott Herdson	Jeff & Rose Riese, Ron & Norma Riese	Team 2E: Ron Riese, Kathy Monk, Ken Hinkle, Alex Bastian	Lois Ann Schroeder, Kathy Monk	Johanna Patterson

**Summer Sunday Fellowship Time
 Weekly Following the 9:30 AM liturgy**

Summer Sunday Fellowship is taking a page from the *Great British Baking Show*. We are featuring; Bread week, cupcake week, coffee cake week and so forth to try and keep us from getting in a rut. A sign-up sheet is on the stand in the Good Shepherd Room.





St. Paul's Food Pantry Needs: Peanut Butter, Cereal, plastic and paper shopping bags, and monetary donations. Monetary donations can be placed in a special envelope marked "Pantry". Contact Teresa Rohrbaugh to volunteer for Tuesday distribution days. Contact Patty Snyder to volunteer for Thursday delivery days or Sunday stocking days or contact the church office. Thank you to all who help!

**OUR FOOD PANTRY
NEEDS CEREAL DONATIONS!
HELP US FILL THE CART
IN THE GOOD SHEPHERD ROOM.**



Vacation Bible School is June 7-11. The sessions take place in the evening from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Registrations forms are available at the entrances to the church and were in the newsletter. As always, helpers are needed. Please contact the office to volunteer.



**Church Picnic in conjunction with Vacation Bible School
Thursday, June 11, 5:30 PM Kain Park**

The last evening of vacation Bible School a picnic will be held at Kain Park. The Witness Committee members are providing the appetizers and desserts. The Men's group is providing the main course (hot dogs, hamburgers and pulled pork are all in their notes about the event). Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. If you would like to bring a side dish to share that would be incredibly helpful.

Summer Church Camp for Nawakwa and Kirchenwald are posted online. Check out the fabulous offerings. Scholarships are available through St. Paul's Church. See Miss Kelly for details.



**The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania**
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittl Farm

Altar Flowers beautify our worship space. Please consider providing flowers for an upcoming Sunday. The chart is posted on the Springettsbury Ave. Bulletin board. The cost is \$40 per vase.



Spring cleaning closets? Consider **donating clothing to help Union Lutheran Church** with their clothes closet. Bring items to St. Paul's and we will deliver them for you. Or contact Union Lutheran and they will arrange a time for you to take them directly to their closet.



The summer season is upon us. This year as a nation we are at war. Memorial Day takes on a different tone. This year we will reach a 250-year span as a nation. Fourth of July takes on a completely different tone from the celebrations planned for the Bicentennial. And for those who are counted among the gainfully employed, Labor Day seems to be losing ground as the work force continues to be undervalued by corporations. The three U. S. summer holidays; Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day. They mark time for us. Perhaps this year more than others of recent memory there is a desire to escape from the realities that surround us. So, people are planning a variety of things; some go on pilgrimages, some go camping in the mountains, others travel to beach houses at the shore, and cottages, campers, patios and porches all get pressed into service during these three summer holidays.

A survey sampling the responses of the American people inquired as to which of the three summer holidays is favorite. A delightful turn of events, the survey revealed that we are not polarized when it comes to national summer holidays. Each holiday was favored based on household experiences, traditions, and work schedules. It seems that the holiday that is most joyous has to do with the things that are taking place. The Fourth of July in my adult life has become my favorite because of the three summer national holidays it doesn't always fall on a weekend. This year it does, but at least every five to seven years it falls mid-week. For clergy this pushes the Fourth of July higher up on the survey! But for most it has to do with past experiences and present plans.

In the Old Testament Biblical narrative we hear of three big holidays that developed in the life of Israel; Passover (unleavened bread), Pentecost (first fruits i.e. early harvest), and Tabernacles (completion of the agricultural year). These three mark time for God's people. Jewish men at that time were expected to travel to Jerusalem making a pilgrimage. Through time one of the three holidays became more popular. There wasn't any official survey from which to collect data only historical narrative disclosing insights about the holidays and their observance. The most joyous and popular of the three was the Feast of Tabernacles. Originally it was a feast celebrating the harvest and was observed in the fall of the year.

Think for a moment of what it might be like to gather a bunch of Lutheran friends and travel to Germany during Oktoberfest. Through time I am sure that it would gain in popularity, providing a joyful distraction from the many other events in daily life. There would be plenty of liquid libations flowing giving life to the celebration, deepening relationships and setting in motion a desire for a perpetual return each year in observance of all that you experienced. It may even become your favorite holiday!

The gospel reading I selected for this Feast of Pentecost is an alternative provided by those who compiled the lectionary. It is a bit odd that it is set during the Feast of Tabernacles (not Pentecost), but I selected it anyway because we have heard the John 20 text several times this year. As a feast day, The Feast of Tabernacles, has drifted from its original intent, celebration of the harvest, and by the time of Jesus and his disciples it took on a new theme centering on God's providing during the time of wilderness wanderings.

You remember, the 40 years roaming through the wilderness from slavery under the Pharaoh and moving toward the Promised Land. During that time God provided the Law, the Ten Commandments given so that God's people would live in right relationship with God and with one another. (This is the real purpose of the Ten Commandments, that people lived them so that relationships would be put right!) During those days, God provided manna, bread from heaven, sustenance

for the journey, enough each day to sustain them. During that time God provided water from the rock, given to refresh them, to keep them from quarreling and to permit them to live and move forward on their journey.

Now imagine if you have been traveling with your group of Lutheran friends to Germany each year for Oktoberfest and the focus moved from fermented hops, wheat and barley to remembering what God had done for your distant ancestors. Here is where some polarization creeps in. Some would willingly embrace the memory of distant relatives, and some would continue to joyfully observe the harvest with the fermented hops, wheat and barley. And the observance might grow and expand, with more participation by more people.

This leads us to the celebration today. Jesus ends up in Jerusalem during the most popular feast. The city is crowded with people observing multiple things, things that are popular to their household and religious convictions. Jesus' message is not popular. Most people find it to be off-putting, especially the leaders of the religious and the secular communities. The proclamation that he will suffer at the hands of sinful men, be put to death and on the third day be raised up whereupon he would pour out his Spirit upon his followers. That message, bold as it is, was not embraced by the crowd. Even his own close group of followers couldn't grasp the passion predictions.

As part of the feast of Tabernacles the priest would draw water from the spring of Siloam, a spring that was trusted and true and which was known for its purity and drinkability. The priest would precede around the altar seven times with the pitcher of water and then pour it into a basin beside the altar as a sign of God's; provision, life, dependability. Jesus draws from this image and the priestly ceremonial action stating that he is the life-giving water (water upon which you can depend, water that is trusted and true). "*Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and let the one who believes in me drink.*" He sends forth his Spirit. His Spirit abides with us forever so that rivers of living water may flow giving life for all.

Earlier in the gospel of John, we have heard of the gift of Spirit and new birth when Nicodemus encounters Jesus by night. And we hear of the Spirit and living water when the Samaritan Woman encounters Jesus in broad daylight at the well. Now we encounter Jesus who reminds us that we have gathered in joyful celebration to remember our past and to celebrate his presence with us, the one who poured forth his Spirit on us in baptism and assures us that such a gift is given as a sign of God's; provision, life, dependability. His Spirit is poured out assuring us of God's promised future, a time when love will rule all in all, a time when all who are thirsty may be satisfied through him, the Water of life, the Spirit of life.

We are embarking on summer at St. Paul's. We have begun our summer worship schedule. And with summer comes the three national holidays. One is practically upon us. With these holidays come times of joy and refreshment even amidst a backdrop of situations in the community, nation and world that bear little resemblance to the proclamation of Jesus. Some from among our fellowship are already in mountain cabins and Beach houses at the shore. Some are at cottages, some are setting up campers, some sweeping off porches and scrubbing down patios all in preparation to celebrate. And while we enjoy family, friends, and God's beautiful creation, let us remember where true joy is found, Christ Jesus, the one who gives himself to us in words and water, bread and wine. And as he pronounced that day on the feast of Tabernacles, *let rivers of living water flow* from our believing hearts. And through us may others know of God's provision, life and dependability. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] 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 people 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, "Fellow Jews 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:

¹⁷In 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 Numbers 11:24-30 [not printed]

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
[not printed]

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

GOSPEL: John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

or John 7:37-39 [not printed]

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 1:1–2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20.

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