

May 24 Worship
Pentecost
Reader- Ray Godin

Announcements/Joys

Time Of Quiet Meditation- *“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”* John 14:26

Opening Scripture- Psalm 104:25-35(page 523)

Opening Chorus- 294- Spirit Of The Living God

Responsive Call To Worship-

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit,

People: The wind of God, the breath of Life.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit,

People: Our Advocate, our Counselor.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit,

People: Teacher of Wisdom, Reminder of Christ.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit,

People: Granter of forgiveness, giver of peace.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit.

People: May we feel God breathing through our worship.

All: May we receive the Holy Spirit in this place. Amen.

Hymn of Praise- 14- O Worship The King

Unison Prayer/Lord's Prayer- Holy Spirit, move, swirl, and dance among us.

Remind us that you are always present: encouraging, luring, and inspiring us to be the loving people you created us to be. Stir us during this hour to walk humbly, embrace love, and do justice in our unjust and fragmented world. Let us pray together as our Savior taught us, saying...*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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

Gloria Patri- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen, Amen.

Old Testament Scripture- Numbers 11:24-30(page 125)

Special Music-

Gospel Scripture- John 20:19-23(page 945)

Children's Time/Echo Prayer/Passing of the Peace

Hymn- 299- Come Holy Spirit, Dove Divine

New Testament Scripture- Acts 2:1-13(page 948)

Message

“The Gift Of The Spirit”

Today is Pentecost, also called Whitsunday. It commemorates the 50th day following Easter and is the day that the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles of Jesus when they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks. It is considered to be the birthday of the Christian Church. This year, it is also Memorial Day Sunday when we are supposed to honor those who gave of themselves to protect our nation. We will celebrate Memorial Day here in Ashby tomorrow with a parade and military honors at each of the town cemeteries. As important as it is to honor our fallen veterans, I believe that we, as Christians, need to prioritize our duties to God and our church on this Pentecost Sunday.

Why is the Holy Spirit so important? Why do we even need Him? The fact is , the Holy Spirit is not just important, He is essential to our relationship with God because the Holy Spirit **IS** God. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son, not simply a part of God but fully God. The Holy Spirit was active in creation; “The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.” (Genesis 1:2)

The Holy Spirit is specifically mentioned 94 times in scripture, however it is referred to 261 times. The Holy Spirit is instrumental in revealing God's Word and guiding us into truth. Scripture affirms that prophecy and divine teaching are accomplished through the Spirit; “because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God”(1 Peter 1:21) From the moment that Jesus was baptized, He and the Holy Spirit worked as one in His

earthly ministry. The Holy Spirit was central to not only Jesus' life, but to His ministry as well. For us, today, the Holy Spirit has many different roles in our lives, if we allow it. He can be a helper, comforter, advocate, teacher, guide and reminder. He provides us wisdom, conviction, and strength in a world that offers none of that. He intercedes in prayer, helps in our weakness, and equips us with spiritual gifts for service and ministry. Our world is often confusing and spiritually challenging but the Spirit is there to help us discern right from wrong, sustain our faith and build unity among believers.

Of all the gifts given to mankind by God, there is none greater than the presence of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told the disciples that He would send the Spirit into the world to “will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment” (John 16:8) There is a theory that every one of us has something called a “God Consciousness,” within our being that draws us to God whether or not we admit it. The Spirit applies God's truths to people's minds to convince them by fair and sufficient arguments that they are sinners. Responding to that conviction brings us to salvation. We must humble ourselves before God before we can ask for forgiveness and redemption. It is through the Spirit that we can learn of our shortfalls, admit them and seek salvation.

How can we receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit? If you are a believer and have taken Christ as your Savior, the gift has already been delivered to you. If you are spending your time waiting for Him, you haven't opened the gift. We often sing or pray for the Holy Spirit to come to us when He is right here next to us just waiting for us to acknowledge His presence. The more that we allow ourselves to be guided by Him, the easier it is to access His power whenever we need it. Our human problem is that we seem to forget that he is there when we think we can do it ourselves. It is in us to try and do everything ourselves even when we know that we cannot. Remember the story about how a man refuses to ask for directions or go to the instruction manual to assemble something? We want to do it ourselves,

One of the functions of the Spirit that we seem to avoid is that He is the revealer of the truth. How many times have we heard or read something that makes us question what we think we know? There are always different ideas regarding worship, doctrine or just plain Christian living being debated and questioned. If we take the time to ask the Spirit to help us, we will come to a true understanding much sooner than if we try to figure it out ourselves. WE are quite willing to allow some talking head on TV or radio fill our minds with opinions. Ask the Holy Spirit for inspiration and see what happens.

Another function of the Holy Spirit is that of gift giver. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not merely personal talents; they are divine empowerments that help believers grow in holiness, make righteous decisions, and serve others effectively.

They complement natural abilities, perfect virtues, and enable Christians to live in accordance with God's plan, fostering spiritual maturity and unity within the Church. The traditional "Gifts of the Holy Spirit" are; wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:2-3) These cannot be confused with the "Fruits of the Holy Spirit" which are; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. No matter how you want to take them, either gifts or fruits, they are not bad attributes to strive for but it requires the Holy Spirit to attain them all.

When Peter preached the first gospel message on Pentecost, he said to those assembled; "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him." (Acts 2:38-39) There are questions as to what Peter meant by this. Some believe that this "gift" is the Holy Spirit Himself. Others have concluded that this refers to the miraculous gifts of the Spirit. Some see "the gift of the Holy Spirit" as synonymous with salvation. No matter which of these ideas we follow, the point is that in order to know the Holy Spirit we must first and foremost accept Christ as Lord and Savior. Then we need to not only accept the Spirit, we **MUST** make use of this wondrous gift.

If we are given a gift by someone, what good does it do if we put that gift away somewhere and never use it? It is the same way with the Holy Spirit. If we refuse to access His power and strength, we are putting the gift away and ignoring the potential. So, what is the "gift of the Holy Spirit" promised on the day of Pentecost and available to all people even today? It is the fellowship we enjoy with God after having our sins forgiven and becoming one with Him. If we choose to attempt to live our lives using nothing but our own ideas, we are refusing the greatest help that there is by ignoring the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Stop being stubborn and insisting that we can do it ourselves and ask God, through the Holy Spirit for all that which is promised to us. Better yet, give thanks to God for the gift every time that you use it. Praise Be to God. Amen.

Prayers of the People- Holy Spirit, Creator, in the beginning you moved over the waters. From your breath all creation drew life. Without you, life turns to dust. Bring to mind where you have created life this week. For this we give you praise. Holy Spirit, Counselor, by your inspiration, the prophets spoke and acted in faith. You clothed them in power to be bearers of your Word. In the quiet of this moment, counsel us as to where we have lived out of our brokenness and caused harm to You, to ourselves, to others, to the earth. Holy Spirit, hear our prayers of quiet repentance. Holy Spirit, Sanctifier, you created us children of God; you make us the

living temple of your presence; you intercede within us with sighs too deep for words. We receive your forgiveness. Bring to mind ways to seek reconciliation in relationships that are strained or broken. Give us the strength and courage to follow through. Holy Spirit, Power, you came as fire to Jesus' disciples; you gave them voice before the rulers of this world. Bring to mind the name of one person to whom you are sending us this week that we may share the words and action that come from your fire and witness to the reality of Jesus Christ. God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, and may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and worship you now and always. In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Closing Hymn- 671- In Christ There Is No East Or West

Benediction- As you enter a new week, may you experience God's presence. May you feel God pouring out the Holy Spirit over your heads and your thoughts and the words of your lips, over your hearts and your feelings and emotions and your compassion for all others, and over your hands and your feet as you put into action all that God commands you. During this week, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with each of you; Amen.