

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 2020
Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church; Pastor Tom Olson; May 31, 2020

HYMN: "TO GOD BE THE GLORY" Fanny Crosby (1820-1915)

1 To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life gate that we may go in.

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.
[Refrain]

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he has done!

3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has
done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
[Refrain].

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: *John 7:38 (mentions) ... streams of living water...* Have any of you ever gone swimming with a floating tube. When I was little, we went to the trucking company and asked for old semi-truck or tractor tubes. Then we would patch the holes and fill them up and float with them. If you float on a lake it is relaxing but you don't go anywhere. We would have someone give us a ride out into the country up stream of the Coon Creek and then float down the stream many miles on those tubes...sometimes through some exciting fast rapids. A stream takes you somewhere. Jesus tells us that if we believe in Him that streams of living water will come out of us and God will use it to bring people to Jesus for salvation and an eternal home in heaven. Our part is to believe in Him. Amen

GOSPEL READING: *John 7:37-39 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

CONFESSION OF FAITH: *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 is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall 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*

MESSAGE: FILLED TO OVERFLOWING Pastor Tom Olson, 5/31/20

We have been wanting to put new shingles on our old milk house in Wisconsin for several years. We hope to make it into a clean and cozy room for our children and grandchildren to stay in when we have summer family get togethers. But the job was too overwhelming for me to

face. So we finally saved up some money and hired two skilled carpenters to come. They brought power tools, an air powered nail gun and lots of muscles and in less than two days the old roof was off, rotten boards replaced, new shingles were on and insulation and roof boards put up inside as well. If I would have done it myself, it would have taken all my free time on days off for months. But with their help and tools and expertise it went quickly and turned out great. ...all because of power, wisdom and energy that came from outside of me.

This is a picture of Pentecost. The disciples went from being frightened and ineffective to being fearless and powerful in a moment. It was not from themselves but was the promised Holy Spirit that Jesus said time and again would come upon them after he returned to heaven.

Acts 2:2&3 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

It was on this same day that Moses went up on Mt. Sinai and received the Ten Commandments with a mighty sound and fire from heaven. Three thousand people who stood against God died that day. Now on that same day with a mighty roaring wind and fire from heaven the Holy Spirit came with the lifegiving message of forgiveness in Christ and 3,000 rebellious and sinful souls got saved by the power of God.

There has never been a time in my life and ministry that I have needed this power of the Holy Spirit more than today in the midst of our worldwide troubles. On this Pentecost Sunday I want to see if we can't get a hunger for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit to get the power to do what God wants us to do in finishing off the harvest of souls before Jesus returns. Let's talk about it.

I. THE INVITATION

John 7:37 "...Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.

Before we can be filled with the Holy Spirit we need to be thirsty for God. ***Psalm 42:1&2 "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?"***

Many of us have the Holy Spirit present in our lives. We could not believe in Jesus as our Savior without the Holy Spirit. But we are no longer filled with the Holy Spirit as much as we were at some point in our spiritual lives. The cares of this world have gotten in the way. I believe God is speaking to us today and saying, "Come to me and drink." You may be tired and mentally at your wits end and Jesus has an invitation. ***Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."***

The invitation to take communion is part of this. Christ want to enter us with bread and wine, his body and blood. But he wants it to be deep and meaningful. He wants to meet with the soul that is at the end of trying to do life in human strength and wanting to live in the power of heaven-sent Holy Spirit filling. Dr. Monseth, at the seminary used to say, "There is only one baptism of

the Holy Spirit but there are many fillings.” Jesus said in *Luke 11:13*, “***If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!***” THIS IS THE INVITATION

II. THE EXPECTATION

John 7:38 “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”

One of the sights I enjoy seeing when we take teens to the Free Lutheran Youth convention in Colorado every other year is this. I like to see the mountain streams that race down the steeps as we drive the winding road from Loveland to Estes Park. The water is so fast and pure and cool and powerful. Trout thrive in that water that is filled with oxygen and life. One splash of that on your face and you would wake up from being drowsy. That water comes from the vast, deep snowpack that is melting in the Rocky Mountains. The source of that water seems to be infinite. What a wonderful picture of the Holy Spirit: pure, refreshing, life giving, powerful, infinite...

Last week we saw that the Christian life is right when we are so delighted with the Lord that we want to be with him and to do His will. Today we see it is His will for us to receive power from on high, to be filled with His Holy Spirit and for that lifegiving stream to overflow out of us to a dry and thirsty land. Is that lifegiving stream coming from you to your family and friends and colleagues? If not, today is the day to drink deeply of the grace and love of God in Jesus Christ and be filled to overflowing.

All things are prepared. Jesus invites you to His table to eat and drink, without cost...paid in full by his sacrificial death on the cross of Calvary. Ask Him to fill you in a fresh way. That is a prayer that God wants to answer to a greater degree than we expect. It is a prayer that the lost world is waiting to see answered as well. People need the Lord and we need the power to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. Come, all things are ready. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

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 that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: ***Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, “Take and eat, this is my body which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner, also, when He had eaten, He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins; this do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of Me.”***

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME OR IN CAR: “The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.”

DISMISSAL: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! Now may the holy body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto everlasting life. Peace be with you. Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER: “We thank you Father for giving us Jesus to be our Savior. Help us to love one another as Jesus has loved us. Thank you for the strength you give us to face the trials of life. We continue to pray for wisdom for our leaders and protection for those in harm’s way. Thank you that we have a blessed life in heaven to look forward to because of Christ purchasing our ticket with His blood. Please use us this week for your glory. In Jesus’ Name. Amen”

BENEDICTION: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and grant you peace. Amen

DOXOLOGY: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen