

**May 23, 2021; PENTECOST; SUNDAY SERVICE & SERMON**  
**Pastor Tom Olson; Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church**

**PRELUDE:** Rebekah Olson (Other Singers)

**CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 139:1-4** *O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. 2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. 4 Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.*

**HYMN #478 AH "Search Me, O God" 9 am: #234 OVH "Search Me, O God"**

Search me, O God,  
And know my heart today;  
Try me, O Savior,  
Know my thoughts, I pray.  
See if there be  
Some wicked way in me;  
Cleanse me from every sin  
And set me free.

I praise Thee, Lord,  
For cleansing me from sin;  
Fulfill Thy Word,  
And make me pure within.  
Fill me with fire  
Where once I burned with shame;  
Grant my desire  
To magnify Thy name.

Lord, take my life,  
And make it wholly Thine;  
Fill my poor heart  
With Thy great love divine.  
Take all my will,  
My passion, self and pride;  
I now surrender, Lord  
In me abide.

O Holy Ghost,  
Revival comes from Thee;  
Send a revival,  
Start the work in me.  
Thy Word declares  
Thou wilt supply our need;  
For blessings now,  
O Lord, I humbly plead.

**PSALM 139:7-10** *Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.*

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON: THE BREATH OF GOD**

**FIRST LESSON:** *Acts 2:1-21* *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 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. 5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." 14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

*17 "In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.  
18 Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.  
19 I will show wonders in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.  
20 The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.  
21 And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

**GOSPEL LESSON: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15** *"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. 27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning...*

*6:4b I did not tell you this at first because I was with you. 5 "Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'" 6 Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. 7 But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; 10 in regard to*

*righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. 12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.*

**READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.**

**CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!**

**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

**GLORIA PATRI:** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is not, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER FOR OFFERING**

#### **PRAISE AND WORSHIP SONG: "Spirit Song"**

*Oh, let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love; Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul  
Oh, let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit, like a dove, Will descend upon your life and make you whole*

*Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs  
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs*

*Oh, come and sing the song with gladness as your hearts are filled with joy  
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name  
Oh, give him all your tears and sadness, give him all your years of pain,  
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name*

*Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs  
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs*

#### **SERMON TITLE: "THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU"**

**Psalm 139:13-16; Pastor Tom Olson, May 23, 2021**

*Dear Friends, Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen*

**BESTIE:** If someone asked you the question, "Who has been with you the longest and had the greatest impact on your life, what would you say?" Many of us would say our parents. We might say our spouse. We also might mention a friend we have had since early childhood. But that is not the correct answer. There is one who has been with you since the day you were conceived and has been your unseen guide, protector, enabler and friend and that is the Holy Spirit. No matter how much we have ignored or grieved the Holy Spirit, the Spirit

has not given up on us or left us. We would not be here today wanting to hear the Word of God if He had left us. The Holy Spirit wants to become a much greater and more real presence and source of connection with God the Father and Christ than we can imagine. We are invited by Scripture to (*Ephesians 8:15*) “*be filled with the Holy Spirit*” to the point that (*John 7:38*) “*rivers of living water*” are flowing out from us to a dry and thirsty land. Imagine that!

NEED: Is there anything that we need more today as a church than to cultivate an amazing relationship with the Holy Spirit of God? That relationship releases beautiful fruit, useful and powerful gifts, amazing comfort and observable personality change. Let’s take a few moments to look into Psalm 139, the great “sanctity of life” Psalm, and observe THE PRESENCE OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN OUR LIVES.

## **I. CREATED: YOUR FIRST ACQUAINTANCE**

*Psalm 139:13-16a For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body...*



*(Allen Ludke 1947-2021)*

ALLEN: This past week Allen Ludke died and the world didn’t notice. He was 74 years old, he had Downs Syndrome and diabetes, he was pretty much alone in this world after his parents died. Sharon’s cousin watched over him in the last years of his life because he really had no one else who cared. He lived in the little low-income apartment building in Almena, Wisconsin that Sharon’s mom and dad lived in the last few years. I always enjoyed visiting with him, he sat at the front door and cheerfully greeted those who came. Allen was a gentle giant and would not hurt a fly. He was proud to be a member of the Missouri Synod church. The pro-abortion politicians tell us that people like Allen should be aborted and not allowed to be born. Yet I found him to be one of the friendliest men I have ever met!

HISTORY: We see here that the Holy Spirit was with Allen from the moment of conception. God’s Word tells us that he was fearfully and wonderfully made, YES, EVEN WITH DOWN’S SYNDROME. It tells us that he was knitted together by God. We see in verse 16 that God had his eyes on Allen in the womb and Psalm 121 tells us that God’s eyes are on His people day and night for the rest of our lives. Allen may have felt lonely at times. Sharon’s parents did their best to befriend him and share good food with him. Day and night the Holy Spirit never left him and yesterday He had a Christian Funeral at the little country church called “Silver Creek Lutheran.”

SPECIAL: Allen's life was planned by God. There were many so called "normal" people living in that apartment building who never even noticed me when I came. They didn't give me a friendly greeting like Allen did. They were not proud to be a member of a church. The Holy Spirit made Allen special, in spite of what others called him. And Allen is the only one from that building that I will remember.

SPIRIT: That same Holy Spirit was with you since the moment you were conceived. The Spirit brooded over the ancient waters as the world was created and he brooded over you as you were being formed. The Spirit skillfully knitted you together. The Spirit kept watch over you and still does, day and night without slumber nor sleep. He knows you intimately. The Spirit gives us gifts. The Spirit produces fruit in us: *Galatians 5-love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control*. The Spirit convicts us of sin. The Spirit comforts us when we are sorrowful. The Spirit is called the "paraclete" or the "one who comes along side of us." It is almost like that idea of one who gives us a big hug when we need it.

WELCOME: Friends, we are not alone! The Holy Spirit IS WITH US. The Holy Spirit wants a deeper relationship with us. I am so sad that I have not recognized the Holy Spirit in my life as I should have. "Welcome Holy Spirit in my heart! Thank you for being patient with me when I ignore you. You created me and you were my first friend. I want you to be my constant companion every day!"

## II. ORDAINED: YOUR GREATEST SUPPORTER

*Psalm 139:16b ...All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*



*(Nellie Sealy 1946-2021)*

BOOK: I remember how excited Nelly Sealy was when one of the workers at Augustana Care Center told her that she liked her writings and would like to edit them into a book about her life. Is it a "God thing" that a nursing home aid would also be a writer and book publisher...perhaps even an "angel in disguise?" Nellie's writings about her childhood, rebellious years, tragic marriage and alcoholism and her glorious conversion to a living faith in Jesus were put together by this NURSING HOME AID into a lovely book that has been distributed all over. With her many trips to the hospital, each unit where she stayed had books given to doctors and nurses and her testimony has been read time and again. We now know a lot about the little spot in the road called Pencer, Minnesota where the Wallstads had their general store. And we know about Jesus transformed a broken life.

OURS: Will you and I ever have a book about our lives? We already do! The author is God. Notice this verse says that "ALL THE DAYS ORDAINED FOR ME WERE WRITTEN IN **YOUR BOOK** BEFORE ONE OF THEM CAME TO BE." God has a book, it is about our lives, our days are described before they come to pass. This is amazing. It reminds us that God has good plans for our lives.

EMMY: Little baby “Emmy” who died at four months of age had a book too. Not a thick book, but an important book. The days of her life were written by God, with tears instead of ink. And it is just as important of a book as someone who lives to be 100 years old. I believe that Emmy’s family said that her presence was like “God with us.” That is because the Holy Spirit was with Emmy and she was fulfilling her part of God’s plan. Now she is with God and experiencing the main part of the book written for her, the chapters about heaven. She is in the light and presence of the Lord. The Spirit of God is there and she feels the comfort of that. I love the line from the hymn, *“We feebly struggle, they in glory shine!”*

FINISH: But we must finish off our race here below. God has plans for us, good plans, plans for today! Jeremiah 29:11 tells about the plans of God for Israel and uses terms like, *“plans for good and not evil, plans to give a future and a hope.”* We need to be excited about God’s plans for us. They may not be easy plans. Nellie’s life book was filled with much physical pain in the last chapter. But it always works out for good. Romans 8:28 is always true for the child of God. What He has written in his book for us **“works together for good.”**

TEARS: We need to walk in step with the Spirit so we can experience what is in God’s book for us. I have often said that the tears of heaven God wipes away will be the tears we cry when we read God’s book for our lives and see all the wonderful things He wanted for us, that we missed because of our stubbornness and unbelief. We miss what God has when we don’t have the faith to step out when He calls us to do so.

ORDAINED: GOD IS OUR GREATEST SUPPORTER. God is our fan. He has written a book for us. The saints in glory are cheering us on. We need to run the race that God has set out for us keeping our eyes on Jesus. We need to be listening moment by moment to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Plug your ears to the devil’s temptations. God gently leads us in *“paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”*

OUR LIFE IS ORDAINED, THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS OUR GREATEST SUPPORTER.

### III. REMEMBERED: YOUR TRUEST FRIEND

*Psalms 139:17&18 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.*

CONFIDANT: Proverbs 18:24 reminds us that the wrong friends ruin us but also that *“there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.”* That friend is the Holy Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. According to these verses He:

- ...He has many thoughts about us...like a lover, he thinks about us day and night.
- His thoughts toward us are limitless...greater than the number of sands on the seashore.
- He is ever present in our lives, even when we sleep and awaken. He doesn’t leave us... ***Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”***

DISAPPEARING: Our friends may move away and drift out of our lives. Our loved ones will eventually die one by one. My parents are gone from my life...Sharon’s parents are soon to follow them out of here. But Jesus, by His Holy Spirit, will never leave us. An ancient hymn written by Johan Frank in the 1600’s is one of my favorites, really puts it well:

1. Jesus. Priceless treasure,  
Source of purest pleasure,

Truest friend to me:  
Ah, how long I've panted  
And my heart hath faint-ed,  
Thirsting, Lord, for Thee.  
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb!  
I will suffer naught to hide Thee,  
Naught I ask beside Thee.

2. In Thine arms I rest me,  
Foes who would molest me  
Cannot reach me here;  
Tho' the earth be shaking,  
Ev'ry heart be quaking,  
Jesus calms my fear;  
Fires may flash and thunder crash,  
Yea, and sin and hell assail me,  
Jesus will not fail me.

3. Hence with earthly treasure!  
Thou art all my pleasure,  
Jesus, all my choice;  
Hence Thou empty glory!  
Naught to me thy story,  
Told with tempting voice'  
Pain or loss, or shame, or cross,  
Shall not from my Savior move me,  
Since He deigns to love me.

4. Fare thee well that errest,  
Thou that earth preferest,  
Thou wilt tempt in vain;  
Fare thee well, transgression  
Hence, abhorred possession,  
Come not forth again.  
Past your hour, O pride and pow'r,  
Worldly life, thy bonds I sever,  
Fare thee well forever!

5. Hence, all fear and sadness!  
For the Lord of gladness,  
Jesus, enters in;  
Those who love the Father,  
Though the storms may gather,  
Still have peace within;  
Yea, what-e'er I here must bear,  
Thou art still my purest pleasure;  
Jesus, priceless treasure.

BETHANY: Sharon and I are reading the history of “Bethany Fellowship” in Bloomington where she went to missionary college. It all began with a group of young families that above all else wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit and totally yielded to God’s purposes for their lives. They wanted to be used by God to send 100 missionaries out into the world with the good news of the gospel...and they far exceeded that number and their work goes on with great power even after they have all died. What are the keys to being filled with and used by the Holy Spirit? Perhaps you would like to be filled with and used by God in an extraordinary way. Here are the keys:

**1. DESIRE:** You need to want to be filled and ask for it. *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!”*

**2. EAT:** Feed your soul on the Word of God. Two parallel verses in the Epistles show us that a Spirit-filled Christian is a Word-filled Christian. *Ephesians 5:18&19 ...be filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, Colossians 3:16&17 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”*

**3. YIELD:** Then as the Holy Spirit speaks to you it is necessary to yield to Him or He will be grieved and withdraw. *Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

*Now may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen*

**HYMN #141 (OVH) “Revive Us Again” (ALL VERSES!) 9 AM: No song here.**

1. We praise Thee, O God!  
For the Son of Thy love,  
For Jesus who died,  
And is now gone above.

Refrain:

Hallelujah! Thine the glory.  
Hallelujah! Amen.  
Hallelujah! Thine the glory.  
Revive us again.

2. We praise Thee, O God!  
For Thy Spirit of light,  
Who hath shown us our Savior,  
And scattered our night.

Refrain:

Hallelujah! Thine the glory.  
Hallelujah! Amen.  
Hallelujah! Thine the glory.  
Revive us again.



3. All glory and praise  
To the Lamb that was slain,  
Who hath borne all our sins,  
And hath cleans'd ev'ry stain.

Refrain:

Hallelujah! Thine the glory.  
Hallelujah! Amen.  
Hallelujah! Thine the glory.  
Revive us again.

4. Revive us again;  
Fill each heart with Thy love;  
May each soul be rekindled  
With fire from above.

Refrain:

Hallelujah! Thine the glory.  
Hallelujah! Amen.  
Hallelujah! Thine the glory.  
Revive us again.

**PRAYER & 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*

**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 & THREE-FOLD A-MEN 10:30 & 9 am "Doxology" OVH #32**

*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, Amen, A---men.*

**POSTLUDE:** Rebekah Olson

**FIRST LESSON:** *Acts 2:1-21* When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 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. 5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs-we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." 14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These

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I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.*

*18 Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.*

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and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.*

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**READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.**

**CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** *Acts 4:1-12 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. 3 They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. 4 But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand. 5 The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. 6 Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. 7 They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you*

*crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone." 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

**EPISTLE LESSON:** *1 John 3:16-24 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 19 This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence 20 whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

**READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.**

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