

June 8, 2025 Pentecost Sunday
Pastor Tom Olson; Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church

PRELUDE: Carol Gustafson

CALL TO WORSHIP: From Psalm 143

PASTOR: Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,

ALL: For I have put my trust in you.

PASTOR: Show me the way I should go,

ALL: For to you I lift up my soul.

PASTOR: Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD,

ALL: For I hide myself in you.

PASTOR: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;

ALL: May your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

HYMN #125 “Come, O Come, Thou Quickening Spirit”

SUNG CONFESSION OF SIN:

HYMN #129 “Gracious Spirit, Dove Divine”

CHILDREN’S SERMON:

READER: Glenn Gustafson

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: *Genesis 11:1-9 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. 3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."*

5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. 6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." 8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel--because there the LORD confused the language

of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

GOSPEL LESSON: *John 14:23-31 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. 25 "All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. 28 "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. 30 I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, 31 but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. "Come now; let us leave.*

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: **Ambassador Hymnal p. 4 (please put on screen)**
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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: Chosen by Carol Gustafson

SERMON: “WAITING,” Acts 2:1-21 Pastor Tom Olson *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen*

KENDALL: I recently listened to R. T. Kendall, an elderly pastor in his 80’s, who served a large church known all over the world. He has written many books and his sermons are listened to by thousands. But he had one regret from his ministry. He had hoped and prayed that his church would experience a real revival but it never did in the way he had hoped it would happen.

LEE: When Pastor Lee was lecturing on church history when I was in seminary we got to the topic of revivals. Pastor Lee told us about amazing revivals like America’s first and second great awakenings, the Welsh revival and others. We heard the names of the famous preachers like Johnathan Edwards and Evan Roberts. But then Pastor Lee made an interesting comment and it went something like this: **“Those great revivals were preceded by the faithful preaching and teaching and prayers of many pastors and laymen who’s names we will never know.**

PAUL: The Apostle Paul puts like this in *1 Corinthians 3:7* **“one plants, another waters but God makes it grow.”** We are planting our gardens again and one of the difficult things is waiting for it to grow. Today we look at “WAITING” for the mighty revival of God at Pentecost, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit from Acts 2.

I. WAITING FOR POWER

Acts 2:1-4 **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.**

EXHAUSTED: Sometimes we run out of strength and without help, we can’t do any more. We had a wonderful work day yesterday we got so much done. But by 12:30 PM everyone had to leave and I thought I would finish picking up all the low hanging branches that we cut down. But there were too many and I was absolutely exhausted. God gave me

permission to quit, a heavy downpour of rain came, it felt good. So I went over to Steve Karban’s to give him a happy birthday prayer and blessing instead.

BACK: My back often goes out when I try to push too hard when my muscles are spent. The only thing is to put all physical labor aside, to eat, to rest and simply wait for strength to return.

WAIT: Jesus told his 120 followers to wait in Jerusalem until He sent the Holy Spirit from heaven to come upon them and give them strength. They waited.

TEN: They WAITED for ten days. They PRAYED for ten days. They PREPARED for ten days. Then it happened: SUDDENLY!

SUDDENLY: A loud sound like a violent wind came. It filled the house. A fire came into the house and separated into little flames over each of them. The Holy Spirit filled them and they began to speak in other languages. They had the ability to witness and preach in languages they did not know.

BABEL: It was the opposite of the tower of Babel where people could not understand each other. Now there was a supernatural ability to understand in all the languages of the people in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. They came from all over the middle east to celebrate the wheat harvest and the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai.

US: Are you in need of power to do something that you can’t do right now? Is our little church in need of power to reach hundreds of lost souls for Christ? We also need to prayerfully wait for God to show us what to do. Times Square Church in New York City has a goal of bringing the gospel to one BILLION people and they are well on their way. We can at least shoot for one thousand people I would think. Let’s pray about it.

TIMES: According to a recent New York Times article, the departure from faith and the church has now turned around. Americans are desperate for a relationship with God and for truth. The “UNS” are leaving the “UN” movement and going back to church. People are once again looking for Jesus and salvation. Are we ready for them?

CARDS: I have been praying about what to do with these beautiful information cards we had printed. The thought came to my mind that we should each take one new card each week and pray over it. We should ask God to give us the name of the person we should give it to and then invite them to church. I would like the children to do it too. You could even mail them to someone close enough to drive to our services and meetings. Our Saturday campfire prayer meeting is a great starting point for many non-church people. If we give one per week, that would mean that not only would more than 50 cards go out every week, but they would go out with prayer and a guidance from the Holy Spirit. One card in the sovereignly chosen hands could lead to the salvation of many souls.

IF: If we keep praying and waiting upon the Lord, I am confident that He will lead us to many souls to win to Christ and train up in the Word of God. But we have to do it by God's leading.

*Isaiah 40:29-31 He gives power to the weak,
And to those who have no might He increases strength.
30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary,
And the young men shall utterly fall,
31 But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.*

WAITING FOR POWER. Secondly...

II. WAITING FOR ANSWERS

Acts 2:5-10 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."

CROWDS: The disciples were not the only ones waiting. The crowds of people at the festival were waiting. They were tired of being under the thumb of Rome. They were tired of not having rights as citizens. They were tired of corrupt and spiritually dead church leaders. They were waiting for the Messiah. The text here calls them "**God-fearing Jews.**" Their hearts were yearning for something better.

JASON: I spent some time on Thursday with a man who had lived a wild and sinful life but had a glorious conversion to Christ. He said something interesting to me that I identified with. He said, "Do you feel that you don't belong here on this earth? I have felt that way all my life, even before I became a believer." I told him that I have felt the same way. I feel that I am a stranger on earth and belong somewhere else.

C.S. Lewis talks about this in one of my favorite quotes of his. He said, "*If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.*"

This quote is similar to one of my favorite Bible passages, *Hebrews 11:13-16* "All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. 14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them."

HAPPENED: These "God-fearing Jews" were waiting for answers. They got to hear the good news of Jesus, crucified, risen and coming again in their own languages. They heard the message of the full forgiveness of sins through the precious, holy innocent blood of Christ." THEY GOT ANSWERS THEY WERE WAITING FOR. Finally...

III. HEARING GOOD NEWS

Acts 2:14-21 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.'

SALVATION: They got good news. Jesus saves. Jesus is coming back. If you call upon the NAME of the Lord, you WILL BE SAVED!

STRUGGLING: People are desperate to hear this good news. They are struggling in life. They are afraid to die. The COVID hysteria proved how afraid people are to die. They are afraid to nuclear war with Russia. They are afraid of war with Iran. Some one million people have died in the Ukrainian war. The parties can't even sit down and talk. There is something happening here that I can't explain other than the fulfillment of end-time prophecy of "wars and rumors of wars."

LEWIS: We have good news. Here is another excellent C. S. Lewis quote about this, he said: "**There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.**"

PSALM: In light of the world situation, I have been receiving a lot of comfort from Psalm 91 lately. It is good news. I would like to close the message by reading you the entire Psalm 91:

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." 3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. 4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. 5 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, 6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. 7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. 8 You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. 9 If you make the Most High your dwelling--even the LORD, who is my refuge-- 10 then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. 11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; 12 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. 13 You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. 14 "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. 15 He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

God gives POWER TO THOSE WHO WAIT; God give ANSWERS TO THOSE WHO WAIT; God gives GOOD NEWS TO THOSE WHO WAIT. Be encouraged, salvation is available if you call on the Lord and don't be discouraged, HELP IS ON THE WAY. *May the peace of God that passes understanding, guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen*

HYMN #133 "Breath on Me, Breath of God"

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Song: Chosen by Carol

Postlude: Carol Gustafson