



Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-41 John 16:5-16

May 19, 2024

Pastor Dave Bolte

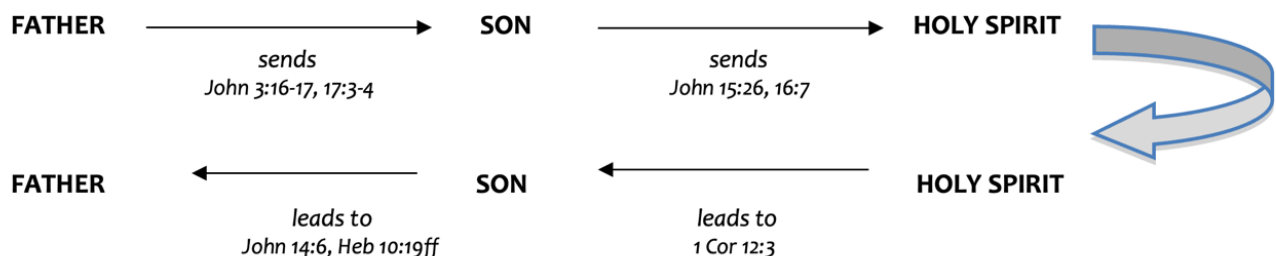
What do you know about the Holy Spirit?

Your first thought might be that of a *dove* --- since the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove at Jesus' Baptism. But remember that dove was just a visible form; the Holy Spirit is not a dove! ☺ Nor is He the *sound and fire* of Pentecost. The sound and fire were attention getters, but they were not the Spirit.

The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit is the **Third Person of the Holy Trinity**, that He is equal to the Father and the Son; the Holy Spirit is worshipped and glorified in the same way as the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified. The Holy Spirit is almighty, majestic, eternal, uncreated, and incomprehensible just like the Father and the Son. All these things tells us that *the Holy Spirit is God*. In the Nicene Creed we confess:

[We] believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke through the Prophets. NICENE CREED

In Scripture we learn that God the Father sent His Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior; and that Jesus the Savior sends us the Holy Spirit.



The work of the Holy Spirit is to lead us to the Son through faith, and the Son is the only Way to the Father. *It's like a full circle*: the Father sends the Son who sends the Spirit and the Spirit takes us to the Son who takes us to the Father!

The Holy Spirit creates faith through the Word and through the Sacraments. We saw the Holy Spirit do that in the Pentecost story for today. The Holy Spirit came to the disciples; there was the sound of a great wind; the mysterious tongues of fire; and the ability of the disciples to speak in languages they didn't know. **Something special was happening** on Pentecost Sunday, all of these things were attention getters, and thousands of people gathered around to see what was happening.

Peter stood up, he represented all of the disciples, and he preached the gospel that day in Jerusalem. His sermon focused on Jesus and His death and resurrection¹. After the Law of God cut the people to the heart by showing them their sins, the Gospel of Christ comforted them. Peter preached that Jesus was the Savior that God sent for them, Peter told the people to be baptized to wash their sins away. The Holy Spirit was at work to create faith in 3,000 people that day!

The Holy Spirit worked the same way in your life. *Somewhere, somehow, someway, and through someone,* **the Holy Spirit brought the Gospel to you.** Your sins have been washed away in the waters of Holy Baptism. Ever since then the Holy Spirit has been at work in your life through the Word of God and the Sacrament of Holy Communion to strengthen your faith, to call you to repentance, and to forgive your sins.

It is the Holy Spirit who works through the Word and the Sacraments to sanctify you, to make you holy. *The idea of holiness and*

¹ This is called the "kerygma." It is the main topic of the preaching and teaching of the Holy Christian Church. In theology it's also called the "material principle." Jesus, such as in Luke 24:47, teaches us that the message of the Church is His death and resurrection that leads us to repentance and the forgiveness of sins. This Gospel good news is the center of everything that the Church teaches. This is reflected in the teachings of Jesus, the sermons throughout the book of Acts, and the instruction throughout the New Testament.

sanctification is that you have been **set apart**, you are set apart from the world to live in God's Kingdom, you are set apart not only to believe in Jesus but also to live a holy and godly life. It is the Holy Spirit who is at work to do this in and through you.

- The Holy Spirit teaches you the 10 Commandments, so that you know the difference between right and wrong; good and evil
- The Holy Spirit works in you to produce character. Godly traits such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control are seen in your life.
- The Holy Spirit gives you spiritual gifts --- things that you are good at or like to do – in order to serve others and glorify God.

The Holy Spirit sets you apart, He sanctifies you to live a holy and godly life.

As you live your Christian faith and life, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and walking in His ways, you are a light that shines for Christ. Your good words and good works are as powerful as Peter's sermon on Pentecost Sunday. The **same Holy Spirit** is at work through you and your witness to reach out to other people with the good news about Jesus. **You never want to underestimate how important what you say and what you do is.** The Holy Spirit works through you to reach out to others in the hope that they will trust in Christ and be drawn into His Church².

² Remember that the goal of all evangelism and mission work is to draw people into the Church, the "Body of Christ." It is in a local, faithful congregation where people will hear the Word of God and receive the Sacraments of Christ. This stands in sharp contrast to a popular Christian notion today that the goal of evangelism and mission work is simply to "plant the seed." "Planting the seed" is one of the ways that the Holy Spirit works to create faith and lead people into His Church; it is not the goal itself. Disciples are those who are baptized and lifelong learners of everything Jesus has taught us (Matthew 28:18-20). Those things happen in the Body of Christ: the Holy Christian Church.

It is the Holy Spirit Who **opens your eyes** to see that there are people in your life who need Christ; they live in guilt, they are burdened with worries, and they fear death and dying. The Holy Spirit works through your good words and your good works to share the love, peace, and hope that we have in Christ. *The Holy Spirit makes us mission minded people.* Don't underestimate how important what you say and what you do is in the lives of other people!

One of the things that the Holy Spirit does for us is that He teaches us how to understand and interpret the Scriptures.

- The Bible is **NOT** a book of **laws and rules** for the Christian faith in life.
- The Bible is **NOT** “do it yourself” or **“how to” manual.**
- The Bible is **NOT** a list of **ethics and morals** to live by.

The **primary purpose** of Holy Scripture is to teach us about Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world³. *The Holy Spirit gives us a Christological interpretation of the Bible;* we understand that the center and the focus of everything in Holy Scripture is on Jesus, and His work of salvation for us. The Bible is Christ-centered, and so we are Christ-centered people as well. That understanding is from the Holy Spirit; and it shapes who we are as conservative Lutheran Christians.

Pentecost Sunday is one of those pillar events in the Kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, is sent to the Church to empower it to take the Gospel into all nations. That same Holy Spirit has worked in your life. *He has given you faith, and He has sanctified you to live a holy life as a witness to Christ, Amen!*

³ Remember Jesus' words in John 5:39: “You search the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about Me,” This is echoed in Acts 10:43, “All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His Name.”

Holy Spirit, we thank you for revealing to us your Person and Work. We ask that you sanctify us, as You work through the Word and the Sacrament. Be our Advocate, and fill us with your presence and power each day. Empower us to be bold and courageous in our Christian faith and life. In Jesus Name, AMEN!

John 16:5-16

"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. 16 "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

Acts 2:1-41

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians--we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine." 14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: 17 "'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; 18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. 19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; 20 the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. 21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'" 22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that

God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know-- 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. 25 For David says concerning him, "'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. 27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'" 29 "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, 31 he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. 33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. 34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, 35 until I make your enemies your footstool.'" 36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.