

# TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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**Pentecost**

**May 23, 2021**

Today the Christian church celebrates Pentecost. In the Old Testament book of Joel, God promised through His prophet: *"I will pour out my Spirit on all people"* (**Joel 2:28**). According to the Holy Spirit's divinely inspired writer of the book of Acts (**2:17ff**), we know God fulfilled this promise on "Pentecost Day." 50 days after Jesus' rising from the dead, Peter declared how Jesus kept His promise to give a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit's gifts to build the church at this time in its infancy.

Jesus, too, had instructed His disciples, especially in light of His ascension, which occurred 40 days after Easter Sunday: *"Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which you heard from me"* (**Acts 1:4**). We witness an exceptional outpouring of the Holy Spirit in connection with Peter's Pentecost sermon. As revealed in our second Scripture lesson this morning, 3000+ people came to faith in Jesus as a result of the Holy Spirit working through Peter's preaching of the gospel.

What's more, in **Acts 2:17** the Holy Spirit attests through Peter that Pentecost Day marks the beginning of the *"last days"* of this world's history as we know it. Only our Lord knows when that Judgment Day will come, but it's vitally important to have a sense of urgency as we carry out our Savior's Great Commission to *"gather disciples from all nations"* (Matthew 28:18ff). Truly, our *"salvation [the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation when He takes His believers to heaven] is nearer now than when we first believed"* (**Romans 13:11**).

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60.

Hymns: 10 (1-5), 27 (1-3, 6), 33, 402

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

*First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14.* The LORD asks Ezekiel, *"Son of man, can these bones live?"* Without God's Spirit, though there may be physical life, there can be no spiritual life. With God's Spirit, what is dead is made alive.

*Psalms of the Day: Psalm 51b.* The Spirit of God moves us to repentance and brings us forgiveness; He opens our lips and arouses us to praise (*Suppl.*).

*Epistle: Acts 2:1-21.* Luke records the spectacular outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Peter's stirring sermon proclaims that *"everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."*

*Verse of the Day:* Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia. (From the antiphon: Come, Holy Spirit)

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*Gospel: John 14:25-27.* Jesus tells the disciples not to be afraid, because he will send the Holy Spirit, the Counselor.

*Sermon: Ezekiel 37:1-14*

*Theme - "Hear The LORD's Word And Live"*

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: What is the LORD's point in the "dead to living bones" analogy?
- Second lesson: What does it mean to *"call on the name of the Lord"* in **Acts 2:21**?
- Gospel: Why is *"Counselor"* a fitting name for the Holy Spirit?
- Gospel: Jesus promises to give us peace. How is Jesus' peace different than the world's peace?
- Gospel: What two practical blessings does Jesus' peace give to us, as His believers, according to the last part of what John records in verse 27?

## Announcements:

+ Bible Class is every Sunday beginning at 8:00 a.m. Please join us!

**Ezekiel 37:1-14** – The hand of the LORD was upon me. He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley, which was full of bones. He had me pass through them and go all over among them. There were very many on the valley floor, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Son of man, can these dry bones live?" I answered, "LORD God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.'" This is what the LORD God says to these bones. I am about to make breath enter you so that you will live. I will attach tendons to you. I will put flesh back on you. I will cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you will live. Then you will know that I am the LORD. So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I was prophesying there was a noise, a rattling, as the bones came together, one bone connecting to another. As I watched, tendons were attached to them, then flesh grew over them, and skin covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the wind. Prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind that this is what the LORD God says. From the four winds, come, O wind, and breathe into these slain so that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me. Breath entered them, and they came back to life. They stood on their feet, a very, very large army. Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They are saying, 'Our bones are dried up. Our hope is lost. We have been completely cut off.' Therefore, prophesy and say to them that this is what the LORD God says. My people, I am going to open your graves and raise you up from your graves and bring you back to the soil of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live. I will settle you on your own land, and

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you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.” (EHV™)

**Acts 2:1-21** – When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the rushing of a violent wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw divided tongues that were like fire resting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, since the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak fluently. Now there were godly Jewish men from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When this sound was heard, a crowd came together and was confused, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were completely baffled and said to each other, “Look, are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them speaking in his own native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, and of Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt, and the parts of Libya around Cyrene; visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring in our own languages the wonderful works of God.” They were all amazed and perplexed. They kept saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others mocked them and said, “They are full of new wine.” Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: “Men of Judea, and all you residents of Jerusalem, understand this, and listen closely to my words. These men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day. On the contrary, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: This is what God says will happen in the last days: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions. Your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the sky above, and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and a rising cloud of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And this will happen: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (EHV™)

**John 14:25-27** – “I have told you these things while staying with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I told you. “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, and do not let it be afraid.” (EHV™)