



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
[www.trinitylutheran.ca](http://www.trinitylutheran.ca)

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May 19, 2024  
Pentecost

### **Announcements**

**Juice boxes** are still needed at Street Help Shelter. The Welcome Centre Shelter for Women needs granola bars, fruit rollup-type items and another snack item for snack packs for children at the centre. Please leave donated items on the table in the Narthex.

**Clothing Giveaway** is set for Friday, June 7, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday, June 8, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pass the word – volunteer for a shift or shifts. To volunteer, speak to Dena, Judith or Donna.

### **Coming Services**

**June 16** – Healing & Belonging Service. This is an affirmation worship service to mark Pride Month. The service is intended to recognize the past wounds caused by the greater church on the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and to foster healing and belonging with the community. Assistant to the Bishop Adam Snook is scheduled to preach and assist at the service. A potluck follows the service.

#### **We Remember in our Prayers**

**In Residence:** Cordelle, Dorothy, Katie, Sharon, Vern.

**Members:** Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan, Evelyn, Connie.

**Friends & Family:** Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Mary, Michelle, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank, Tanya, Jeremy, Rachel

### **Introduction to the day**

*Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.*

Inshallah # 40 God welcomes all  
ELW # 569 The day you gave us, Lord  
ELW # 638 Blessed Assurance  
ELW # 365 Jesus Christ is risen today

### Prayer of the day

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**AMEN**

### First reading: Acts 2: 1-21

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all

these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious

day.

<sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

### **Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

<sup>24</sup>How manifold are your <sup>l</sup> works,  
O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full <sup>l</sup> of your creatures.

<sup>25</sup>**Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
with its swarms too man- <sup>l</sup> y to  
number,**

**living things both <sup>l</sup> small and  
great.**

<sup>26</sup>There go the ships <sup>l</sup> to and fro,  
and Leviathan, which you made for  
the <sup>l</sup> sport of it.

<sup>27</sup>**All of them <sup>l</sup> look to you  
to give them their food <sup>l</sup> in due  
season.**

<sup>28</sup>You give it to them; they <sup>l</sup> gather it;  
you open your hand, and they are  
filled <sup>l</sup> with good things.

<sup>29</sup>**When you hide your face, <sup>l</sup> they  
are terrified;  
when you take away their breath,  
they die and return <sup>l</sup> to their dust.**

<sup>30</sup>You send forth your Spirit, and  
they <sup>l</sup> are created;  
and so you renew the face <sup>l</sup> of the  
earth.

<sup>31</sup>**May the glory of  
the Lord en- <sup>l</sup> dure forever;  
O Lord, rejoice in <sup>l</sup> all your  
works.**

<sup>32</sup>You look at the earth <sup>l</sup> and it  
trembles;  
you touch the mountains <sup>l</sup> and they  
smoke.

<sup>33</sup>**I will sing to the Lord as long <sup>l</sup> as I  
live;**

**I will praise my God while I <sup>l</sup> have  
my being.**

<sup>34</sup>May these words of <sup>l</sup> mine please  
God.

I will rejoice <sup>l</sup> in the Lord.

<sup>35b</sup>**Bless the Lord, <sup>l</sup> O my soul.  
Hal- <sup>l</sup> lelujah!**

### **Second reading: Romans 8: 22-27**

<sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has  
been groaning in labour pains until  
now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we  
ourselves, who have the first fruits of the  
Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for  
adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

<sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope  
that is seen is not hope. For who hopes  
for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for  
what we do not see, we wait for it with  
patience.

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our  
weakness; for we do not know how to  
pray as we ought, but that very Spirit  
intercedes with sighs too deep for  
words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the  
heart, knows what is the mind of the  
Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for  
the saints according to the will of God.

### **Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15**

[Jesus said,] <sup>26</sup>“When the Advocate  
comes, whom I will send to you from the  
Father, the Spirit of truth who comes  
from the Father, he will testify on my



behalf. <sup>27</sup>You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

<sup>16:4b</sup>“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup>But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup>But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.

<sup>7</sup>Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup>about sin, because they do not believe in

me; <sup>10</sup>about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

<sup>12</sup>“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

<sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

## Sermon

### Shaped

Friends, may grace and peace be yours in abundance

One of my final courses at the seminary was called “Introduction to Spirituality,” which I thought was interesting because ... after three at the seminary ... I thought I already had been introduced to spirituality.

Making things worse ... the course took place during a week in mid-June and they were warm and sunny days ... at least from what I could see through the classroom window.

As I was considering today’s passage from John, I couldn’t help but recall my final project for that course.

We were given a choice for the final 80 per cent of the course grade.

Option A was to write a 20-page research paper on some aspect of spirituality that was discussed during the week of classes.

This meant a lot more reading ... a lot of writing ... a lot of proofreading ... and a lot more writing.

Did I mention that it was a warm and sunny June?

Option B was to create some object ... artwork or an artisan piece ... and write a five- or six-page reflection on the piece as it relates to spirituality.

Twenty pages or six pages? ...  
Twenty pages or six pages?

... Did I mention it was a warm and sunny June.

So, Option B it was.

I got out my mother's old oil paint set ... replaced some of the dried-out paints ... bought some brushes and a small canvas.

I set to work bringing something to life so that I could reflect upon it. I figure I could knock the painting out in a couple of days.

The subject of the painting was the Ruach ... the breath of God ... God's Spirit in the world ... the Spirit of Truth.

On the top of a cliff behind our house in Sudbury was one of those windswept pine trees that you can find across the North.

It's one of those pines that have been shaped over the years by the harsh wind as it grew out of some rocky crag.

So, I climbed up the hill ... took a couple of pictures of the tree ... printed them off and used them as guides for the painting.

I set things up on the back deck ... after all, it was a warm, sunny June ... I quickly discovered a slight glitch ... I had never worked with oil before.

Still, I intrepidly began to paint.

I worked from back to front ... so the ground and the sky went onto the canvas on the first day. I planned to add some rocks and the tree trunk and branches on the second day ... except oil paint didn't dry as fast as I thought.

It was Day Four before I could add the next layer.

I realized that at this pace, I wouldn't get the assignment done on time.

So, ... without her knowing it ... I pressed Donna's blow dryer into service.

After about 30 minutes ... the paint was dry enough for the next layer. Of course, some of the paint had moved under the force of the blow dryer.

I followed the same method for the next layer and then the next.

When it came time to submit the assignment, I placed the painting in a box and brought it with me to class.

Well, the paint still wasn't totally dry ... so when I opened the box to remove the painting ... I could see pain smears and blotches on the underside of the lid.

The canvas had become an abstract work of art ... the tree branches had streaked off into new directions ...

the colours had mixed in different ways than I intended ... It seemed a little more symbolic of the way the Ruach ... the wind ... the breath of God ... the Spirit of Truth ... operates in our lives.

The breath of God ... God's presence in the world ... is central to today's readings.

The Spirit of God ... the Spirit of Truth ... is the Spirit of life.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus nears the end of his farewell to the disciples and tells them what to expect after he returns to the Father.

Jesus tells them that ... because they are his followers ... the world will persecute them. They will be hated ... because they live apart from the world ... because they will live according to a different Truth.

This Truth will expose the world's sins by pointing to a better reality and the world will harshly react to this exposure.

Jesus tells them ... not to be sad or disheartened ... the Father will send an Advocate ... the Spirit ... to be a presence and a guide in their lives.

In the original Greek, the word used for "Advocate" is "Paraclete."

Another translation for Paraclete is "comforter" or "to walk alongside."

The Paraclete, then, is the Spirit of Truth whom will accompany Jesus' followers as a helper, a counselor, as an advocate.

This Spirit of Truth will shape relationships.

Abiding in the Spirit will enable the disciples ... those present and those who are to come ... to bear witness to God's glory ... by modeling the unconditional love we have received and empowering that same love within the community ... shaping it toward righteousness.

The Spirit guides disciples ... helping them stand firm in their convictions during times of fear, or doubt or upheaval in the world around us.

It means that we need to remain true to the Truth in our lives and carry that Truth out into the world.

This is the Spirit that we celebrate during Pentecost ... the joy of new life that is possible by allowing the Spirit to work through our lives.

This passage from John lacks the Pentecostal drama and action of the other gospel accounts. There are no tongues of flame .. no speaking and understanding foreign languages.

John's account is more personal ... more intimate.

Relationships between the individuals and God are formed through the Spirit.

Biblical scholar Jason Byassee says that the Spirit is the love between God the Father and Jesus ... which means that the Spirit is also the love between Jesus and the world.

The Spirit shapes the relationship and has the possibility of shaping the world.

Like that tree on the hill behind the house in Sudbury ... and countless others scattered on windswept lakeshores ... we are each shaped by God's breath ... the Ruach ... the Spirit ... the Paraclete.

We can be steadfast in the truth of the world or we can be open to the Spirit ... allowing the Spirit of Truth to guide and shape ... to open us to new possibilities.

The Spirit shapes us as witnesses to the promise of the gospel ... that through Jesus' death and resurrection ... we have received the gift of grace. Its ... the Ruach or the advocate ... continual presence in our lives can be both comforting and invigorating ... penetrating and uncovering.

It can push us ... move us ... into directions we otherwise would not go ... and toward people whom we otherwise might not know ... living in circumstances we otherwise might not comprehend ... and very ones we are called to comfort ... to feed and to welcome into community.

So may we embrace the wind of change ... the Spirit of love..

**AMEN**

### **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 who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us

from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever.

**AMEN**

### **Blessing**

The God of all,  
who raised + Jesus from the dead,  
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit  
to live in the new creation.

**AMEN**



**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE PROGRAM**

**AUTHORIZATION**

I hereby authorize *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*, 1215 Parent Avenue, Windsor, ON N8X 4J1, to cause a cheque to be drawn on my account, each month as a contribution by me to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, as follows:

Total *monthly* contributions to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of:

\_\_\_\_\_ (\$ \_\_\_\_\_,00) per month  
Distributed as follows:

Current Giving/Benevolence	\$ _____	per month
Global Hunger and Development Agency (GHDA)	\$ _____	per month
Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)	\$ _____	per month
ELCIC World Missions/Volunteers in Mission	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Total Monthly Giving:	\$ _____	per month

Contributor's name \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

Bank/Trust/Credit Union Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***This authority may be changed or cancelled by the contributor at any time.***

To ensure accuracy, a sample cheque marked "VOID" must accompany this form.

The transfer of contributions to the ministry of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church will begin in the month *following* receipt of this authorization.