



Sunday Devotion in English and German for Martin Luther Church

Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020

A warm welcome to watch this devotion and related videos at
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIjEQnirqCMP7fzts0NtEPRI1T0vriYtR>

A. GATHERING / ERÖFFNUNG UND ANRUFUNG

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Words of Welcome / Begrüßung

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

As we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, a day to reflect on the spirit being poured out on the church, we have a chance to be excited. The Spirit continues to guide our community at Martin Luther Church. We connect over zoom calls and phone calls. A cohort of gardeners has planted their crops as part of our seed project. This week we welcomed Ariane as a summer intern. Today as part of our service we welcome Vicar Silke as she shifts in her role by taking over interim duties from Pastor Christian including pastoral care. We will have a short part of the service today where we recognize her calling to this ministry.



Vicar Jordan Smith

I'm so glad you have chosen to join our worshipping community today. May you sense the Spirit's presence in our prayers and music and preaching as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday.

Prayer of the Day / Tagesgebet

Let us pray:

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

B. WORD / VERKÜNDIGUNG UND BEKENNTNIS

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading / Erste Lesung: Acts 2:1-21, read by Irene

1 Und als der Pfingsttag gekommen war, waren sie alle beieinander an einem Ort. 2 Und es geschah plötzlich ein Brausen vom Himmel wie von einem gewaltigen Sturm und erfüllte das ganze Haus, in dem sie saßen. 3 Und es erschienen ihnen Zungen, zerteilt und wie von Feuer, und setzten sich auf einen jeden von ihnen, 4 und sie wurden alle erfüllt von dem Heiligen Geist und fingen an zu predigen in andern Sprachen, wie der Geist ihnen zu reden eingab. 5 Es wohnten aber in Jerusalem Juden, die waren gottesfürchtige Männer aus allen Völkern unter dem Himmel. 6 Als nun dieses Brausen geschah, kam die Menge zusammen und wurde verstört, denn ein jeder hörte sie in seiner eigenen Sprache reden. 7 Sie entsetzten sich aber, verwunderten sich und sprachen: Siehe, sind nicht diese alle, die da reden, Galiläer? 8 Wie

hören wir sie denn ein jeder in seiner Muttersprache? 9 Parther und Meder und Elamiter und die da wohnen in Mesopotamien, Judäa und Kappadozien, Pontus und der Provinz Asia, 10 Phrygien und Pamphylien, Ägypten und der Gegend von Kyrene in Libyen und Römer, die bei uns wohnen, 11 Juden und Proselyten, Kreter und Araber: Wir hören sie in unsern Sprachen die großen Taten Gottes verkünden.

12 Sie entsetzten sich aber alle und waren ratlos und sprachen einer zu dem andern: Was will das werden? 13 Andere aber hatten ihren Spott und sprachen: Sie sind voll süßen Weins.

14 Da trat Petrus auf mit den Elf, erhob seine Stimme und redete zu ihnen: Ihr Juden, und alle, die ihr in Jerusalem wohnt, das sei euch kundgetan, vernehmt meine Worte!

15 Denn diese sind nicht betrunken, wie ihr meint, ist es doch erst die dritte Stunde des Tages; 16 sondern das ist's, was durch den Propheten Joel gesagt worden ist (Joel 3,1-5):

17 »Und es soll geschehen in den letzten Tagen, spricht Gott, da will ich ausgießen von meinem Geist auf alles Fleisch; und eure Söhne und eure Töchter sollen weissagen, und eure Jünglinge sollen Gesichte sehen, und eure Alten sollen Träume haben;

18 und auf meine Knechte und auf meine Mägde will ich in jenen Tagen von meinem Geist ausgießen, und sie sollen weissagen. 19 Und ich will Wunder tun oben am Himmel und Zeichen unten auf Erden, Blut und Feuer und Rauchdampf; 20 die Sonne soll in Finsternis verwandelt werden und der Mond in Blut, ehe der große und herrliche Tag des Herrn kommt.

21 Und es soll geschehen: Wer den Namen des Herrn anrufen wird, der soll gerettet werden.«

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

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷In 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.

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

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

- ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

²⁴How manifold are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth
is full of your creatures.

²⁵Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its
swarms too many to number,
living things both small and great.

²⁶There go the ships to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport
of it.

²⁷All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.

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

²⁹When you hide your face, they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and
return to their dust.

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

³¹May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
O Lord, rejoice in all your works.

³²You look at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

³³I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my being.

³⁴May these words of mine please God.
I will rejoice in the Lord.

^{35b}Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Hallelujah!

²⁴Herr, wie sind deine Werke so groß und viel!
Du hast sie alle weise geordnet, und die Erde
ist voll deiner Güter.

²⁵Da ist das Meer, das so groß und weit ist,
da wimmelt's ohne Zahl, große und kleine
Tiere.

²⁶Dort ziehen Schiffe dahin;
da ist der Leviatan, den du gemacht hast,
damit zu spielen.

²⁷Es wartet alles auf dich,
dass du ihnen Speise gebest zu seiner Zeit.

²⁸Wenn du ihnen gibst, so sammeln sie;
wenn du deine Hand aufst, so werden sie
mit Gutem gesättigt.

²⁹Verbirgst du dein Angesicht, so
erschrecken sie; nimmst du weg ihren Odem,
so vergehen sie und werden wieder Staub.

³⁰Du sendest aus deinen Odem, so werden sie
geschaffen,
und du machst neu das Antlitz der Erde.

³¹Die Herrlichkeit des Herrn bleibe ewiglich,
der Herr freue sich seiner Werke!

³²Er schaut die Erde an, so bebt sie;
er rührt die Berge an, so rauchen sie.

³³Ich will dem Herrn singen mein Leben lang
und meinen Gott loben, solange ich bin.

³⁴Mein Reden möge ihm wohlgefallen.
Ich freue mich des Herrn.

^{35b}Lobe den Herrn, meine Seele!
Halleluja!

Gospel Reading / Evangelium: John 20:19-23, read by Alba

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

19 Am Abend aber dieses ersten Tages der Woche, da die Jünger versammelt und die Türen verschlossen waren aus Furcht vor den Juden, kam Jesus und trat mitten unter sie und spricht zu ihnen: Friede sei mit euch! 20 Und als er das gesagt hatte, zeigte er ihnen die Hände und seine Seite. Da wurden die Jünger froh, dass sie den Herrn sahen.

21 Da sprach Jesus abermals zu ihnen: Friede sei mit euch! Wie mich der Vater gesandt hat, so sende ich euch. 22 Und als er das gesagt hatte, blies er sie an und spricht zu ihnen: Nehmt hin den Heiligen Geist! 23 Welchen ihr die Sünden erlasst, denen sind sie erlassen; welchen ihr sie behaltet, denen sind sie behalten.

Sermon / Predigt, Vicar Jordan Smith

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and the son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Before I begin, I'd like to note that we prepare our services a few days in advance. I'm recording this sermon on Friday and I'll be talking a bit about events that are happening in our city and in the United States. These situations are changing by the day and I hope my reflection today is still relevant and accurate when you view this on Sunday.

It is Pentecost. As the church marks 50 days since Easter, we are reminded annually of the spirit coming down on the crowd in Jerusalem, or as some say, of the birth of the church. A movement that had started with Jesus' ministry and continued to grow after the resurrection, grows yet again, with a scene of chaos, many languages, and Peter delivering a sermon announcing that all who call on the Lord will be saved.

This is an important day. For those who have been on email lists for the wider church, this year there are a number of special events happening online this weekend. While in person our churches put all our energy into Easter, we were still figuring things out during those first few weeks of online worship. Now that we are another 50 days down the road, there are some special programs that have been put together for today. At the end of the service, courtesy of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, you will hear the song "O day Full of Grace", edited together from over 1300 submissions from musicians around the world, to help us celebrate this day in song.

As part of our prayers in today's service we will pray the Vater Unser, or Our Father, recited by over 130 people, including a number of members from Martin Luther, who contributed recordings to a joint project of the ELCIC and Anglican church. This recording will also be a part of a special service streamed live today, Sunday May 31st, at 4pm Eastern at Anglicanlutheran.ca/Pentecost.

It is a joyful day of worship and music as our broader Lutheran church has started to get a bit more comfortable with the possibilities provided by online worship.

But it hasn't been a joyful week for all. Reports have come out of horrible cases of neglect at a number of long term care homes where huge numbers of people have been affected by COVID. A brazen daytime shooting occurred downtown with innocent bystanders struck by bullets. Video emerged of police brutality in Minneapolis and thousands protested in the days that followed. Accusations of police being involved in the death of a black woman in Toronto happened only days later.

On a day where we remember and celebrate the spirit of God descending on the church, descending on people from all nations, so that they could communicate and speak about

God's power, many people today are left asking, where is the spirit? If the spirit came down all those years ago, where has she gone? Are we all alone now? People are scared and upset and looking for answers.

The disciples huddled behind locked doors on the day of the resurrection, looking for answers, are suddenly faced with the risen Christ. Peace be with you he says. Once, twice, Peace be with you. Three days after a brutal public crucifixion, the disciples face Jesus again, and are commissioned with a breath, with the Holy Spirit.

As Jesus breathes on them and says "receive the Holy Spirit," we are drawn to remembering Genesis 2 where God breathes life into Adam, or Ezekiel 37 where the four winds breathe into the dry bones and cause them to rise. A pastor I follow on Twitter, Tuhina Rasche, tweets daily, reminding her followers to Pause, Inhale, Exhale, and Repeat. No matter what is happening in the world, no matter the outrage, no matter how burned out or upset or stressed or tired you are – pause, inhale, exhale, repeat.

And in these four steps you are recharged. What if every breath you take not only replenishes your body, but it restores your soul? What if with every breath you take you can feel Jesus breathing the spirit onto you? What if once you are reset, you are then re-engaged.

Re-engaged to fight for those who have died in our long-term care homes.

Re-engaged to fight for those who have no shelter today.

Re-engaged to feed the hungry.

Re-engaged to think ecologically.

Re-engaged to fight for those who like George Floyd say "I can't breathe!"

That the spirit coming on us, isn't a calming experience, but like we read in Acts, is like the rush of a violent wind, with tongues as of fire resting on us, crowds bewildered, people astonished, accusing the believers of being drunk.

What if on this day of Pentecost we are again loud and willing to cause a scene? Some might be cautious, saying that the day of Pentecost was a one time thing. And as a man standing here today who knows he has not done enough to fight against injustices such as poverty, sexism, and racism, I pray that the day of Pentecost is not a one time event. Please God, let your spirit rest upon us. Please God, raise up voices that speak truth. Please God, raise up a roar against injustice, let your spirit guide us to act in ways we don't expect, to say things we hadn't planned, to have people questioning if everything is alright with us because we are not acting like our old selves. Please God, let your spirit that caused a scene in the first century cause a scene with us today.

David Gushee writes The first Christian community was willing "to be led by Spirit, do things differently."⁽¹⁾ I pray that today, as we celebrate Pentecost while sharing in the gifts of our wider church, that the spirit guides us to look closer at our communities and be willing to do things differently. To look at our neighbours who are hurting. At those who need their voices lifted up. At ourselves, to see how the spirit can change us. Again Gushee writes, "The Holy Spirit is poured out by God . . . to empower the church to advance Christ's mission to the very ends of the earth."⁽²⁾ The spirit has come among us, through the breath of creation, through

1. David P. Gushee, "Theological Perspective on Acts 2:1-21," in *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary: Year A*, ed. David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor, vol. 3 (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011), 16.

2. Ibid.

Jesus breathing on the disciples, through our daily rhythm of pausing and breathing... let the spirit guide us to ensuring that all of God's creation has the breath they need. Amen.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen

Hymn: O Holy Spirit Enter In ELW 786

O Holy Spirit, enter in, / and in our hearts your work begin,
and make our hearts your dwelling. / Sun of the soul, O Light divine,
around and in us brightly shine, / your strength in us upwelling.
In your radiance / life from heaven / now is given / overflowing,
gift of gifts beyond all knowing.

Left to ourselves, we surely stray; / oh, lead us on the narrow way,
with wisest counsel guide us; / and give us steadfastness, that we
may follow you forever free, / no matter who derides us.
Gently heal those / hearts now broken; / give some token / you are near us,
whom we trust to light and cheer us.

O mighty Rock, O Source of life, / let your good Word in doubt and strife
be strongly in us burning, / that we be faithful unto death
and live in love and holy faith, / from you true wisdom learning.
Lord, your mercy / on us shower; / by your power / Christ confessing,
we will cherish all your blessing.

Installation and Blessing of Vicar Silke Fahl

Council President: Vicar Silke Fahl has been selected by council to provide pastoral care, sacramental services, and worship leadership during the interim period at Martin Luther Church. We give thanks for her willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that Silke will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

A reading from John: Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

A reading from Matthew: Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

... People of God, will you receive Silke as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation?
Will you regard her as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for her help and honor her for her work's sake,
and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

I now declare you installed as Vicar of this congregation during this time of interim ministry. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be a faithful a servant of Christ.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession / Fürbitten

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We call on your spirit of unity, giving thanks for our different vocations. Empower and nurture the diverse gifts present in your church, that they reveal your love for all.

Wir rufen Deinen Geist der Einheit und danken Dir für unsere unterschiedlichen Berufungen. Stärke und Fördere diese vielfältigen Gaben in unserer Kirche, damit sie deine Liebe fuer uns alle offenbaren.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We call on your spirit of life, present in air, wind, humidity, storms, and oxygen in our atmosphere, breathing energy into all things. Heal with your breath the whole creation, especially those who struggle due to air pollution, or respiratory issues related to COVID.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We call on your spirit of righteousness. Wherever we as a people are divided, unite us. Wherever we are prideful, humble us. Give each one of us a heart for justice and empathy.

Wir rufen Deinen Geist der Gerechtigkeit. Wo immer wir als Volk geteilt sind, vereine uns. Wann immer wir stolz sind, demütige uns. Gib jedem von uns ein Herz für Gerechtigkeit und Empathie.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We call on your spirit of healing. Bless nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for all who long for comfort especially the family of Lina Schewske as they mourn her death.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We call on your spirit of friendship. As Elizabeth welcomed Mary to her home, give us a spirit of welcome to all those we encounter during our day.

Wir rufen deine Geist der Freundschaft. Sowie Elizabeth Maria in ihrem Haus Willkommen hiess, so gib auch du uns den Geist der Freundschaft und des Willkommens so das wir allen Menschen täglich damit begegnen.

Bless those who have celebrated their birthday this week, including Philippe, Sylvia, Jordan, and Kurt. Accompany them with the spirit of friendship and warmth in their new year of life.

Segne alle die in dieser Woche ihre Geburtstage feierte ganz esonders Philippe, Sylvia, Jordan, and Kurt. Begleite sie mit dem Geist der Freundschaft und des Willkommens in das neue Lebensjahr.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We call on your spirit of hope. As you have led your saints in all times and places, stir in us the desire to follow their example, leading us from death to new life in you. May their lives be an example for all the saints in life.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer / Vaterunser, read by Vicar Jordan & Gisela

Let us join together with Lutherans and Anglicans from across Canada in many languages, praying together as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Vaterunser, der du bist im Himmel,
geheiligt werde dein Name,
dein Reich komme,
dein Wille geschehe,
wie im Himmel, also auch auf Erden.
Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute
und vergib uns unsere Schuld,
wie auch wir vergeben
unsern Schuldigern.
Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,
sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen,
denn dein ist das Reich
und die Kraft und die Herrlichkeit
in Ewigkeit.
Amen.**

C. SENDING / SENDUNG UND SEGEN

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing / Segen

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal / Entlassung

Christ is risen, just as he said.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Announcements

In light of COVID-19, **all meetings and worship services are taking place virtually.**

- Sunday [Video Devotions](#) are on our [YouTube Channel](#). Please subscribe and comment.
- German [Radio Devotions](#) on our website and Sundays at 9.30 am on CHLO Radio AM 530
- [Virtual Sunday Coffee Hour](#) at 11:00 am through Zoom (link sent by email)
- [Sunday School lessons](#) and [Fabulous Fridays](#) on our website
- [Virtual Coffee Shop Talk](#), Mondays 7:00-9:00 pm through Zoom led by Vicar Silke Fahl. Email vicarfahl@martinluther.ca to sign up.
- [Coffee or Lunch with Job](#): Bible Reading and Discussion about the Book of Job led by Vicar Jordan Smith starting Wednesday, May 20. Two opportunities: 8:30 am and 12:15 pm. Email vicarsmith@martinluther.ca to sign up.
- [Virtual Prayer Circle](#), Wednesdays 5:30-6:00 pm through Zoom led by Solveig Christina Voss; we also have a Prayer Request Wall in the Church Foyer
To request a prayer or join our prayer circle, email prayers@martinluther.ca.
- [Give Peas a Chance](#)- A grow some, give some movement hosted by Martin Luther and Redeemer Lutheran with donated seeds.
- [Corona-Care Calls](#)- Volunteers are continuing to call you with more information and to understand your needs. Let us know if you'd like to join the call team!
- Please phone or email the church office:
 - ◊ if we can help you in any way
 - ◊ if you'd like to volunteer by doing Sunday readings, video editing and spring cleaning
 - ◊ with feedback on what we're offering
 - ◊ to support our church and [donate](#). Best ways are PAR or send cheque to church office

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Vicar Adam McComb, vicarmccomb@martinluther.ca, Vicar Jordan Smith, vicarsmith@martinluther.ca

Organist & Choir Director: Linda Marcinkus

*Member of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) &
Partnered with Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD)*