

**MINISTRY BY MAIL**  
**Lutheran Conference of Confessional Fellowship**  
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**Sunday After Ascension, May 29, 2022**

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(Hymns found in The Lutheran Hymnal, CPH, 1941)

Hymns: 224 (233:7) 234, 229, 230

Lessons: Psalm 36; Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 2:1-13

Text: John 14:26 (NKJV),

Sermon by Pastor M. H. Eibs

***“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*** John 14:26 (New King James Version)

Fellow Redeemed in Christ,

Next Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, we are celebrating a major church festival, the festival of Pentecost. There’s something different about this festival, unlike Christmas and Easter. The festival of Pentecost has not been commercialized as have Christmas and Easter. There’s no Pentecost clothing to buy and the stores are not selling Pentecost gifts. And that is certainly a good thing for us, because it helps us to celebrate this festival in a God-pleasing way.

It’s quite natural that the world does not celebrate Pentecost because the work of the Holy Spirit is foreign to the world. His work is done in the hearts of people through the Gospel, but worldly-minded people who reject the Gospel know nothing about it.

We who have heard the Gospel of Christ can celebrate this festival without any worldly interference and rejoice in the work of the Holy Spirit. Let us, then, eagerly hear

**JESUS’ PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- 1. He is given to us in Jesus’ name as our Helper and Comforter.**
- 2. He teaches us everything we need to know for our salvation.**
- 3. His work gives us a firm foundation for our faith.**

What Jesus speaks in our text is a small part of what he had to say to His disciples after they had celebrated the first Lord’s Supper in the upper room in Jerusalem. Jesus was about to leave His disciples. He was about to suffer and die on the cross to redeem sinful mankind. Because Jesus’ visible presence would be removed from the disciples, the Savior gave them a promise of another Helper and Comforter. He promised ***“the Helper, the Holy Spirit.”***

Jesus had spoken before of the Holy Spirit being given to his disciples. ***“I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you,”*** John 14:16-18. (NKJV) Jesus had been with His disciples for about 2 1/2 years. It had been a most intimate and spiritually rewarding association. From day to day the Lord had been instructing His disciples and blessing them with His presence. But now Jesus was about to suffer and die on the cross. He would rise again on the third day, and after forty days would ascend into heaven. As He was about to leave them, He promised them another Helper and Comforter to be with them, to guide, teach and direct them in their daily life and work. They would certainly need a Helper and Comforter in their work of spreading the Gospel in the world.

Just as the disciples needed another Helper and Comforter, so do we. As followers of Christ in this sin-filled world we need someone to help us and comfort us. Jesus tells us why. ***“If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you,”*** John 15:19 (NKJV). This hatred results in persecution for Jesus’ followers. Jesus tells us, ***“If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also,”*** John 15:20. (NKJV) People of the world are the unbelievers. As they hated Christ and His Word, so they will hate those who believe in Christ and accept His Word. Such unbelievers constantly express their hatred of believers. They make life miserable for believers in Christ. They ridicule the Word of God. With their human reasoning they argue against God’s holy Word. When they do not succeed with their arguments, they show their anger and hatred by evil deeds and try to hinder our work. This is why we need a Helper and Comforter. This is why we need the Holy Spirit to guide and lead us as we do our work of helping to spread the Gospel of Christ.

Jesus says: ***“The Helper, the Holy Spirit, ... the Father will send in My name.”*** To send the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus is nothing else than to send him in union with Jesus’ Word. Jesus’ name is the revelation of Jesus in His Holy Word. Jesus has revealed Himself to us in His Holy Word, the Bible. To send the Holy Spirit in Jesus’ name does not mean that the Holy Spirit would be sent on His authority, but in connection with His Word. God gave the Holy Spirit to the followers of Christ on Pentecost so that they could go out and preach His Word in the entire world. And when they proclaimed the Gospel, the Holy Spirit was given to those who heard the preaching. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of those who heard to create faith. What greater evidence of this could God have given than He gave on the day of Pentecost ten days after Jesus’ ascension into heaven! Peter preached the Gospel, and the result of the Holy Spirit’s work is recorded in this Bible passage: ***“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them,”*** Acts 2:41 (NKJV). We in our day dare not forget this fact that the Holy Spirit does His work in us, creating faith and preserving faith only through the Gospel Word. That is why the Lord said to Martha as Mary sat at His feet to hear the Gospel: ***“One thing is needful: and Mary has chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her,”*** Luke 10:42 (KJV). A person shows that he is a believer in Christ by what he does with the Word of Christ, namely, that he uses it and wants to hear and learn it. So we ought to pray to the Holy Spirit and say: ***“Divine Instructor, gracious Lord, Be Thou forever near; Teach me to love Thy sacred Word and view my Savior here.”*** (The Lutheran Hymnal, 284:6)

Another part of Jesus’ promise of the Holy Spirit is this: **He teaches us everything we need to know for salvation.**

## 2.

Jesus promised his disciples: ***“He will teach you all things.”*** The disciples of Jesus were to go out and preach the Gospel in the entire world. But, we know that the disciples often lacked the understanding they should have had. For example, the two disciples on the way to Emmaus after Jesus’ resurrection did not understand the things that had happened to Jesus. They still had in mind that Jesus was to have saved Israel from the dominion of the Roman Empire. They said, ***“We were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel,”*** Luke 24:21 (NKJV). They needed more instruction. So Jesus explained the Scriptures to them about the work of the Messiah. ***“Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself,”*** Luke 24:27 (NKJV).

Jesus knew that His disciples would need further instruction after He ascended into heaven. Therefore, He promised them the gift of the Holy Spirit, and said: ***“He will teach you all things.”*** The Holy Spirit would guide them into all truth. With His gifts the disciples would not give those to whom they preached a distorted view of Jesus’ teachings. They would teach the people what the Lord wanted them to learn. The people would then know everything they needed to know for their salvation.

We also need the work of the Holy Spirit to teach us as long as we live. He will enlighten us so that we understand that what we hear preached is Jesus’ word, and not the word of a mere man. He will make His Word clear to us from day to day as we read and study the Bible so that we always learn better how Jesus has delivered us from sin and death and earned for us eternal salvation.

Another part of Jesus’ promise of the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the Holy Spirit’s work gives us a firm foundation for our faith.**

Jesus told his disciples what the Holy Spirit would do. ***“He will ... bring all things to your remembrance, all things that I said to you.”*** Without that work of the Holy Spirit the apostles would never have been able to recall exactly what Jesus said. When Jesus told the Jews, ***“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up,”*** John 2:19 (NKJV), the disciples did not at first understand Jesus’ words. But we are told, ***“When He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said,”*** John 2:22 (NKJV).

Concerning Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem and how the crowds sang their Hosannas to him the Sunday before his suffering and death, we are told, ***“His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him,”*** John 12:16. This was the Holy Spirit’s work in them. They would not have known the very words of Jesus so that they could write them in the Gospel records and Epistles. Because the Holy Spirit did bring these very words of Jesus to the remembrance of the evangelists and apostles, we can be very sure of Jesus’ teachings in the Bible. What the holy men of God wrote by inspiration of the Holy Spirit is exactly what Jesus said and taught. That’s what Peter wrote, ***“No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation. For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit,”*** 2 Peter 1:21. (NKJV)

In this way the Holy Spirit’s work gives us a firm foundation for our faith. Because the Bible was given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit (God-breathed), we can be very sure that in the Bible we have the truth. As long as we preach and teach according to God’s Word, we can be sure that we are speaking the very truth of God. If we abide strictly by what the Bible says we can be assured also that the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts of the hearers and people will come to a knowledge of salvation. This is Jesus’ promise. ***“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life,”*** John 5:24 (NKJV). Furthermore, we then not only know the truth, but we can defend ourselves against all error that does not agree with Jesus’ words in the Bible. Thus the gift of the Holy Spirit gives us a very firm foundation for our faith.

Let us thank and praise God the Holy Spirit for his precious work for our salvation and pray, ***“Holy Spirit, hear us on this sacred day; Come to us with blessing, Come with us to stay,”*** (The Lutheran Hymnal 229:1) Amen.

(Adapted from a Ministry By Mail sermon for May 30, 2004)