



PENTECOST SUNDAY — May 23, 2021

**This service will be livestreamed on YouTube
at 10 a.m. from Temple Beth El Synagogue
The link for this service is: [https://youtu.be/ 36ExLvMP5A](https://youtu.be/36ExLvMP5A)**

**You can also access it via St. Mark's YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDILvaJR1dSNoaXxjasLhVg>**

Prelude: *I'm Gonna Sing/Ain't-a That Good News?* - arr. by Larry Shackley

CALL TO WORSHIP (*read responsively*)

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit! Renew our congregation, inside and out.

Congregation: Send your sacred flames onto our heads.

Join our hearts together, even while we worship apart.

L: Come, Holy Spirit! Renew our lives, inside and out.

C: Revive our faith. Restore our relationships. Rekindle our trust in your grace.

L: Come, Holy Spirit! Renew ourselves, inside and out.

C: Stir up our dying passion. Revive our weary souls. Emblazon us with courage.

L: Come Holy Spirit! Renew our congregation, inside and out.

C: With fire and wind, blow through our homes and offices.

Fill us with a new vision of what it means to be church in this world.

L: Come Holy Spirit! Renew our love, inside and out.

C: Open our sleepy eyes to the needs of our community.

Make our hearts burn with compassion.

ALL: Come Holy Spirit! Renew our Church, inside and out. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #400 – “God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind” - Verses 1-3

**1 God of tempest, God of whirlwind,
as on Pentecost descend!
Drive us out from sheltered comfort;
past these walls your people send!
Sweep us into costly service,
there with Christ to bear the cross,
there with Christ to bear the cross!**

**2 God of blazing, God of burning,
all that blocks your purpose, purge!
Through your church, Christ's living Body,
let your flaming Spirit surge!**

**Where deceit conceals injustice,
kindle us to speak your truth,
kindle us to speak your truth!**

**3 God of earthquake, God of thunder,
shake us loose from lethargy!
Break the chains of sin asunder,
for earth's healing set us free!
Crumble walls that still divide us;
make us one in Christ our Lord,
make us one in Christ our Lord!**

Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise – Congregation sings the refrain. Pastor sings the verse.

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!
1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. Mighty God,

C: 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

- Brian Buteyn

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. *...continued on page 3*

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.' ”

L: The word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

Psalm 104 (*read responsively*)

- Brian Buteyn

L: ²⁴How manifold are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

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

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

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

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

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

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

C: ³¹**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

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

C: ³³**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my being.**

L: ³⁴May these words of mine please God.
I will rejoice in the LORD.

C: ^{35b}**Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Hallelujah!**

L: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 15:26-27, 16:12-15 (*Please stand as you are able.*)

[Jesus said,] “When the Paraclete comes—the Spirit of truth who comes from Abba God, whom I myself will send from my Abba— she will bear witness on my behalf. You too must bear witness, for you’ve been with me from the beginning.... I have much more to tell you, but you can’t bear to hear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, she will guide you into all truth. She won’t speak on her own initiative; rather, she’ll speak only what she hears, and she’ll announce to you things that are yet to come. In doing this, the Spirit will give glory to me, for she will take what is mine and reveal it to you. Everything that Abba God has belongs to me. This is why I said that the Spirit will take what is mine and reveal it to you.”

(*The Inclusive Bible*) <https://www.ebooks.com/account/books/>

L: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon: "A New Beginning" - Pastor Joe

Hymn of the Day – ELW #396: "Spirit of Gentleness" - Verses 1-4

(Please remain seated for the hymn.)

Refrain

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

**1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." Refrain**

**2 You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. Refrain**

**3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. Refrain**

**4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise. Refrain**

Prayers of Intercession *(Please stand as you are able.) Each petition ends with the following response:*

L: Lord in your mercy, C: **Hear our prayer.**

Sign of Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: **And also with you.**

(For in-person, please exchange a "touch-free" bow or hand wave from where you are sitting.)

Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Communion *(Please be seated.)*

In-person: *We invite you to commune individually from your seats with the pre-packaged juice & wafer or the **gluten-free** wafers available at the usher's table.*

Note: *The usher will collect your empty communion cups during the communion hymn.*

At Home: *We invite you to receive the bread and wine/grape juice with one another or individually.*

Communion Hymn: ELW #800– “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” - Verses 1-3

- 1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.**
- 2 I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no op'ning skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.**
- 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength,
and mind?
I see your cross;
there teach my heart to cling.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!**

Post Communion Prayer and Blessing

A Sending Litany for Our Graduates *

L: Loving God, it's an honor to join you in affirming and celebrating the creative, athletic and academic accomplishments of those from our St. Mark's community who are graduating from high school this year, and moving on to the next chapter in their lives.

C: Thank you for the season during which you have entrusted them to our care.

L: We name them before you today: Oliver Jensen and Isaac Leiseth.

L: And now, Gracious God, as they move out into the world, we place them into your hands.

C: For they are fearfully and wonderfully made in your image.

L: You have created them within the story of our lives with you.

C: The story of the compassionate parent, who is always ready to welcome us home.

L: The story of the good shepherd, who never forgets each one of us beloved lambs.

C: The story of the persistent lover, who never hesitates to forgive and accepts us as we are.

L: Accompanying God, we pray that these graduates will always know that you walk beside them.

**C: To whatever future adventures, schools, homes, neighborhoods and workplaces
their paths might lead.**

L: Let those destinations be life-giving places,

C: That nurture their bodies, minds and souls.

L: Where they sense hurt, give them kind words and healing hands.

C: Where they see injustice, give them wisdom and courage.

C: Where there discover beauty, give them an attitude of thankfulness and childlike wonder.

L: Where they find love, give them a caring heart and open spirit.

C: Where they experience success or failure, give them gratitude for your mercies, new every morning.

L: Guide them each day and fill them with your fiery and holy Spirit,

**C: That together with all the faithful, they may always seek to do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with their God.**

L: Oliver and Isaac, together as St. Mark's community and with your families, we send you into the world,

**C: With our promise to hold you in our prayers, cherish you in our memories,
and always offer you a place here in our community. Amen.**

**Adapted from: “God, People, Places & Things,” by Scott Sauls; <https://scottsauls.com/2014/05/prayer-graduates/>*

Announcements

Dismissal - L: Go in peace. C: Remember the poor and sick.

Postlude: *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* - arr. by Lloyd Larson

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Thanks to Today's Worship Leaders!

- Joe Larson, Pastor
- Alpha Roeszler, Piano
- Adam Johnston, Song Leader
- Brian Buteyn, Lector

- Kim Johnson, Camera Technician
- Naomi Franek, Altar Guild/Bread
- Brian Buteyn, Usher

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME! St. Mark's Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)** and a **Reconciling in Christ** congregation—welcoming all people, including LGBTQ individuals.

JOIN US TODAY on YouTube! This morning's worship service will be livestreamed on YouTube at 10 a.m. from Temple Beth El Synagogue.

The link for this service is: https://youtu.be/_36ExLvMP5A

You can also access this service via St. Mark's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDILvaJR1dSNoaXxjasLhVg>

YOUR PRAYERS ARE INVITED for the sick: Bill Roeszler, Maxine Fagerland, Anna Burger, Ginny Johnston (Adam's mother), Al and Nels (friends of Barbara Edin), Adam Henshel (Alpha's nephew), Tierra Nueva Uno in Guatemala, Florence Roholt, Michael and Carmen Zoughbi, Jerry Jacobson, Kermit & Marilyn Jensen, Leah Martell Torkelson, Chris Maki, Avis Twamley, Karla Ware, and Charlie Jordan.

St. Mark's Circle of Prayer: Ruth Denton-Graber, Sarah and PJ; Barbara Edin; Maxine Fagerland and Linda Hamann; and Ann Franek **Fargo Conference List:** First Lutheran Church, Fargo – Corey Bjertness, Laurie Neill, Marty Tollefson, Stephanie Tollefson, Rollie Johnson, Pastors

UPDATE FOR WORSHIP: The wearing of masks for worship continues for everyone, but **singing** will now be encouraged. The church council is monitoring the ever-changing guidelines of COVID-19 and is asking for your input through a survey. Please take the on-line survey about "singing in church" at **<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NVDQVR7>** Thanks for participating!

TODAY'S 11 AM ZOOM FELLOWSHIP LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89620548011?pwd=R00wTmxMRDIrSXFtRUtLeWErTEc1UT09>

Meeting ID: 896 2054 8011

Passcode: 905896 To call into Zoom meeting, dial: 1-312-626-6799

ART & RELIGION POSTPONED: The Art and Religion series with Pastor Joe and Rabbi Janeen Kobrinsky has been postponed until this fall. Dates to be determined. Thanks!

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS: Stacie from the Emergency Food Pantry in Fargo contacted Jane Radig to see if St Mark's could help out the week of June 14-18. Volunteers are needed from 1-4 p.m. every day, except Wednesday. Two to four people are needed for each shift. Volunteers could also come mornings from 9:30 – Noon, Monday through Thursday. Masks are required and sturdy shoes are recommended as the floor is concrete. Contact Jane Radig at 701.239.4386 or radigit@hotmail.com to sign up.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES are due Monday, May 24. The Newsletter Assembly is at 9:30 a.m. at the office on Thursday, May 27th. You are welcome to join us!

QUERY BOOK DISCUSSION is rescheduled for Tuesday, May 25, from 5:30-7pm on Zoom. May's selection is "They Both Die at the End" by Adam Silvera. Please contact Pastor Joe or Tammy Lanaghan for the link: pastorjoe@stmarkslutheranfargo.com or shvetapitha@gmail.com



CONGRATULATIONS to Oliver Jensen and Isaac Leiseth on their high school graduation! Oliver graduates from North High School in Fargo and Isaac from Moorhead High School in Moorhead, both on June 6, 2021. Oliver's parents are Tara and Clay Jensen and Isaac's parents are Tessa Moon Leiseth and Jon Leiseth. We are excited to be a part of celebrating this milestone with you!

Moorhead High School Theatre's spring production of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* opened May 21 and runs through Sunday, May 30. The production was recorded at Moorhead's historic Comstock House (on 8th Street), which is about a decade older than this perennial-favorite comedy. Congregational members Isaac Leiseth (Jack Worthing), Phoenix Leiseth (Algernon Moncrieff), and Jon Leiseth (director) were involved.

You can reserve a ticket using [this link](#): your reservation will give you access to the edited recording on the date you choose for four hours, starting at 7 pm. You'll receive the link via email two hours before the 7pm curtain. Questions? Contact Jon Leiseth at jmleiseth@gmail.com. Ticket sales are the only revenue to cover production expenses. Thank you for your support!

(While *The Importance of Being Earnest* is most definitely a comedy, the life of Oscar Wilde as a gay man in England before the turn of the 20th century eventually led to three trials, Wilde's incarceration and ruin, and his poem, "The Ballad of Reading Gaol." The poem, written in exile, focuses on the brutalization of all imprisoned. Another of Wilde's contributions is towards the association of the color lavender with the LGBTQ+ community ([link](#).)



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Office/Mail: 417 Main Avenue, Ste. #401, Fargo, ND 58103

Contact Us:

Pastor Joe Larson: Cell: 612.750.5079; Email: pastorjoe@stmarkslutheranfargo.com

Church Office: 701.235.5591; Email: admin@stmarkslutheranfargo.com