**Acts 2:1-21** When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. **5** Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. **6** And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. **7** And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? **9** Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, **11** both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” **12** And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” **13** But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.” **14** But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. **15** For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. **16** But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: **17**  “ ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; **18** even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. **19** And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; **20**  the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. **21** And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

**“The Word At Work”**

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God our Father and the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. Today, the Church throughout the world celebrates the third and finally chief festival on the Christian calendar. It is to hear, “…avkou,omen lalou,ntwn auvtw/n tai/j h`mete,raij glw,ssaij ta. megalei/a tou/ qeou/” Let’s try again, “…wir hören sie mit unsern Zungen die großen Taten Gottes redden.” One more time, “¡todos por igual los oímos proclamar en nuestra propia lengua las maravillas de Dios!” Do you feel kind of like an outsider? There are words, but it frustrating to grasp them. Here is the miracle for you. It is to share in Pentecost by being able finally to say, “…we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”

When the famous radio broadcaster Paul Harvey finished reporting, he would end the segment by saying, “Now you know the rest of the story.” The “rest of the story” for Christians is to celebrate what God did at Pentecost. It is to confess the promise of baptism, “I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” This is to say God by the fullness of His own grace and efforts saves me a sinner. Luther teaches the value of Pentecost in the Small Catechism stating, “I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.” In these gray and latter days, hope arises from God. The Holy Spirit continues to communicate Christ for our salvation until He comes.

There were only 120 or so gathered in the Name of Jesus on that Day of Pentecost. Far more came together to celebrate what was simply the second most important Jewish festival next to the Passover. Everyone knew this day was about the first-fruits of grain as an offering to YHWH, a witness that the land and crop belonged to God. However, just as the Lord’s Supper proclaimed a greater Passover, so Jesus had plans for Pentecost. He told His disciples at His departure, “And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49). Who would have guessed, the new first-fruits came now from the Holy Spirit. “Rather than the fruits of earth being lifted up to heaven, the fruits of heaven are rained down upon the people of earth” (Chad Bird).

Pentecost shows God produces the only Spirit of communication. Now, there are plenty of ways to interact today. It has broken down barriers and built relationships never conceived of in history. Worshiping the ways of how we communicate, can miss the first-fruits of what God gives of His Spirit. While the Devil promotes confusion, God creates with the purpose of communicating His love for sinners. This is why for all the languages present on Pentecost. All clearly gave the same answer, “…we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” The fullness of this work is what the Father sacrificed for a sinful world by the suffering, death, and resurrection of His Son. In an age of global communication, God sends out His Spirit to produce a harvest in far off lands, to comfort the persecuted lives of Christians, and for the Gospel to be out in the open against all that would deceive.

If you noticed, the miracle of hearing the Gospel in their language was amazing, but that did not mean faith. It became an unholy ordeal among men with some, “saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others mocking said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’ Believers never come about by their own authority or will. Sinners naturally look at the life giving Gospel as foreign to works and even appearing foolish. This is why the work of the Spirit never comes apart from the Word. God drove Peter to stand up and preach. He directed the confused and mocking to pay attention to what the prophet Joel wrote. The basis for preaching Christ crucified and risen from the dead came from the Word. Here is how the Spirit convicted sinful hearts of men to have concern for salvation. And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:37-38).

Pentecost reveals the Spirit offers a Holy standard for communicating. Three thousand were baptized that very day. We like the sound of those numbers, but can we accept that it came only by the power of God’s Word? Some try to recreate Pentecost by emphasizing the extreme experience for people to seek. Others run after a secret method as if we unlock such power of the Spirit by our works. Yet, the Holy Christian and Apostolic Church exists simply because of the Holy Spirit. His standard rests on the Holy Scripture for God desires to speak clearly to sinners. Even Christ did not separate the Spirit from the Word declaring, “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water” (John 7:38). How well we communicate does not compare to what God communicates. His Word is where we will find His Spirit at work. Like a prevailing language of a culture, the life giving Gospel prevails in the Church by the power of God’s Holy Word.

What poured out by the Spirit came with good news from the Father and His Son. Pentecost was the last great act of God for all time that at last answered the cry of Moses. “Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!” The Law was never going to satisfy what only the Gospel could so freely give to all in Christ. As Peter noted, “And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” To call upon Christ is to believe in Him. It means to hear preaching set upon the judgment of His suffering and death. He paid the penalty for not just a sin, but the whole conflict that you are as a sinner. It is to hear the preaching that Christ rose from the dead with forgiveness and life everlasting. He gives hope trust in His saving work that makes you a saint without any merit or worthiness in you, but by what He poured out from the cross for you.

Pentecost promises to communicate all we need until Christ comes in glory. What God speaks He will not take back. Instead, it goes out to the ends of the earth as life for the world. As confusing and frustrating the times were for our Lutheran Fathers, they knew God was at work as He promised. They state, “For through the Word and the sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given, and the Holy Spirit produces faith, where and when it pleases God, in those who hear the Gospel” (Tappert 31:2). These lines of communication cannot change for is the way God speaks. to save resting all things on Jesus. What God pours out as His first-fruits from heaven spills out among the baptized with good works and a witness that cannot be silent on earth. The Holy Spirit continues to communicate Christ for our salvation until He comes. And that my friends as they say, “Is the rest of the story.” Amen. Now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, be with your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting, Amen.