

Living Water Fellowship

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

19TH MAY 2024

COME TO JESUS

OPENING SONGS: Dreams and Visions (AT 249)
You are My All in All

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Acts 2:1-21 VIDEO

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, & it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared & settled on each of them. Everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit & began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, & they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, & yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! Here we are: Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, & the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews & converts to Judaism), Cretans, & Arabs. We all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" They stood there amazed & perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!"

Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles & shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews & residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.

Your sons & daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions, & your old men will dream dreams.

In those days I will pour out my Spirit

even on my servants, men & women alike, & they will prophesy.

And I will cause wonders in the heavens

above & signs on the earth below: blood & fire & clouds of smoke.

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Galatians 5:16-21 & Acts 2:1-21. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you hear God say to you as you read it a few times to yourself? What do you find to be the most important in these readings? Why?
2. Paul writes to the Galatians (& us) to warn of becoming enslaved to 2 equally destructive masters. The first is "legalism," thinking you can be made right with God by keeping religious rules, laws, or doctrines. Here he describes the second. What would you call it & why is it such a threat?
3. How would you define & describe "the flesh" or "the sinful nature"? What does it mean to gratify the desires of the flesh? Based on what Paul says in vs 16-18, how would you describe what is going on inside of the Christian at all times?
4. Paul says in verse 19, that the results of living according to our sinful desires "are very clear." What makes the works of the flesh so obvious in Paul's opinion? What do these works have in common? What of that list do you think the wider Australian community still holds as obviously 'wrong' today? Discuss Paul's statement that those who live like this "will not inherit the kingdom of God." What does he mean?
5. Discuss the list of the fruit of the Spirit, asking how it combats & contrasts with specific works of the flesh?
6. How would you practically describe a believer who is walking in the Spirit? What are the signs that a believer is out of step with the Spirit? Where do you see the fruit of the Spirit growing in your life? What is the evidence that this is the Spirit's work in you?
7. What point is Peter making with by linking the Spirit being poured out here with Joel's promise? How does it answer the crowd's question?
8. After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, who is the subject & main focus of Peter's amazing sermon? What promise of Jesus does that fulfill? (see Acts 1:8)
9. How conscious are you of daily being filled with & empowered by the Holy Spirit? What might help you live with that recognition more frequently?
10. How do you know when the Spirit is leading or convicting you to respond to God's work in your life? What do these texts call you to do?

*The sun will become dark, & the moon will
turn blood red before that great & glorious day of the Lord arrives.
But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

WELCOME and PRAYER OF THE DAY:

BIBLE READING: Galatians 5:16-26

¹⁶ So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. The Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸ But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

¹⁹ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarrelling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

FAITH CHAT:

1. How would you describe the work or the role of the Holy Spirit?
2. When you hear "Living by the Spirit," what comes to mind? Why do you think that is?

THE MESSAGE: *LIVING EXCLUSIVELY...BY THE SPIRIT*

OFFERING (NEW) SONG: New Life (AT 522)

*The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
for Ruth Merrion Lieschke*

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

The 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion:

VIDEO – ROCK OF AGES (CityAlight)

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

**† _____, child of God,
The Spirit lives in you
to lead you in becoming like Christ.
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: Free to Dance (PW 874/AT 481)

SHOW HIS LOVE

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The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

P: In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the community of his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God. Hear Jesus' word...

All: ...I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die...(John 11:25)

...I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. (John 3:5)

...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 I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matt. 28:19-20)

P: Today you are responding to the command of Jesus and the love of God. Baptism is a beautiful gift of God's grace and we rejoice with you on this special day. I ask you: Will you faithfully bring this child to worship; teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creeds, and the Ten Commandments; place in her hands the Holy Scriptures; and provide for her instruction and nurture in the Christian faith? If so, say "we will."

Baptismal Party:

We will!

P: Do you renounce the forces of evil, the devil, and the world's empty promises? If so answer, "We do."

Baptismal Party:

We do!

P: I ask all worshiping today, Do you believe in God the Father?

C: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, & sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P: *We give you thanks, Heavenly Father, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters & by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked & delivered Noah & his family. By a pillar of cloud & fire through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river Jordan your Son was baptized by John & anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death & resurrection you set us free from the power of sin & death & raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that all who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honour & praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now & forever. Amen*
Please present your daughter for baptism.

Baptismal Party:

We present **Ruth Merrion Lieschke** to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

P: **Ruth Merrion Lieschke**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, & of the Son, & of the Holy Spirit. Amen. **Ruth** child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Receive this lighted candle. Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."* And again, *"Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works & glorify your Father in heaven."* You who are sponsors for **Ruth** are making a commitment to surround her with your love and prayers and do all you can to help **Sam & Katie-Ellen** nurture her in the Christian Faith. Will you pray for her, love her, teach her the word of God and stand with her in joy and sorrow? If so say, "Yes with the help of God."

Sponsors:

Yes, with the help of God.

P: *(to the congregation)* Today we receive **Ruth** as a child of God to be part of our Christian community.

C: **Praise God for the gift of new life. We welcome you into our family of faith and into the mission of Christ that we share. We promise to pray for you & show our love for you in the years to come.**

P: *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable. (1 Pet 1:3-4).* Almighty and gracious Heavenly Father, we thank you that, by water & the Word you enlarge & preserve your family & have welcomed Ruth into new life making her a member of the priesthood we share in Christ & an heir of your heavenly kingdom. Hold her close to you through all her days in Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**