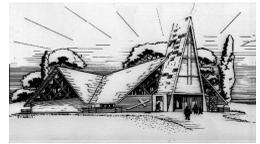




Sermon- Sunday Pentecost The Holy Spirit brings peace!



The Word of God for this Sermon is written in Acts 2, 1-21:

- **ESV** 1 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 men 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 vapour 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.'

• **Let us pray:** *Come Holy Spirit, open our ears and our hearts, for the mighty deeds of God. Lead us to true repentance and faith and make us certain about Your gift of eternal Life. Amen.*

• **Dear Congregation of the Holy Spirit!**

• Following the flood, Noah's descendants failed to spread out and fill the earth as God had commanded. Rather, they exalted themselves; with "one language and the same words" (Gen. 11:1), they spoke proudly and arrogantly. They did what they wanted to do. They wanted to make a **name** for themselves, a city where all would dwell in "peace", yet without God! The secular idea of the united nations is not new. In those days there was only one nation, one language. The unity of humans, based on their own ideas, always ends in a rebellion against the Lord, because the "*intention of man's heart is evil from his youth*" [Gen 8,21]! Before the flood God came to this conclusion and even after the devastating worldwide flood the intention of the human heart did not change a bit. So, the Lord knew that they were up to causing trouble and therefore He humbled them by confusing "*the language of all the earth,*" dividing and dispersing the people in all directions (Gen. 11:9).

• By the Lord's intervention, the Lord's command to spread out and to fill the earth was fulfilled. This was in spite of man's evil intentions!

• We know from the history taught in the Bible that there were several further attempts of one nation trying to "unite" all nations, namely by forcing all others under its own powers, like Babylon, Medes & Persians, Alexander the Great, and the Roman Empire. None of these succeeded in the long run. All rainbow nations built by old Adams either never really materialised and if they did materialise they didn't last long! That is the common experience throughout history! We are no exception! We are in no ways better than the previous generations! We are not better in any way doing politics, not better doing family, not better doing school or work and certainly not better doing church!

• Did technology and all our modern ways of living bring peace? God is humbling us today. Where does one find peace on this earth? Nothing spectacular, simply peace, but pure peace, peace of conscience, real peace between people and peace with God? Peace in the heart of our person!

• If you find such a place it will be heaven!

• On this Pentecost, 50 days after the Resurrection of Jesus, Jews and proselytes, people of all nations who converted to Judaism, pilgrimaged to Jerusalem to keep the feast of harvest, when the first-fruits were offered to God.

• On this Pentecost something extraordinary happened. A new era was started. The dispersal going back all the way to Babel was reversed on Pentecost Day, when God caused the one Gospel of the Lord, Jesus Christ, to be preached in a multitude of languages. "*at this sound the multitude came together*" (Acts 2:6).

• They were not forced together, neither did one nation conquer the other nation first to force a kind of external unity on all others. None of that. There was a new power drawing them together. We have to pay attention to the detail of the report not to draw our own conclusions. These people were not amazed about the external signs, like the tongues of fire on the head of the 120 gathered in the room. It explicitly says that they were amazed to hear the Apostles preach the mighty things of God in their own languages!

• Normally the priests in the temple were only speaking Hebrew. Only those who could understand Hebrew could hear the word of God! But, that day, yes from that day onwards it would change forever! They were hearing the sermon on the mighty things of God, and they were all understanding what was being spoken. They all heard the voice of God, the Holy Spirit speaking to all flesh, through His Apostles, God's servants of the word.

• We have that first sermon of the Holy Spirit recorded for us in Acts 2. spoken through Peter. The Holy Spirit started by quoting the Scriptures, a psalm of David and revealed to the multitude that David was prophesying of Jesus' resurrection! Then Jesus would ascend to the right hand of God and pour out this what they were seeing and hearing that day. The Holy Spirit clearly taught that Jesus is Lord in the same way that God the Father is Lord. Jesus is both Lord and the anointed one of God, the Christ, the Messiah. It is the same Jesus that was crucified by the hearers!

• Hang on, wasn't Jesus crucified by the Romans? Physically, yes, but every sinful human being likewise participated in Christ's crucifixion! Jesus was crucified because we have no peace in our hearts nor can we keep lasting peace. The evidence is simply overwhelming! Every war we unlawfully fight with someone else we also fight with God. If we break the commandments of the second table concerning loving our neighbour, starting with loving our parents and all in authority above us, we also sin against God!

• Dear hearers of God's Word, we also, each and everyone of us, caused Jesus to be crucified! The Holy Spirit teaches this most clearly. There is no escape. I am not better than anyone else. I am not better than the worst sinner I can imagine in God's eyes! This is what the Holy Spirit reveals to us. I have no right to only point to others when it comes to sin! All sinners are under the same wrath of God. We are all in the same boat as far as our sinfulness goes! The Son of God had to suffer and be crucified for us, because the soul who sins must die, must be removed from God's Grace! God is holy. Whoever is not holy cannot come into His holiness. He will be consumed by God's holiness! Whoever has no peace with God is seen as an enemy. And the enemies of God will be cast out in darkness together with all others who rebel against Him. That is what they want. God will give them a life without His Grace and mercy.

• The teaching of the Holy Spirit puts us on the spot. We are unmasked. We stand absolutely naked before God. Our heart is cut open, exposed, revealed- we are found guilty of going against the Will of God, His Law! What shall we do? ***"Brothers, what shall we do?"*** Now this question, this call for help makes sense! It is a very desperate dramatic call for help, the grasp for a last straw!

• And the Holy Spirit, through Peter speaks the new Word, in all clarity, for all to hear, clearly, and to understand, the Gospel, God's solution, God's Way of making peace with us, with sinners!

"Repent and be baptised 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." Come with open hands- view yourselves in the light of God's Law and hear the truth that you are spiritually poor. You have no right to to live before God! But, come and receive Baptism from Christ, in with and through His name to receive God's forgiveness of sins! He wipes our guilt away. He makes us His own. He puts His name on us. He has paid for us on the Cross, a massive price.

• He has provided a name for us, He makes us part of Christ's name. That is our new identity. That is where we belong by birth from above, from God. That is who we are. That is who we may become by the Grace of God poured out on us whenever we hear His word. A new beginning in God's eternal temple, the Body of Christ. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. You will receive a new attitude towards God, towards your neighbour and towards yourself. You will be united with eternal life.

• [39] *"For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself."* This promise of a new birth and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit is not only for the adult Judeans, but also for all those who were not considered full members of God's people amongst the Jews, the children and the gentile nations, the heathens. Here we have an explicit command of the Holy Spirit to baptise children and all gentile nations. No one is excluded. Through the Gospel the Lord calls people to Himself to repent and be baptised.

• This is the Lord's Way of saving us from the crooked generation. The preaching of Christ is the primary work of the Holy Spirit, whereby He gathers people from all nations into one Church, the Body of Christ, without forcing one language. The Holy Spirit teaches and brings to our remembrance the words of Jesus, which are the words of the Father who sent Him.

• These words bestow forgiveness and peace to those who keep and hold on to them in love for Jesus. The peace of God is given to us, is poured out on us every time the Lord calls us together. We come in here with a spirit lacking peace, but by the working of the Holy Spirit through His proclamation, our old self is once again crucified and the Spirit of peace is restored to us, is given to us. That is why we continue in the Apostle's teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers from Sunday to Sunday and daily in our devotions. That is why we try to reach out to others in our community, in outer weakness, sharing with others and praising God for His mighty works! He is building His city and you are called to be part of it all. Alleluia.

Amen.

• *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Amen. (1Peter 1,3)*