



**Church At Home**  
**St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario**  
**Day of Pentecost** **May 24, 2026**

**Prayer of the Day**

O, God on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**The Holy Gospel: John 20:19-23**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

**Homily**

Today is the festival day: the Day of Pentecost. Today we celebrate the birthday of the Church of Jesus Christ. Today we celebrate the arrival of the Advocate, the Spirit who accompanies and partners with us in life and faith.

Today many pastors will look out over the congregations and witness a sea of red: red jackets, red shirts, red blouses, red ties and some red socks. Well maybe; if you remembered. I sense, there is a feeling in the pew that Pentecost is not really a big deal.

Let's face it, we come out of the woods for Christmas and we do a fairly good job at Easter, but Pentecost is different. Congregations have tried liturgical dances; trumpets and processing with banners, people standing reading the Pentecost passage from Acts in their own language – kind of the Lutherans speaking in tongues, but it never seems to work. We have no parade; we don't send Pentecost cards to each other. It is only the faithful who come this day.

Have you ever wondered why Pentecost is the lost celebration within the church? Possibly the reason is: Christmas has the birth of a baby and who doesn't like babies, Easter has the resurrection of Jesus and the mystery of the empty tomb and Pentecost has.....the obscure Holy Spirit.

Our readings this morning will help us to understand the work of the Holy Spirit.

In John, we are told the disciples are hiding in the upper room out of fear that those who crucified Jesus may come after them. And what does Jesus do? He breathes on them the Holy Spirit. Jesus doesn't take them away out the back door to Jerusalem or fortify the room – he breathes on them the Holy Spirit and sends them out into the dangerous world. "As the Father sent me, so I now send you." Jesus gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit to give them the courage they will need to follow Jesus' command.

And in Acts, the disciples are waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit and, when it comes, they go out to proclaim the good news to people and they had good reason to believe these folks would be doubtful if not hostile to their message.

And in Paul, the Spirit is given to enable individual believers to look beyond their individual needs, hopes, or fears and equip them with distinct gifts, all in order to work together for the "common good."

Through these passages we get a sense that the Spirit isn't some kind of super hero sent to rescue us, but rather the one who equips, encourages, and stays with us, helping us to recognize the needs of others and then rise to meet those needs with tenacity, competence and courage.

This is the Spirit who John describes; a Paraclete; the one who "comes along side" of us, the one who advocates for us, remains with us, strengthens and helps us.

And yet, I believe we expect more. We often hope that the Spirit will just plain save us, or at least to take us away from whatever challenges seems to threaten to overwhelm us in the moment. And here is the thing; the Spirit is *with* rather than *from* – as being with us during challenges rather than taking those challenges away from us.

I know, it is difficult to feel and see the work of the Spirit when we are in the throes of life's challenges; in the eye of the storm. Yet people are sent, new opportunities are presented, for us to realize we are not alone. God is with us; not removing us from challenging or difficult situations. God, instead comes along side of us in the presence of the Spirit in order to strengthen and equip us to endure, and even to flourish, amid these challenges and difficulties.

Why? Perhaps because, God may actually be working through us for the common good; to care for the need of our neighbours, community of Pembroke and the world. We have a purpose: to care for those around us as God cares for us, to make wherever we may find ourselves a better place, to share God's love in word and deed that others may know they are not alone and are loved. We are here not simply for ourselves but for those around us.

It is in our reluctance to recognize the Spirit at work, our inability to see when the Spirit shows up, even our resistance to the Spirit's persistence may very well be a belief we hold about the Spirit that seems to have more power than our trust.

And so, we must trust the Holy Spirit to bring peace to Ukraine and Iran. We must trust the Holy Spirit to stir us to justice when we witness wrong. We must trust the Holy Spirit to inspire each and every one of us to live into and exemplify our Spirit given talents. For this is the Holy Spirit at work.

My friends in Christ. The Promise of Pentecost is not that we will suffer no more difficulty or hardships, nor that God will remove us from challenges, but rather – in the Holy Spirit God comes to be with us and for us and to use all th

at we have and are for the sake of those around us. It is an incredible promise; one that deserves to be shared. It is time to celebrate!

Happy Pentecost everyone! Amen.

### **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,  
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Prayers used by permission by Augsburg Fortress – Sundays and Seasons

## *STTLC COMMUNIQUE*

**Town Hall Meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2 at 7:00 pm in Jubilee Hall to receive the work of the 3 Church Project Task Force on calling a Pastor for Grace – Rankin, St. Peter's – Alice and St. Timothy's. Come with your questions. Plan to attend. This is an exciting time for all of us.

**Camp Lutherlyn Camper Sponsorships** – St. Timothy's is sponsoring up to 5 children/youth for 1 Week each at Camp Lutherlyn this summer. You can obtain an Application Form from the church office and you can register your child online at [lutherlyncamp.ca](http://lutherlyncamp.ca) and then going to the Registration Page.