**Welcome**

P: Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church of Pitsburg Ohio. I’m Pastor Mel Musser and I’m happy you joined us to Worship today. We are gathered via video on this Day of Pentecost, the day God breathed the breath of life into the Church and the Church received the gift of the Holy Spirit which changes us from being a gathering of friends into the living Body of Christ. If we were all together I would have invited you to wear something red to Church this morning, but since we’re apart I ask you to put on something red if you go outside of your home today. If anyone notices your colorful attire, you have the prefect opportunity to let them know about the Holy Spirit and how God is still active and present in the Body of Christ, the Church today. So now, let us begin our time of worship in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, amen.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P: As we remember and give thanks for the gift of Baptism, let’s also remember this is where we each received the promised gift of God’s Holy Spirit.

P: We are joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism… We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus’ wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

P: We praise you for your salvation through water, for the waters that fill the oceans, the rivers, streams, and lakes, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**

P: Let’s pray… 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.

**C: Amen.**

P: Our Scripture readings for today are read for us by PJ Musser…. Thank you PJ…

**R: The First Reading is from the book of Acts, chapter 2, verses 1-21.**

*(Acts 2:1-21)*

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. 16No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:
 17‘In 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.’ ”

### R: The Psalm for today is Psalm 104, verses 24-34, and 35b

*(Psalm 104:24-34, 35b)*

24How manifold are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34May these words of mine please God. I will rejoice in the Lord.

35b**Bless the Lord, O my soul. Hallelujah!**

### R: The Second Reading is from 1st Corinthians, chapter 12, verses 3b-13

*(1 Corinthians 12:3b-13)*

3bNo one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.
  4Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; 6and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

  12For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Here ends the readings.

**P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 20th Chapter, verses 19-23.**

*(John 20:19-23)*

19When 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.” 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord!

And now it’s time for our Children’s Message. I’ll pause for a couple of seconds to allow the children to come closer to get a good view…

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**Filled With the Holy Spirit**

**Theme**: God sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

**Object**: Different-shaped balloons - one per child

**Scripture**: Acts 2:4

Good morning boys and girls. I’m so happy you are here today! I hope you’ve had a great week and that you were safe. Today is a very special day for the Church. We call this the Day of Pentecost. Pentecost is a big word, but it just means 50 days. Today is 50 days since Easter Sunday! Last week I told you that 40 days after Easter Jesus ascended into heaven. Well, just 10 days later God sent the Church the greatest gift of all, his Holy Spirit. That’s what makes today so special. We thank God and celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Church.

So, to help us understand what that means for us I brought this balloon. You can have a lot of fun with a balloon. They come in many sizes and shapes. Sometimes clowns make animals out of them. (Hold up the balloon.) (Pause.) I’ve played a game where we toss round balloons up into the air to see how long we can keep it up without it hitting the ground. That’s a lot of fun.

Look at the balloon I’m holding. I think it’s a very nice balloon. It’s a pretty color, and by looking at the shape of it, I think it would be a very nice round balloon. There seems to be something missing in the balloon. Can anyone tell me what this balloon needs? (Pause for children to answer.) You’re right. It needs to be filled with air! Before a balloon can fulfill its purpose, someone must breathe some life into it.

I think this balloon can help us learn something about the church. The disciples of Jesus were kind of like this airless, lifeless balloon. On that first Pentecost Sunday God filled the disciples with his own breath, just like God breathed life into the first man and woman back in the garden of Eden, now God breathed again and this time the Church came to life!

After the Holy Spirit breathed life into the church, people began telling everyone they saw about Jesus. (Inflate the balloon a little and stop.) It didn't even matter if they spoke the same language. (Inflate the balloon a little and stop.) Everyone they told about Jesus understood what they were saying. Thousands of people were added to the church. (Inflate the balloon a little and stop.) The church became alive and was doing the things God had commanded. (Finish inflating the balloon and tie it off.)

Remember that just as the balloon needs to be filled to be what it was intended to be, you and I need the Holy Spirit to fill us so we can be all that God wants us to be…

Let’s pray… We thank You, God, for sending Your Holy Spirit. We thank You for breathing life into the church and we thank You for giving Your Holy Spirit to all who believe in Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

**SERMON**

Grace and peace to you from God Our Father and from the one who breathes life into us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, amen.

The great novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald once wrote that “there are no second acts in American lives.” Fitzgerald may be a much more famous author than I will ever be, but I know him to be totally wrong about second acts. There’s plenty of them all around us.

Take Ken, for example. Growing up, all he ever wanted to be was a doctor. He did pre-med at Duke University, and then went to medical school at the University of North Carolina. After completing his residency in New Orleans, he moved to Los Angeles and practiced medicine for Kaiser Medical Group. Along the way, he got bit by the acting bug. He started doing standup comedy and began to audition for acting parts. This was a surprise to everyone since he’d never even done theater in high school. He got his break in a series of movies, and then starred in a TV sit-com called *Dr. Ken.* His name is Ken Jeong, and he is now a full-time comedian and actor. Entertainment was his second act. But still, Dr. Ken renews his medical license every year, and occasionally has to use it. He once jumped offstage during a standup routine to help a woman in the audience having a seizure.

Another example comes from American history. Teddy Roosevelt was a big star in the New York legislature, having a wildly successful first act in his life and career. Then he lost his wife and his mother on the same day when he was 25 years old. He was devastated. According to historians, he went to the Badlands of South Dakota to escape his depression by riding his horse like 15 hours a day. In time, he felt ready to work again and decided to take whatever job came his way. He started working as head of the U.S. Civil Service Commission. Then, New York City police commissioner. Next, he joined the U.S. Army, where his leadership qualities developed. He became New York governor. Then vice president of the United States. And finally, he was elected president, and then his image was later chiseled into the cliffs of Mount Rushmore. No second acts? Ridiculous… Teddy Roosevelt had second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh acts.

Sometimes it’s a winding path that leads us to the place where God wants us to be. That place where we’ve learned from the school of hard knocks how to be a good leader or a good follower. In Roosevelt’s case, he would not have become an excellent president unless he had a number of different jobs, some of which were lateral moves and definitely not promotions, but still extremely valuable.

In my own life I’ve had several opportunities for second acts. I started out wanting to be a doctor. That morphed into wanting to fly jets for the Air Force. Thank God that quickly changed into flying a desk and learning to lead people as a Personnel Officer. From there God nudged me into seminary and even after being ordained, I was given the opportunity for a second act when you all called me to be your pastor. I’m a firm believer this world, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit is full of second, third and more acts. It’s never too late to open our eyes of faith and look for and listen to the leading of God’s Holy Spirit.

Of course, second acts are nothing new. In the garden of Eden, Eve asked God to tell her what Adam was doing behind a bush. God’s answer: He’s turning over a new leaf…

On Easter evening, the disciples were traumatized. Yes, they had heard Mary tell them, “I have seen the Lord”, but they had not spotted the risen Jesus with their own eyes. With the trial and crucifixion of Jesus fresh in their minds, they were probably suffering from serious PTSD. For certain they were scared. John tells us that “the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews”. After Jesus was killed in such brutal fashion, no one knew what kind of violence might come their way. Their first act, as disciples, was over, and their second act, at least for the moment, did not look promising. Then Jesus came and said, “Peace be with you”. He passed through locked doors and was suddenly standing in their midst. For the disciples, this was the beginning of their second act. Grief was suddenly replaced by joy; despair was quickly transformed into hope. Jesus had promised them their “pain will turn into joy” and their mourning was about to turn to dancing… His appearance proved everything Jesus had told them beforehand was about to come true. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you”. Before they could completely process the good news of the resurrection, Jesus was already sending them on a mission.

Notice what happens at the beginning of a second act is action. Ken Jeong didn’t quit medicine to sit by a pool in L.A. Teddy Roosevelt did not hang out in the Badlands forever. They both jumped into action, pursuing new passions. They both took a leap of faith, not fully aware where that leap would land them, but they trusted enough to follow where their faith and the Holy Spirit led them. Jesus ordered his disciples to action, even while they were cowering behind locked doors. “I send you,” he said, right before pushing them back into the world. Starting over is scary, yet Jesus calls his followers to act.

I’ve learned from my experiences with second acts and following the leading of the Holy Spirit. When God sends us out many times we look around and think I can’t do that. I’m not good enough, smart enough, articulate enough… And the list of excuses goes on and on… Jesus knew our human nature, so after saying he was sending them out, He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit”. Jesus didn’t want his disciples to begin their second act *without power*. He knew it would be unfair of him to push them into action without giving them the gifts they needed to be effective. So, he breathed on them and filled them with the Holy Spirit. He inspired them on Easter Day with the very same Holy Spirit that would descend on the apostles in the rush of a mighty wind on the day of Pentecost.

Notice the echoes of Scripture in this verse. When Jesus breathed on the disciples, I’ll bet they were reminded that God breathed life into Adam way back in the book of Genesis. In today’s reading I’m also reminded of the book of Ezekiel, where God breathed the breath of life into all those dry, dead bones. When Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit on his disciples He made them a new, second creation. Those who believe in Jesus receive new life as children of God. It’s a second act. It’d new life and new inspiration. That’s the power the risen Jesus breathed into his followers.

So, why’d Jesus go through all this. Was it just to show God’s power and Glory, or was there some bigger purpose to all this giving of the Holy Spirit? In giving his disciples the breath of life and the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus also empowered his disciples to forgive and that’s the bigger purpose behind empowering us with the Holy Spirit. “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them,” said Jesus. In our catechism we call this the Office of the Keys. In this verse, Jesus empowered his followers, then and now to continue his mission in the world. Since Jesus was sent to offer God’s unmerited love and forgiveness, that’s exactly what Jesus also empowers us to do.

The disciples have now entered their second act, one that involved action, power and forgiveness. The risen Jesus sent them on a mission, filled them with the power of the Holy Spirit, and gave them the ability to forgive sins and help people know about their God who loves them. Wherever we are in life, we can have a second act. We too can follow Jesus in a life that is filled with the Holy Spirit and focused on action, power, and forgiveness. May the Holy spirit lead you into your second act giving you new power and purpose, sending you out on the same mission Jesus began and then turned over to you. Some of us are on our third or fourth acts by now, I can tell you when we’re following the Holy Spirit it’s always an adventure of love. Amen.

**NICENE CREED**

P: We respond to God’s Word by confessing our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed. Please pray these words along with me:

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: On this day of Pentecost, from where ever we are, we unite in prayer, asking God to send the Holy Spirit on the church, the world, and all who are in need. Your response to each petition is Come Holy Spirit…

A brief silence.

P: We pray for the church around the globe:

P: For the Eastern Orthodox churches, we pray:

**C: Come, Holy Spirit!**

P: For the Roman Catholic church, we pray:

**C: Come, Holy Spirit!**

P: For Protestant and Anglican churches, we pray:

**C: Come, Holy Spirit**!

P: For Pentecostal churches, we pray,

**C: Come, Holy Spirit!**

P: For evangelicals and independents, we pray:

**C: Come, Holy Spirit!**

P: For our own congregation, we pray:

**C: Come, Holy Spirit!**

P: And for everyone who searches for you, we pray:

**C: Come, Holy Spirit!**

P: Restore with your breath the whole creation, especially the lands and waters laden with pollution and the animals whose habitats are threatened.

A brief silence.

P: For your earth, we pray:

**C: Come, Holy Spirit!**

P: Send your Spirit on the leaders of nations, on legislators, and on judges, that the people of the world will benefit from your justice and your peace.

A brief silence.

P: For the nations of the world, we pray:

**C: Come, Holy Spirit!**

P: Visit all who are suffering, all who feel hopeless, and all who face death. Send healing to those we name here before you aloud or in the silence of our hearts…

A brief silence.

P: For all who are in need, we pray:

**C: Come, Holy Spirit!**

P: Restore to health those who have contracted the COVID-19 virus. Uphold health-care workers, grant jobs to those who are unemployed, and assist researchers in discovering a vaccine.

A brief silence.

P: For all who are confronting the coronovirus, we pray:

**C: Come, Holy Spirit!**

P: Bless those who are graduating from schools and universities. Give our youth hope for their future.

A brief silence.

P: For our graduates we pray:

**C: Come, Holy Spirit!**

P: Show our nation and our churches how to connect with those whose language we cannot speak.

A brief silence.

P: For the speakers of every language under the sun we pray:

**C: Come, Holy Spirit!**

P: As Elizabeth welcomed Mary to her home, give us ways during this time to share with one another the faithfulness we receive from you. Surprise us with unexpected grace.

A brief silence.

P: For family members and friends, we pray:

**C: Come, Holy Spirit!**

P: Hear also the cries of our own hearts. For those deep needs we can only share with you…

A longer time of silence.

P: For ourselves, we pray:

**C: Come, Holy Spirit!**

P: Receive our praise for all who have gone before us in the faith, from the first Pentecost, throughout Christian history, and up to this week.

A brief silence.

P: That at the end we and all the saints will rejoice in your presence, we pray:

**C: Come, Holy Spirit!**

P: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

**SHARING OF THE Peace**

P: As I share the peace of Christ with you, I once again ask you to pick at least one person each day this week to personally share the peace of the Lord. Please remember to keep your socially acceptable distance…

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

P: The living Lord Jesus Christ is our tie that binds us together, let us pray as He taught his disciples……

**C: 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.**

**BLESSING**

P: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

P: In everything you do, go in Christ’s Love.

**C: Seeking, welcoming, and serving all. Amen!**