

Hymns: 116, 121, 135, 119, 291, 437.

Introit: Psalm 139:1-12.

P O LORD, You have searched me,

C and known me.

P You Yourself know when I sit down and when I rise.

C You have understood my thoughts from far away.

P You have been measuring up my path and my lying down,

C and You have been familiar with all my ways.

P For before there is any statement on my tongue,

C look! O LORD, You know it completely.

P You have encircled me behind and in front,

C and laid Your hand on me.

P Such knowledge is too wonderful for me.

C It is unattainable. I cannot reach it.

P Where can I go from Your Spirit?

C Or where can I flee from Your presence?

P If I climb up into heaven, You are there.

C If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there.

P If I lift up the wings of the dawn,

C if I settle on the far side of the sea,

P even there Your hand will lead me

C and Your right hand will hold me fast.

P If I say, "Surely the darkness will grip me hard,

C and the light around me will become night,"

P even the darkness will not be dark to You,

All and the night will shine like the day. For darkness is like light to You.

Collect: O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His Holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament: Ezekiel 37:1-14.

Epistle: Acts 2:1-21.

Gospel: John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

The text for the sermon is the Gospel heard before, John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15.

26 When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me. 27 You also must testify, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

16:4b, I did not tell you these things at first, because I was with you. 5 However, now I am going away to Him who has sent Me, and none of you is asking Me, 'Where are You going?' 6 However, because I have told you these things, sorrow has filled your hearts. 7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; it is good for you that I am going away. For, if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you. However, if I go, I shall send Him to you. 8 When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: 9 about sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you do not see Me any more; 11 about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

12 "I still have many things to tell you, but you cannot endure them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will lead you into the whole truth. For He will not speak on His own

authority, but He will speak whatever He hears, and He will tell you what is coming. 14 He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and will tell it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. That is why I have said, ‘He takes from what is Mine and will tell it to you.’

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us in your truth. Your Word is truth. Amen.
Dear friends in Christ,
Peace be with you.

This morning we humbly thank God in remembrance and celebration of the Feast of Pentecost. Because now the Son of Man is risen from the dead, and even having ascended to the right hand of the Father, now sends the successors of His Apostles, the ministers of His Holy Christian Church, with the breath of His Spirit, - just as certainly as He sent them and with the same promise and command.

26 When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me. 27 You also must testify, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations by baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit 20 and by teaching them to keep all that I have commanded you! Certainly, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” [Matthew 28:18b-20]

That is, He has instituted the Office of the Ministry, **“as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God,** [1 Corinthians 4:1] ” to deliver to you and all who hear them **“the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints”** [Jude 1:3] because He **“desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”** [1 Timothy 2:4]

You are holy, that is to say, saints, because that's what the Holy Spirit has made you through Holy Baptism, through the preaching and teaching of the Holy Word of God, through the Holy Communion of Christ's Church. This is the work of the Holy Spirit as Jesus explained to His disciples before His ascension. **However, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything, and will remind you of everything that I have told you.** [John 14:26] **You, however, are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own special people, that you may extol the wonderful deeds of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.** [1 Peter 2:9]; **I shall pour out clean water on you, and you will be clean. I shall pronounce you clean from all your forms of uncleanness and from all your idols.** [Ezekiel 36:25-26] A sought of baptism if you like the faith that breathes life into our dry bones as Ezekiel was given to prophecy thousands of years ago.

Again, all of this is the work of the Holy Spirit, Whom Jesus calls “the Helper.”

When we think of a helper an Advocate, we think of someone who gives us a little boost, or a helping hand to make difficult things easier to and faster to accomplish. But the Holy Spirit is the Helper sent by God to work in us what we cannot do for ourselves.

As it says in the 3rd Article of our Nicene Creed ***"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."***

What does this mean? I believe that 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 the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

According to Jesus, this faith the Holy Spirit works in us and by which He keeps us with Christ, includes at least two very specific things we cannot do and do not have. 1. Love of God and 2. Peace with God

23 Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word, and My Father will love him, and We shall come to him and make Our home with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My Words. [John 14:23-24.] The truth is, we do not love God and we do not keep His Word apart from the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit takes hearts empty of love and at war and unrest with God, and pours the love of God into them, which gives them the peace [*comfort*] that surpasses all understanding to keep our hearts and minds with Christ Jesus.

Yes, you are holy - bought and brought back from sin, death and the power of the devil, that is, bought back from the darkness of this world and separation from God and brought back into His marvellous light to live in His very presence as His loving children in order to serve Him by serving each other according to the order He has established in His kingdom by His creative Word: God and man; Husband and wife; parents and children; teachers and students; government officials and citizens; rich [*even masters*] and poor [*slaves*]; pastor and people of God.

Oh yes, dear holy ones, living according to this order is all part of loving Jesus and keeping His word. That's what His Commandments are all about. Jesus wraps these Commandments up by saying that the holy ones of God, whom the Commandments describe, “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. . . . love your neighbour as yourself.”

Dear holy ones of God, you see that this order that God has established, the roles and relationships and stations for which He has created us and into which He has called and placed us are for our benefit and the benefit of each other. As Jesus says to His disciples in Mark 9: **"If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."**

However, our sinful selfishness still refuses to accept these roles and relationships and stations and abuses them for our earthly gain.

So while we must never forget that we are holy ones of God, neither must we ever forget how it is that we are holy and who it is that made us holy - that is, the help and comfort of the Holy Spirit. And we must understand both of these things, - help and comfort the way God means them rather than by what they have come to mean in our slippery, ever changing English language.

When Jesus, the Son of God talks about sending the Helper, He is also calling us what we are - helpless. While He would ever have us remember that we are His holy ones, yet He would never have us forget how it is that we are made holy. He takes those who are unwilling, and by the Word of Christ makes them willing. He takes we who are unholy and makes and keeps us Holy by sending the Holy Spirit to “bear witness about Christ, the Son of God, to keep us from falling away.”

What's more, Jesus has also said of His sending of the Helper, which also means “Comforter, Advocate” **27Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.** [John 14:27]

Why does He say such a thing to His disciples and to us if we aren't troubled and afraid. He brings us peace where there is no peace. In making us willing, and creating the love of God in us, we are no longer at war with God against His commandments and against His love for us. He gives us comfort where before there was only disease, heartache and worry.

Luther writes: *"The Holy Spirit's office is that He only is “bestowed upon those who are sunk in affliction and misery. ... He is given to none except those who are in sorrow and fear; in them it produces good fruit. ... If the Holy Spirit is to retain this name, [Comforter], He must [work] only where there is no comfort or peace and where comfort and peace is needed and desired. Consequently, He cannot comfort the hard hear heads and audacious hearts, for these have not tasted of struggle and despair, and have never been in distress; He can accomplish nothing except with sorrowful, comfortless and discouraged hearts.”* As Jesus Himself puts it, “Those who are healthy do not need a doctor, but those who are sick. **32 I have not come to call righteous people, but sinners, to repentance.**” Luke 5:31-32

And this is true comfort: - not that we are relieved of all pain or removed from any suffering, but that in the midst of our pain and suffering, the Holy Spirit comes to us with the Word of God in Holy Baptism, in the preaching of His called servants of the Word, and in the Lord's Supper to gather us around the heavenly throne to sit with Christ at the right hand of the Father even as the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh assails us with every possible doubt, temptation and fear. The Holy Comforter comes to us when we are comfortless as God promises to do for all He has called and chosen.

48] [The] doctrine [of God's Eternal Foreknowledge and Election] provides glorious consolation under the cross and amid temptations. In other words, God in His counsel, before the time of the world, determined and decreed that He would assist us in all distresses. He determined to grant patience, give consolation, nourish, and encourage hope, and produce an outcome for us that would contribute to our salvation. [FORMULA OF CONCORD, SOLID DECLARATION ARTICLE XI. GOD'S ETERNAL FOREKNOWLEDGE AND ELECTION]

As Jesus tells His disciples and us in our Holy Gospel for the Feast of Pentecost: **26 When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me. 27 You also must testify, because you have been with Me from the beginning.** [John 15:26-27.]

Let this give us comfort in our time of trouble, and make us holy ones who love God and live with Him now and forever, because the witness and comfort is this: you are forgiven all of your sins-in the name of the father and of the t Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

3rd Hymn: 135,

Prayer of the Church The Day of Pentecost2018.

P After hearing O Lord, pour out Your Spirit; your response shall be **that all who call on the name of the Lord may be saved.** - Let us now pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief Silence

P O Lord, our God, You have raised us from the dry bones of our hopelessness through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Give to us Your Spirit as He has promised, that we may faithfully accomplish Your purpose and speak Your Gospel to all nations and all peoples...

O Lord, pour out Your Spirit,

C that all who call on the name of the Lord may be saved.

P O Lord, our God, You spoke, and a world heard in their own languages the saving name of Jesus. Give us both courage and strength, that we may still speak Jesus Christ. - Grant to the congregations of the AELC Your blessing and Your protection, that all their work may be fruitful. Bless those who plant hope through Your Word in our own nation...O Lord, pour out Your Spirit,

C that all who call on the name of the Lord may be saved.

P O Lord, our God, renew Your Church by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Make us to know Jesus Christ and Him crucified and to herald this Good News in faithful words and works. Bless our pastors, that with conviction we may proclaim the Gospel and with faithfulness serve where You have called us... O Lord, pour out Your Spirit,

C that all who call on the name of the Lord may be saved.

P O Lord, our God, Bless those who protect and defend us here at home and the men and women of our armed forces throughout the world and our Police, Ambulance, Doctors, Nurses and emergency workers . Guard those entrusted with the offices and agencies of government, here and everywhere. Give peace to our troubled world, and bless those who work for peace in every way and in every place... O Lord, pour out Your Spirit,

C that all who call on the name of the Lord may be saved.

P O Lord, our God, heal the sick, comfort the troubled, console the grieving and give Your peace to the dying, *[remembering especially before You this day* ,]
that everyone who cries to You in their need may know the full consolation of Your love, sustaining them in their afflictions and sorrows until You deliver them all to everlasting light and life... O Lord, pour out Your Spirit,

C that all who call on the name of the Lord may be saved.

P O Lord, our God, meet us now, as You have promised, when You set aside bread to be the flesh of Christ and wine to be His blood, that we and all who commune today may receive Your heavenly benediction and be fed and nourished to everlasting life. Grant that what we have here received we may keep in holy hearts and show forth in holy lives, to the praise of Your glory... O Lord, pour out Your Spirit,

C that all who call on the name of the Lord may be saved.

P O Lord, our God, we pray not as we ought but as we are able, delivering to You the burdens of this mortal life and the care of our hearts with confidence and trust that Christ has done all things well and will give to us all things needful and beneficial... O Lord, pour out Your Spirit,

C that all who call on the name of the Lord may be saved. Amen.

4th Hymn: 119,