

Martin Luther Chapel Lutheran Church, Pennsauken, NJ / 9 June 2019

Church Time: Pentecost: Pentecost Sunday

Color: Red

Divine Service: I

Introit: Psalms 104: 24, 27-28, 30 antiphon: Liturgical Text

First Reading: Genesis 11: 1-9

Gradual: Acts 2: 17b; Romans 10: 10

Psalm 143: antiphon: verse 10

Second Reading: Acts 2: 1 - 21

Verse: Liturgical Text

Gospel: John 14: 23 - 31

Hymn of the Day (HotD) 502 / Holy Spirit, The Dove Sent From Heaven

Opening Hymn: 497 / Come Holy Ghost, God and LORD

Sermon Hymn: 502 / Holy Spirit, The Dove Sent From Heaven

Distribution Hymn: 529 / My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

637 / Draw Near and Take The Body Of the LORD

496 / Holy Spirit, Light Divine

631 / Here, O My LORD, I See Thee Face To Face

702 / My Faith Looks Up To Thee

Closing Hymn: 503 / O Day Full Of Grace

Acolyte: (Primary) Martin / (Alternate)

Sermon Title: “Abides and Unites”


My brothers and sisters in Christ, the Prince of Peace **speaks** to you and me today **as He spoke** to His disciples on the night when He was betrayed.

 The LORD and Giver of Life

 **rushes into** our hearts

 and **prepares them** once again

 for **the entrance and abiding** of the Ancient of Days and our risen King.

 Jesus **speaks** of the divine unity that both

 **exists** within the Godhead

 and **embraces and holds fast** all God’s children:

† you,

† me,

† the saints within the true church here on earth

† and the faithful departed that now rest in eternal love, peace and joy.

 It is

 **real,**

 **powerful,**

 **majestic,**

 **eternal,**

 **priceless,**

 and **encompasses** heaven and earth.

Our LORD and our God **cautions** you, me and all God’s children

 as we pick up our God given crosses and follow Him

 there are powerful forces

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† plotting and scheming,
† ensnaring and enslaving,
† deceiving and blinding,
† beckoning and destroying men, women and children in
‡ false religions,
‡ false hopes,
‡ and false beliefs
‡ that they can make peace with
☉ a god of their understanding,
☉ a god of their choosing,
☉ a god of their creation.

☉ Satan and his minions do not have to work hard to keep those dead in sin
‡ from wandering from his kingdom
‡ for they are unable to distinguish the difference between
‡ physical and spiritual life and death.

☉ You and I, however,
‡ do not just aggravate his loathing and hatred of mankind,
‡ we are affronts to his
‡ profane pride,
‡ blasphemous lies,
‡ and illegitimate rule.

☉ Therefore, the ruler of this world, his unholy spirits and children seek to
‡ confuse,
‡ disorient,
‡ divide,
‡ and separate us from
‡ not only our heavenly Father, our Savior and the Spirit of Truth

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† but from one another.

 Jesus **knows** the babble

† coming from a dark and lost world


† can easily and quickly lure us away from our God with

† seductive music,


† lude entertainment,


† combative conversation in the public square of social media,

† the glistening and deadly rhetoric of


 pro-choice,


 LGTBQ,

 sexual freedom,

 social causes,

 human philosophy and wisdom

 and false religions.

 The liar and murderer promises


† fleshly peace and happiness

† that are facades for

† conflict and division with

† God and His children

† and void of true and eternal peace and joy.

 He strives to get us to doubt, abandon, and then despise

† our baptism,

† our Christian Education

† that began with family Bible studies and devotions,

† Sunday School,

† VBS

† confirmation

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✠ and continues until we draw our last breath and enter eternity,
✠ our LORD's Supper,
✠ and the mutual companionship and consolation of the brethren.
✠ The Accuser appears as an angel of light, tempting us to
✠ forget what we have been taught about the one true God,
✠ abandon the gifts of the Holy Spirit,
✠ discard the full armor of God,
✠ and entertain and abide with evil influences who encourage us to gratify
our flesh.

Yet, His Spirit **gathers us together** this Pentecost morning, **opening more
and more**

✠ our eyes,
✠ our ears,
✠ our hearts
✠ and our minds
✠ that His **words of life would have free course** to
✠ **sustain,**
✠ **strengthen,**
✠ **safeguard**
✠ and **comfort** us as He **continuously transforms** us
✠ **from** the mortal and perishing creature of flesh
✠ **into** the immortal and imperishable child of God.
✠ Christ's love must **overcome and cast out** the Old Adam's love of self,
✠ so that we are both willing and willful in our love
✠ of God
✠ and our neighbor.

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 His love is a **selfless love** that leads us to
† abandon our desires and self-centered will that conforms to human
wisdom
† for the divine desires and will of God that conforms us to Christ – the
very wisdom of God.

 His love **casts out**

 our love

† of the flesh


† and its desire to gratifying itself in all that is profane

 and **draws in** His perfect love

† which delights in fellowship with

† the one, true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

† and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

 The Holy Spirit **gives** us true – spiritual - eyes that


 see, recognize and delight in the holy


 while

† closing them to,

† detesting

† and despising the sacrilegious.


 The Holy Spirit **gives** us true – spiritual – ears that

 hear, listen to and savor Jesus'

† **preaching and teaching,**

† **commandments and exhortations,**

† voice and call

 while being deaf, discerning and repulsed by Satan's

† rancid, toxic and flawed oratory,

† legalism,

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† mocking tone

† and snares.

 The Holy Spirit **transforms** our hearts

 of stone that


† are lifeless

† and in which the word of God is

‡ snatched away by the evil one,

‡ withers in the heat of trials and afflictions

‡ and is choked out with the lures and cares of this world

 into hearts of living flesh and blood that by faith alone

† receive and retain the grace of God that is Christ Jesus,

† grow stronger and more courageous while bearing our cross,

† and repel the enticements and fears of this world

† while holding fast to the true and eternal treasure – God Himself.

 The Holy Spirit **transforms** our minds as He leads us to

 confess our sins and receive absolution,


 remember our baptism where we were


† joined to Christ

† and through the blessed waters passed

† from death as a child of wrath

† to life as a child of God,

 by Word and Sacrament He enlightens, sanctifies and keeps you and me with Jesus Christ in the one true faith,

 to properly receive the most holy body and blood of our LORD in, with and under the bread and wine,

 and trust on the Last Day

† we will be raised from the dead

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† with resurrected bodies like Christ Jesus
† and live in our heavenly Father's mansion
† and dine at His table forever.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, our LORD and our God

† **speaks** the Words of Life to you and me this morning

† that by faith we would

† grasp,

† hold fast,

† and cherish His word as

† He **leads** us through this veil of tears

† to our heavenly Father's home.

† He **gives** us the Spirit of Truth that we would

† love Him

† and know that our heavenly Father **loves us for His sake.**

† Jesus **assures** you and me this morning that

† because He and the Father have **given** us their promised Spirit

† we have nothing to fear or be anxious about in this world.

† Rejoice, for even now our God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, **make us**

† their living temple

† within which the divine glory **abides and unites** us with

† Himself

† and one another

† here in time

† and there in eternity.

Amen and Amen.