GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH, June 8, 2025; The Day of Pentecost / Shavuot (observed)

Lectionary / Selected: Psalm 133; Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 2:1-21; John 14:23-31

Sermon Hymn: Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid Anthem: Wind of the Holy Spirit (日本語) LBW 164

## **Receive His Gift of Peace**

'Albert Einstein was once traveling from Princeton on a train when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there, so he looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it. The conductor said, "Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it". Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket. The conductor rushed back and said. "Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are. No problem. You don't need a ticket. I'm sure you bought one". Einstein looked at him and said, "Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know is where I'm going".'

What a quandary! I can just imagine it. Einstein had been so engrossed in his latest research that, though he knew he was due for some conference or lecture or something, it would be on his ticket so he needn't devote any more of his precious mental

attention to it. Don't we also do things like that? In much of life, if we're truly honest, we really don't know where we're going. But we pretend, to ourselves and to those around us, that we have it all together; that we know where we're going and how to get there. How many of us are really certain of what we're doing in life? If we're Christians, if we've given our lives to Lord Jesus, if we've received Holy Spirit, then we still might not know our next day's plans and whereabouts, but there is a huge difference. We know without a shadow of a doubt that come our physical death, we'll be with the Lord, wherever He is, for all eternity. What could be safer? Where else could be more secure? No where!

Today is the 50th day after Resurrection Day. In Hebrew, "Shavuot". In Greek, it's called "Pentecost", meaning 50 days. You can speak Greek, did you know? This holy day dates all the way back to Moses on Mount Sinai. That day, over 3,300 years ago, God gave the Ten Commandments. From then on, this day has been one of the Bible's three high holy days, which required all Jewish men to go to the Jerusalem temple to worship. On this day, all those thousands of years ago, the Law of God was given, the knowledge of Himself. On this same day, about 1,995 years ago, Holy Spirit was given to the disciples of Lord Jesus, the very first Christians, all Jews, God giving of Himself again. This time, His very Holy Spirit. As miraculous, supernatural and spectacular a time it was, what happened just minutes after Holy Spirit descended upon all the believers, was the world's very first Christian

sermon, given by Peter, under the unction, the anointing, empowering of Holy Spirit. As he preached, Holy Spirit's conviction fell upon about 3,000 of those crowding around, and they all believed, and were baptized. The newborn Church, went from about 120 original disciples to over 3,000 the very first day!

One of the God "coincidences" of that day reversed the curse of the first Pentecost at Mount Sinai. Recall how Moses came down the mountain and discovered the people had forged themselves a golden calf idol, orgiastically worshipping it? Furious at the people's abominable sinning, he threw the Ten Commandments down upon them where the tablets shattered, vividly illustrating how the people had already grievously broken God's laws, despite having been miraculously delivered from slavery in Egypt, through the Red Sea, only weeks before! He asked who was with him. The Levites all rallied around him. God told them to eliminate all who'd instigated this blasphemy and about 3,000 died that day for having thumbed their noses at God. But then, on the first Pentecost after Christ Jesus rose from the dead, now some 3,000 of the people received the eternal life of salvation, never to die again. For them then, and also for us today!

## ["The Day the Church was Born" video]

But on this day, there was yet another God coincidence. As we read in Genesis 11, long before Moses and even Abraham, all the people of earth were united, speaking one language, and, in direct disobedience to God's command to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, they were building a great city, with a tower to reach into heaven, to thumb their noses at God, declaring He was no longer needed, since they were becoming gods themselves. So, God, to prevent them from destroying the earth and themselves, confused their languages so they could no longer continue building Babel. But now, on this Acts 2 Pentecost in Jerusalem, God gave the gift of tongues, languages, to all the believers, so that the same message of God's love and grace in Jesus was proclaimed to all, in every language they understood. The people were unified in God, as humankind was always supposed to be.

Whenever peoples unify, they become powerful. All the empires of world history, from ancient to modern, came about when a group of people unified. When they lost their unity, their civilizations crumbled. As the devil rebelled against the Lord, convincing a third of the angels to join him, so the devil wants, needs, to divide the Church. Lord Jesus told us that the gates of hell cannot hold against the ministry of the Church, as long as we are united, in Holy Spirit's power. Thus the devil sows discord and division wherever and whenever he can. A current case in point is the blowup between President Trump and Elon Musk. Whatever the reasons, we must pray this row will eventually blow over. The president's "one big, beautiful bill" can not simultaneously be beautiful and abominable. Of course, it's not perfect. But it is a huge first step in the right direction. While most everybody criticizing it are focusing on faulty projected numbers, the bill's great-

est benefits are ignored by those same people. The bill stops all taxpayer funds going to planned parenthood. No more of our money are going to kill babies, worshipping satan in the process. No more to mutilate children in sex change operations. These alone are way more than enough to make this bill truly "beautiful". For when we get our house in line with God's ways, He is freed to bless us. When He blesses, He provides. Still frantic about deficits? When God blesses, He miraculously takes care of such trifles. God owns everything because He makes everything.

We need to be in unity with all believers. And the only way unity is achieved is through Holy Spirit. Unlike the fake, evil, ungodly, man-centered "unity" at the Tower of Babel, Holy Spirit now restores true unity, in a multitude of languages, all at the same time! Translation apps not required! Though we can't understand how and where His wind blows and flames burn, He is in the heart of every true believer. This is expressed in a Japanese worship song I sang a few years ago. Follow along with its translation in all caps, and transliteration, on the bulletin insert, front and back.

## [聖霊の風よ (Wind of the Holy Spirit)]

Our Lord Jesus prayed that we all may be one in John 17:11. Just as He and Father God are One. Oneness, unity, comes only through Holy Spirit. In sharp contrast to the one world government globalists today are trying to force upon us, to make us all subjects of the devil. Give yourself to Holy Spirit, and you'll always know your final destination!

