

May 26, 2020

Brothers and Sisters at Calvary,

This Sunday we move from the season of Easter to the season of Pentecost. In some ways, our reflection moves from what God has done for us in Christ, to what he is doing in and through us by his Holy Spirit. You'll see that shift reflected in the message for this week.

At the end of the attached worship outline, I've included a reading plan for our next teaching series. Please join your brothers and sisters at Calvary in reading God's word together. It's one way we can allow God's word to gather us as one body.

Here for you,



Matt Behrens, Pastor

P.S. If email is preferable for you, please let me know and I will make sure you receive emails. If I don't hear from you that way, I'll continue to send a weekly worship resource as long as we cannot meet on campus.

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The service which follows is written for two speakers. Ideally, family members can speak and declare God's grace to one another following this format. For those who live alone, this worship outline can be followed with a brother or sister in Christ by phone. You may call on a friend to fill this role, or your elder or pastor can worship with you by phone.

There is an "offering prayer" included in this outline. As we shelter in place, please continue to worship through giving. You can mail offering envelopes and checks to Calvary or visit www.calvaryslz.org to give online.

An Order of Worship for the Home

May 31, 2020
Pentecost Sunday

Invocation

Reader 1: We give thanks to the Father for sending His Holy Spirit.

Reader 2: We give thanks to the Son for sending His Holy Spirit.

Reader 1: We gather in the presence of our God who is...

Reader 2: Father, Son and Spirit...

Together: Amen.

Reader 2: By this we know that He abides in us...

Reader 1: By the Spirit whom He has given us. (1 John 3:24)

Psalm 25:1-5

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies exult over me.

³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all the day long.

Confession & Absolution

Make sure each person present has opportunity to confess to a brother or sister in faith.

Go through both parts as many times as needed to accommodate all who are gathered.

Christian Confessing: The Holy Spirit brings faith to God's people, but I have ignored that gift. My thoughts, words and actions have been led by anything but faith. The words of David are my prayer, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take

not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.” (Psalm 51:10-12)

Christian Responding: Let these two emphatic promises be your comfort: (1) “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh...” (Joel 2:28a); (2) “And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Joel 2:32a) You’ve called on the Lord, and these promises are for you. He grants you salvation! He forgives you by the work of Jesus! He pours out his Spirit on you!

Together: Amen.

John 7:37-39

Please read from your own Bible. This is the gospel for Pentecost Sunday.

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

Acts 2:1-21

Please read from your own Bible. This is the basis for the message which follows.

Message

Whose Mission? Whose Work?

In order to understand our place in the story of Pentecost it helps to know some history. The work God began at Pentecost has parallels to the work he did for Israel as they received the promised land.

First, listen to God's word given to Israel's leader, Joshua, as they were about to enter the promised land.

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses... No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. (Joshua 1:1-3 & 5)

Compare that with the words of Jesus as he prepares his followers for the mission which will begin as he leaves.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

In both settings, God confirms his presence and his plans. He promises to be at work among his people. He promises success. He also indicates there will be an active role for his people.

As Israel arrived at the promised land, the first challenge they faced was the city of Jericho – a fortress blocking entry to the land beyond. If you remember the story, Israel didn't even have to fight. At God's direction, they marched in circles around the city. After a week's worth of marches, they raised a loud cry and God brought the city walls down, handing the city to his people. God provided a miraculous victory! There was no mistaking what had happened. God was giving the promised land to his people. God's mission would be accomplished by the power of God alone.

Now, compare that to the Pentecost story. God laid out his plans: He's sending his church into the world to make disciples of all. His small band of followers is going to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth in order to witness to others. It's a tall order, and I'm sure they wondered how this would take place.

But, just like the conquest of the promised land, this movement would begin by God's work alone. There's a loud sound as if a huge windstorm just began. Tongues of flame move and rest above all the believer's heads. Suddenly, these 120 brothers and sisters are in conversation in the streets of the city with people from all over the known world – speaking to them in their own languages! The sound of rushing wind drew attention, but as people hear their own languages from strangers, a crowd quickly gathers. As more and more people come to investigate, Peter secures a location from which to address the crowd and begins to tell them the good news about Jesus! Once again, God's mission is being accomplished by the power of God alone.

Pause the story here.

It's good that we remind one another regularly of God's work on our behalf. We do not save ourselves; God has saved us. What we could never do for ourselves, Jesus did for us. He was fully God but chose to become human so that he could live in this broken world and be broken by this world. His perfect life was the only sacrifice which would pay the debt required for our sin. His death and resurrection alone bring us new life. He does all the work, and we receive all the benefit by faith. This is God's mission moving forward, and it moves by the power of God alone.

Yet, too often we end the story here. We end the grace of God at the empty tomb. Pentecost carries us forward in God's grace. Pentecost reminds us there is more than just a beginning, and our God desires us to be active in his work. Now that God's power has acted on you, his power will act *through* you.

Israel lost sight of this. At Jericho God worked a mighty miracle. After that, Israel fought many battles in order to receive the promised land. God was granting them victory after victory, but they also had to fight. God was gifting them the land, but he was also gifting them a place in his work. Eventually, they gave up on the work, and as a result they lost sight of the promise. Over time, they gave up on both.

As the book of Joshua closes, we can read about cities and regions which Israel did not receive. Other groups still lived there, and they were a snare to Israel. The tribes of Judah, Simeon and Dan lived with Philistine cities in their midst for the next several hundred years! In fact, instead of replacing the idol worship and practices for which God was removing these other groups, Israel began to join in their practices.

God planned the mission. God began the mission. God invited his people to join his mission. They did well for a time, but they forgot whose mission this was. When they began to depend on themselves for the mission, they changed the mission.

The mission of God initiated at Pentecost is not about land, but about people. It's not about physical battles, but there are ongoing spiritual battles. Once again, God's people are invited into God's mission.

The prophecy from Joel wasn't limited to the day of Pentecost. It describes the ongoing mission as God moves it forward. Twice God says, "I will pour out my Spirit." This is now! The Spirit of God is in you! This gift was given and guaranteed at your baptism. The God who provided miracles to start this mission at Pentecost, is the same God moving this mission forward.

For Israel, the battles after Jericho were harder. God's people were involved "hands on" as they saw the promised land given to them. We can expect the same in this New Testament mission. The battles following Pentecost are harder. By his grace, God involves us "hands on" as his mission moves forward.

God planned this mission. God began this mission. In this mission God pours out his Spirit – on you and through you!

Offering Prayer

If you have an offering present as you worship, you may place your hands over it during the offering prayer.

Reader 1: With thankful hearts we receive from you, O Lord.

Reader 2: With thankful hearts we respond.

Reader 1: Receive our thanks and praise.

Reader 2: Receive our offerings.

Together: Receive us as your own.

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Share prayer requests with one another. Pray over the requests shared, then pray the Lord's Prayer together.

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 *(Acts 2:38-39 and 2 Corinthians 12:14)*

Reader 1: Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Reader 2: For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Reader 1: These gifts are yours in your baptism.

Reader 2: These gifts are yours in your baptism.

Reader 1: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ

Reader 2: ...and the love of God

Reader 1: ...and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you

Reader 2: ...and with you

Together: Amen

Reading Plan for Joel

Beyond Peter's Pentecost quote, the book of Joel is unfamiliar to most of us. Over the coming Sundays we'll learn from this Old Testament prophet. As we approach each Sunday, we'll also read together following the guide attached. Please read along with your brothers and sisters at Calvary!

As applicable, please share this resource with others who would benefit. An electronic version is available at www.calvaryslz.org. We can also add friends to our mailing list if that is preferred.

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The book of



Joel

When disaster strikes, how do God's people respond? Joel responds to this question as it relates to locusts decimating crops, foreign armies conquering lands, and God's judgement falling on sinners.

Joel's promise to Judah is also God's promise to us today: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

We'll start each week by reading the entire book of Joel on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday through Saturday we'll read short sections from that week's focus area, along with related passages from other books of the Bible. On Sunday, Pastor Matt will teach on that week's focus area in Joel.

Week 1, June 1-7

Monday
Joel 1:1-2:17

Tuesday
Joel 2:18-3:21

Wednesday
Joel 1:1-12
Psalm 104

Thursday
Joel 1:13-20
Psalm 130
Matthew 6:16-21

Friday
Joel 2:1-11
Isaiah 34 & 35

Saturday
Joel 2:12-17
James 2:14-26
Colossians 3:1-17

Sunday
Worship message
from Joel 1:1-2:17

Week 2, June 8-14

Monday
Joel 1:1-2:17

Tuesday
Joel 2:18-3:21

Wednesday
Joel 2:18-22
Mark 6:30-44

Thursday
Joel 2:23-27
Revelation 21

Friday
Joel 2:28-29
Acts 2:14-41

Saturday
Joel 2:30-32
Romans 10:5-17

Sunday
Worship message
from Joel 2:18-2:32.

Week 3, June 15-21

Monday
Joel 1:1-2:17

Tuesday
Joel 2:18-3:21

Wednesday
Joel 3:1-12
2 Chronicles 20:1-23

Thursday
Joel 3:13-16
Psalm 46

Friday
Joel 3:17-18
Ezekiel 47:1-12
John 7:37-39

Saturday
Joel 3:19-21
Romans 11

Sunday
Worship message
from Joel 3:1-21.