

The Day Of Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-21

June 8, 2014

My Fellow Redeemed In Christ,

The Church.....Oh-Hum.....How Boring. Really, Think About It.....Now Often Do People Think About The Church? Even Christians? For Most People....It's Just Kinda **"There"**. People Drive By Churches All The Time And Hardly Even Notice...At Best The Church Is Taken For Granted And Ignored.....And At Worst, It's Criticized And Condemned. And In Many Ways We Have To Admit That The Church Is Not Very Impressive.....It's Filled With Flawed Human Beings And Divided Up Into Countless Denominations. But The Church Is Also Filled With People Who Trust In Jesus Christ As Their Savior From Sin And Death. And When The Church Is Properly Understood It Is The Most Important Group Of People In The World. Only The Christian Church Brings The Message Of Jesus Christ To A World Steeped In Sin And Death. Only The Christian Church Can Lead People To Prepare For Death And The Judgment Day....Which Brings Us To Pentecost. We Do Not Properly Understand Pentecost Unless We Associate The Giving The Holy Spirit With Telling Others About Jesus Christ. Before Pentecost Jesus Told His Apostles To Go Into All The World And Make Disciples By Baptizing And Teaching.....Wow...That's Quite An Assignment.....Indeed.....And This Would Be Possible Only Because Of Pentecost When They Were **"Given The Spirit To Proclaim Jesus"**.

I. It So Easy To Forget That God Has Sent His Church On A Rescue Mission. People Need To Hear About Jesus Christ...Who He Is....And What He Has Done Because Without Him They Will Be Damned In Hell Forever. **"Forever"**.

A. In Our Very Busy Lives It Is Easy To Forget That One Day Jesus Will Return To Judge The Living And The Dead. In Our Secular, Materialistic World This Just Doesn't Seem Real. The End Of The World? The Resurrection Of Dead Bodies? Standing Before Jesus Christ To Be Judge? It's Very Hard To Imagine.... This Is Much Like People Being Warned About Earthquakes.....Here In Seattle.....But Especially In California. People Are Constantly Being Told To Do All They Can Do To Prepare For **"The Big One"**. But Life Goes On As Usually And **"The Big One"** Just Doesn't Seem Real. But When **"The Big One"** Finally Comes And Causes All Kinds Of Destruction And Death...It Will Seem All Too Real. And Only Then Will People See Who Was Prepared And Who Was Not. And So It Is With The Judgment Day.....God Has Warned All Of Humanity About The Judgment Day And Hell.....We Even Confess It In Our Creeds: **"And He Will Come Again With Glory To Judge Both The Living And The Dead"**. In Our Text This Day Is Called **"The Day Of The Lord"**. And It Will Be Far More Terrifying Than A Massive Earthquake...As In Our Text Peter Quotes The Prophet Joel **"And I Will Show Wonders In The**

Heavens Above And Signs On The Earth Below, Blood, And Fire, And Vapor Of Smoke; The Sun Shall Be Turned To Darkness And The Moon To Blood, Before The Day Of The Lord Comes, The Great And Magnificent Day" (Vv. 19, 20, Esv). The Book Of Revelation Says It Like This: **"Fall On Us And Hide Us From The Face Of Him Who Is Seated On The Throne, And From The Wrath Of The Lamb For The Great Day Of Their Wrath Has Come, And Who Can Stand" (Rev. 6: 16, 17, Esv).** A Disaster Never Seems Real.....Until It Happens..... Last Thursday The Campus Of Seattle Pacific University Was As Tranquil As Usual...But That All Changed Around 3:30 In The Afternoon When The Shooting Started. Or Ask The Survivors Of The March 22nd Mud Slide In Oso Washington. Such A Thing Was Hard To Imagine Until 10: 37 In The Morning... Before That Time...Life Was Normal....But All That Changed At 10: 37. And Here's The Tragedy. For Decades Concerns About Such A Slide Were Expressed.....But Nothing Was Done.

B. And So It Is With The Judgment Day. But For Those Who Have Faith In Jesus Christ There Is Nothing To Fear....They Are Ready.....As Again Peter Quotes The Prophet Joel: **"...Everyone Who Calls On The Name Of The Lord Shall Be Saved" (V.21, Esv).** They Know That All Of Their Sins Have Been Forgiven And That On The Judgment Day Not One Of Their Sins Will Be Mentioned. This Is Why Everyone Needs Jesus Who Has Died For The Sins Of The World. There Is No Other Way As Jesus Says In John's Gospel: **"I Am The Way, The Truth, And The Life....No One Comes To The Father Except Through Me" (14: 6, Esv).** We Cannot Save Ourselves By Trying To Be A Good Person Because We Can Never Be Good Enough. And No Other Religion Can Save Us....Only Jesus Christ Has Been Sent By God To Die For Our Sins. And Only Jesus Christ Has Been Raised From The Dead Never To Die Again. So As We Again Read In Our Lesson: **"Everyone Who Calls Upon The Name Of The Lord Shall Be Saved" (V. 21, Esv).**

ii. But Of Course For Someone To Call On The Name Of The Lord They Need To Hear About Him As Paul Says In His Letter To The Romans: **"And How Are They To Believe In Him Of Whom They Have Never Heard" (10: 14, Esv).** And This Is Why On Pentecost God Gave His Church, Those Who Believe In Jesus, His Holy Spirit.

A. The Original **Pentecost** Was A Jewish Harvest Festival Celebrating The First Fruits Of The Crop. And So Many Jews From All Over The Roman Empire Were In Jerusalem Celebrating This Jewish Holiday. The City Was Packed To Overflowing. And It Was A Wonderful Time To Tell Of God's Love For Everyone. Everyone. Unlike Sinful Human Beings God Never Plays Favorites And He Is Certainly Not A Racist. He Treats All People The Same. And So He Condemns All People For Their Sins. But He Also Gave Jesus To Be The Savior Of The Whole World And He Wants All People To Believe In Jesus

.....No Exceptions. When The Holy Spirit Was Given On That First **Pentecost** There Were Some Signs Of His Coming. First There Was The Sound Of A Mighty Wind That Filled The Room.....This Is Significant Because The Greek Word For "**Wind**" Also Gives Us The Word "**Spirit**" So They Knew The Spirit Was Given By The Sound Of The Mighty Wind...But Then We Are Told That "**Tongues Of Fire**" Appeared And Rested On Each One Of Them Showing That By The Holy Spirit They Would Use Their Tongues To Tell Others About Jesus As We Are Told, "**They Were Filled With The Holy Spirit And Began To Speak In Other Tongues As The Spirit Gave Them Utterance**" (Esv, V. 4). To Speak In Other Tongues Simply Means To Speak In Different Human Languages As We Read In Our Lesson: "**We Hear Them Telling In Our Own Tongue The Mighty Works Of God**" (V. 8 Esv). And Ever Since That First **Pentecost** Christians Have Been Using Their Tongues To Tell Others The Good News Of Jesus Christ.....And Everyone Who Believes In Him Also Receives The Holy Spirit.....Men, Women And Children As The Prophet Joel Said: "**I Will Pour Out My Spirit On All Flesh**" (V. 17, Esv). And In This Way, As Jesus Says In Our Gospel Lesson, All Believers Become "**...Rivers Of Living Water**" To Others (**John 7: 38, Esv**). As You And I Tell Others About Jesus We Also Become Their Source Of Eternal Life And The Holy Spirit....Not Because Of Us.....But Because Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ That We Share With Them.

B. And This Is Why The Christian Church Is So Important. Only Christians Tell Other People About Jesus.....And When They Are Brought To Faith By The Holy Spirit They Are Prepared For The Judgment Day...Their Sins Are Forgiven, They Have Peace With God And Eternal Life. This Is Our Ministry Here At **Messiah Lutheran Church**...To Bring The Gospel To As Many People As Possible.....To Anyone Who Will Listen To Us. And I Encourage You To Use The Witnessing Cards That Have Been Made Available To You...And In This Part Of The World There Are Many Who Do Not Have Faith In Jesus Christ. Here Is How A Wikipedia Article Describes The Spiritually Of The Northwest: "**The Pacific Northwest Has The Lowest Rate Of Church Attendance In The United States And Consistently Reports The Highest Percentage Of Atheism....A Recent Study Indicates The One Quarter [25%] Of Those In Washington And Oregon Believe In No Religion**" * God Has Placed Us All In A Tremendous Mission Field. And He Has Also Given Us The Holy Spirit. On That First **Pentecost** People Made Fun Of The Apostles Accusing Them Of Being Drunk. Why? Because They Were Talking About A Dead Man Who Was Alive Again. And People Might Make Fun Of Us Too.....Christians Are Often Depicted As Not Very Bright And Being Weak And Dependant...All Kinds Of Negative Things That Are Not Very Flattering By Worldly Standards. But That's Ok....Because If We Keep Telling People.....The Holy Spirit Will Bring Some To Saving Faith In Jesus.....And On The Judgment Day They Will Not Only Rejoice That Someone Told Them About Jesus.....But We Will Also Be Filled With Joy.... That We Told Someone... About Jesus.....

Conclusion: Everyday Many People Drive By **Messiah Lutheran Church** And Think Nothing Of It. It's Just Another Building Among Many Buildings In A Long Stretch Of Road Called **35th Avenue Ne**. But God Sees It Differently. He Sees **Messiah Lutheran Church** As A Gathering Place For His People, His People To Come And Hear About Jesus And His Love.... To Receive The Forgiveness Of Their Sins, And To Be Filled With The Holy Spirit.....So That We Can Tell Others About Jesus Just As We Sing In Our Post-Communion Canticle: **"Thank The Lord And Sing His Praise. Tell Everyone What He Has Done"**. May Our Gracious God Bless Us To This End....In His Name...Amen.

* **[Http://En.Wikipedia.Org/Wiki/Pacific Northwest#Spirituality And Religion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Northwest#Spirituality_and_Religion)**.