
SERMON PENTECOST

A WORD FROM THE WORD

No one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

WHERE DO I BELONG?

This is a question that I have had to face as a PK and a pastor almost all my life. A couple of weeks ago, I referred to our journey home to Aseki in 1984. *“Are we home yet?”* That question had to be decided again when we were trying to work out where to retire. That decision was made in 2015. We had this discussion with our children when we asked the question, Which Son-in-law has enough money to pay us to retire somewhere else?

Far more significantly, it is an eternal question; a question that Saint Peter highlighted when he wrote that we are aliens and foreigners waiting to go back home. Some have used this thought to treat everything in our world as foreign and alien, and to abandon any connection with the communities in which we live. Some lived as monks and nuns to meet this very objective. Others have formed closeted communities for the very same reason.

Yet, for the moment, we live where God has placed us. This is our community and our sense of belonging is very strong. But, as with all people, we share our lives with many communities. For me, it was the Gawler Wheelers and the Mischelle’s Pilates group. Now that is an interesting community. What about you? Which communities do you participate in? I can think of a few in Freeling: Fat Farmers, Freeling Football Club–The Demons, The Liberal Party, The Men’s Shed, Care and Share! I could go on.

Do you consider yourself to be part of those communities? Why? What benefits do you gain from being part of those communities?

With each community there are privileges and responsibilities, or if you like, benefits and burdens.

A COMMUNITY OF THE SPIRIT

But we also belong to a community of the Spirit. It is a community created by the Spirit, so that the Spirit can nurture our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. I belong, here in this community of Light Lutheran Church because I was chosen by God to be here. This is where I was placed. For some, God's Spirit was given to me here and the Holy Spirit has inspired faith, hope and love in my life, in the midst of this community. There was no choice in that experience. This is the community that nurtured your faith and taught you what that faith means. It is in this community that the spirit now encourages you to nurture the faith of your children.

Saint Paul, in his letter to the community in Corinth, was focused on the significance of community, for our faith journey, for our trust in God. To emphasize the importance of the Christian community, St Paul described us as The Body of Christ. ***"The Body of Christ"***, indicates how God's Spirit works in and among us. This Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, we focus on the significance of the gifts found in this community for my journey, for my faith.

The first and most important gift is the faith which the Holy Spirit has inspired in my heart. As St Paul stated: ***No one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.***

That same Holy Spirit has provided for us all the gifts needed for our community, for the benefit of our faith and growth. Our relationship with each other in this community is a direct consequence of the work of the Holy Spirit in and among us. Our relationship with each other is directly beneficial for our individual faith journeys.

Each of us has been blessed by the Spirit of God in this community and in this community of believers the Spirit continues to bless us with everything we need to live as the people of God.

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