

Create Your Dreams, O God

King of Glory Lutheran
Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry

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Year C: Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 ¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

Romans 8:14-17 ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

John 14:25-27 ²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

We do not have to be satisfied with the world today. God weeps over a broken, sinful world. Yet, the Holy Spirit is still present and working through God's people to mend and care, lift up and bring to life the visions of God.

It is Pentecost! The Holy Spirit is in the house! Are you willing to preach and pray the sermon together? When I say, “Come Holy Spirit!” Please respond, “Comfort and create your dreams in us.”

Jesus was right. God the Father sent the Holy Spirit, our advocate, who continually reminds us of all which Jesus taught. We remember Jesus, God made flesh who walked this earth showing people that love was more important than status. Love was more important than rules. Love was more important than anything else and that in loving others, humans love God.

Yes, the Holy Spirit, reminds us, of all Jesus taught. The Holy Spirit guides us and is with us always. As the second person of the Trinity, the Spirit is our advocate who has our backs. The Spirit prays for us, prays in us, prays to God on our behalf when we do not know what to do or say. Thank you, God, for sending us your Holy Spirit!

Come Holy Spirit! Comfort and create your dreams in us.

We certainly need the presence of the Holy Spirit now. For it seems there is hardly time to recover from one terrible event before another takes place. St. Paul writes that we, as God’s children, do not need to fall back into fear. But I’ll admit, it can be a challenge.

There are shootings, surgeries as we age, wars, nuclear threats, refugees and migration of peoples fleeing lives of trauma. Greed, our pride, lawsuits, financial schemes, divisions, the tearing down of human beings on social media, the sexualization of women and their bodies, spouses not being true to their marital vows through affairs, and the villainization of people because God created them with skin color. There is abuse, churches absent younger generations, we who stay quiet instead of supporting our brothers and sisters in Christ, and our destruction of creation instead of advocating for creatures and their homes.

As we look into the future, we wonder what is to become of God’s world? It can feel overwhelming...too big to even begin to fix, let alone advocate for change. Yet when we cry out to God in fear, “Abba! Father!” it is God’s very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

Come Holy Spirit! Comfort and create your dreams in us.

Heirs of God? What is it that we inherit? We, God's children, inherit grace! Mercy! Forgiveness! Love! Redemption! Peace! Comfort! Truth! Meaning! What an inheritance! It's way better than a house, or riches or Grandma's amazing brown couch from the 50's. What gifts we receive. In fact, what a life! For what else do we need? Nothing! God through Christ and the Holy Spirit have given us everything we need in this life and the next.

I'm guessing that Jesus' disciples were perhaps a little overwhelmed with the task before them as well. They were to continue Jesus' mission now He was gone; to preach the Good News, tell of Jesus' miraculous deeds and baptize in His name. But on that Pentecost Day, the Holy Spirit swept through the house and through the crowd. People spoke in tongues, there was fire on their foreheads. It was all an outward sign of God's invisible grace, this divine wind that would bless them and speak through them not only that day, but always.

The Holy Spirit filled Peter and he preached....such that Christians millenia later would still preach on his words.

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Come Holy Spirit! Comfort and create your dreams in us.

We do not have to be satisfied with the world today. God weeps over a broken, sinful world, addicted to things not of God. Yet, the Holy Spirit is still present and working through God's people to mend and care, lift up and bring to life the visions and dreams of God.

At the 10:45 worship, precious Mae Lorraine Tryggstad will be baptized into Christ and earnestly asked to let her light shine for all to see God's glorious love. She will join a parade of saints who are doing just that. For as broken as our world is, God is still moving faithful Christians and non-Christians to let God's light shine.

Just on Thursday last week, Pr Deb and I were in a meeting with the other pastors at Zion. A local man came by asking for donations of old suitcases. He wasn't homeless. He wanted them to send medical supplies to the front lines in Ukraine.

Encouraged to be a part of the solution, his new ministry was to ship medical supplies.

Oh come Holy Spirit! Comfort and create your dreams in us.

Zion, Trinity and King of Glory have joined together to help an Afghani pilot, trained by the United States, to begin a new life here in Loveland and Ft. Collins. His name is Haseeb and you can meet him at our joint picnic next Sunday. This has been led by the Holy Spirit and it will be sustained by the Holy Spirit through our hands. We are freed in Christ to love our neighbor, God's child, Haseeb.

What about Faith Lutheran in Lander, Wyoming who cut down trees on a member's property that have been killed by pine beetle? A whole team cuts down the trees, then saws it up and splits the logs. It is received by people in the community who use it to heat their houses during the winter with wood-burning stoves. Some of it goes to the reservation. Plus, it cleans the forest and reduces the risk of fire. Talk about a vision of justice for people and creation!

Come Holy Spirit! Comfort and create your dreams in us.

We don't have enough time to tell of 'Stamp Out Despair' in New Jersey and New York, sending paper and pens to people being held in detention centers. Or of Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb's Lutheran and ecumenical work serving children, women and seniors of Palestine in holistic programs reaching over 60,000. What of Dr. Huda, a researcher seeking a cure for Rett's syndrome? God's light and life burn bright in visions and dreams today.

So what of us? How are we going to live? Freed in Christ, inheritors of grace and mercy, what visions and dreams will God create in us? What will we do next for and in our community or nation? Not because we have to...because we are called to share God's Good News. The Spirit is with us, of that I doubt not.

If you feel the Spirit stirring in you to do something, don't be shy. Share it with another member, or with the Leadership Team, or the pastors. Thus we say and thus we pray,

Come, Holy Spirit. Comfort and create your dreams in us.

Amen!

