

**Gospel and Sermon Transcript - Pentecost Sunday - June 8, 2025**

**The Holy Gospel begins with the 14th chapter of John, the 8th verse.**

Philip said to Jesus, Lord show us the Father, and  
we will be satisfied.

Jesus said to him, have I been with you all this time Philip, and  
you still do not know me?

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

How can you say show us the Father?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words that I say to you, I do not speak on my own, but  
the Father who dwells in me does his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me.

But if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves.

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works  
that I do, and in fact, will do greater works than these,  
because I am going to the Father.

I will do whatever you ask in my name, so  
that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

If you love me, you will keep my commandments, and

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to be with you forever.

This is the spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive,

because it neither sees him nor knows him.

You know him because he abides with you and he will be in you.

Here in the Gospel.

**This morning's sermon is prepared by Bishop Trish Schumerdun.**

I hope I'm pronouncing that correctly.

From the Senate of Alberta and the Territories.

Grace and peace to you from Jesus who loves us.

Welcome to Pentecost Sunday.

Today the churches are decked out in red, a sure sign of something special,

and today it is for the fire and energy of the Holy Spirit,

a force that dwells within us.

Did you realize that, that the Holy Spirit is within us?

It's sort of hard to describe or imagine, but

this is what Jesus was talking about in John's Gospel today.

As you might know, this part of John's Gospel contains passages of deep

encouragement and love from Jesus for his followers.

His days were coming to an end, and there was much to teach and

much love to share.

And work, there was still the work of passing on to them the

responsibility of ministry that would continue after Jesus ascended.

There was no time anymore for roaming the countryside or

challenging religious or political leaders.

Jesus' followers were soaking in all they could,  
even though they didn't quite get it yet.

They would be the ones to continue Jesus' ministry by the power of the Holy Spirit.

She says, in one parish I served, instead of a sermon on Pentecost Sunday,  
we invited anyone to share stories of faith.

It was an opportunity to hear how people sensed God's presence in their lives.

How did they understand God's work in themselves?

Every year I was moved by story after story of families,  
struggles, joys and sadness, where people sensed God's Holy presence to be just  
that, present.

It was inspiring.

I remember one young father who was a new Christian,  
having been baptized with his son only a couple of years prior.

He thought it would be easy to get up and speak.

After all, he was comfortable with public speaking and sharing his thoughts.

But when he got up to talk about God in his life, he kept getting choked up.

"I don't know what I'm doing," he expressed,  
surprised that his control delivery was being shaken.

And I called out, "It's just the Holy Spirit."

Indeed, it was the work of the Spirit in him,  
love and grace colliding with his self-understanding, sparking a new fire.

And this is what is so amazing about the Holy Spirit,

its persistence and abundance.

There's never a shortage.

It's never rationed or doled out in carefully managed pieces.

It's never saved for a rainy day.

It just is, and is in us,

just as Jesus knew the Father was in him.

Reverend Dr. Caroline Lewis says,

"This is a critical point to understand in John's Gospel,

saying the relationship that Jesus has with the Father

is the very one the believer has with Jesus and the Father."

The point is oneness, like John's description of the vine in the branches.

Oneness as we gather together in worship and work.

Oneness in song and prayer and justice.

Oneness in joy, communing, praying.

Oneness as God's family.

I wonder what would happen today if we leaned into this abiding Holy Spirit.

If we pulled out the stops and trusted that our very bodies are temples.

If we saw in every breeze and stream and star and sunrise and garden,

God's ample provision sustaining us.

You see, we are ever tempted to make a go of things ourselves.

We work hard. We learn and grow.

We build homes and families and investments.

We shop and spend and plan for the future as best we can.

But we struggle too with anxiety.

We see the ever-depending divide between those who have and those who have not.

We see homelessness all around us and feel helpless

when the news speaks to another missing person or someone lost to substance use.

We're perplexed over how to solve the environmental problems that we learn about every day.

We sometimes fear the future, magnified every day by newsfeeds and social media and the morning news.

We don't even know what or whom to believe anymore.

We all know that our churches are struggling.

We feel as if there is never enough time or energy or volunteers or offerings.

Buildings are selling like hotcakes if they are not already in disrepair.

We bemoan the absence of young people and children in our churches.

We've left behind spiritual practices that have nurtured us.

So if we're really honest, we're not making a really good go of things.

And this multiplies the stress and anxiety that we feel.

It's almost as if we're waiting for someone else to come and fix things for us.

Who would that be? Who else could we possibly be waiting for?

We end up sounding like Philip. Lord show us the Father and we will be satisfied.

Just make it easy Jesus. Just do something so we can believe.

And Jesus does with this incredible gift of the Holy Spirit,

the advocate that was promised and is here.

Jesus has already given us the knowledge, the resources, and the ability to change the world in which we live,

simply because we have been gifted with God's presence.

Let me encourage you to hold to this truth that you are beloved. You have enough.

You will find joy in unwinding the sheets of self-indulgence.

You are meant to be part of a beloved family.

Embracing this, giving our whole lives to Christ, enables our families and communities,

leadership, and children to be transformed.

Remember that God is all about and around us, not in a way to smooth everything over,

but as a presence that can never be shaken or taken away.

And she writes, "Blow Holy Spirit, blow through us.

When we are lost or think you have forgotten us,

let us taste and see, touch and live the glory of our resurrected lives."

Thanks be to God. Amen.