|  |
| --- |
| **Day of Pentecost** |

**The Collect**

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**The First Lesson Numbers 11:24-30**

Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!" And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

**The Psalm Psalm 104:25-35, 37**

25 O Lord, how manifold are your works! \*  
in wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

26 Yonder is the great and wide sea  
with its living things too many to number, \*  
creatures both small and great.

27 There move the ships,  
and there is that Leviathan, \*  
which you have made for the sport of it.

28 All of them look to you \*  
to give them their food in due season.

29 You give it to them; they gather it; \*  
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; \*  
you take away their breath,  
and they die and return to their dust.

31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; \*  
and so you renew the face of the earth.

32 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; \*  
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.

33 He looks at the earth and it trembles; \*  
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

34 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; \*  
I will praise my God while I have my being.

35 May these words of mine please him; \*  
I will rejoice in the Lord.

37 Bless the Lord, O my soul. \*  
Hallelujah!

**The New Testament 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**

No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-- and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

**The Gospel John 7:37-39**

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Sermon**

Here in Hawaii, we are blessed with so much water and our islands are surrounded by it. Here in Palolo Valley, there is a slight drizzle everyday blessing Good Sam. Even during times of drought, when we couldn’t wash our cars or water our lawns, we always knew that this would only be temporary. We knew that the rains would come again, and nearby Diamond Head would turn from brown to green.

Hawaiians of long ago believed that somewhere along the deep sea, beyond the horizon of these islands, somewhere in the clouds which rested on their mountains, there was a land called Wai Ola, the water of life. A lake of living water which restored our being. Throughout the Pacific Island groups in New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa, and Tahiti, they all mention Wai Ola.

In 2013, when the Diocese of Hawaii created our local priest formation, our class, the first class, was tasked to create a name for our group. After much thought, discernment, and prayer, we chose Waiolaihui’ia which means gathering of the waters. This meaning was important to us because we all came together from different parts of the aina, through the waters of baptism. And through these years, others have wanted to abbreviate it or change it because they couldn’t pronounce it, but the name remains, Waiolaihui’ia.

Many stories tell of a search for this “water of life.” If any person secured this water, the power of God went with it. A sick person drinking it would recover health, and a dead person sprinkled with it would be restored to life.”

In our Gospel reading this morning, our search for this “wai ola” is right here with God.

As Jesus as cried out to us, “*Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink*. *As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water*.’

Jesus is inviting us, the thirsty, to come to him. Now, we’ve all had a lot of invitations to weddings, birthday parties, or dinners. But here is the greatest invitation of all.

And this invitation is given to everyone. To believers and to atheists. To democrats and republicans. To the oppressed and to the oppressors. To hoarders and to those who throw everything away. To the single and the married. He invites those who voted for Iam Tongi to win American Idol, and even to those who didn’t!

For this invitation, you don’t need to bring a gift or a dish for the potluck, and it doesn’t matter what you’re wearing.

All you need is thirst. Not physical thirst for water, but spiritual thirst to quench the burdening demand of your heart and soul.

You need to have a thirst for forgiveness, for healing, for value and meaning and purpose in life. You need to have a thirst for love, peace, joy, and hope.

To each one of us here today, Jesus is saying, come, believe, and trust in me. Because, *out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.*

This morning we celebrate Pentecost which marks 50 days since Easter day and brings the season of Easter to an end. It doesn’t seem like Easter was that long ago.

Vestments and the altar linen are in red to symbolize the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is often described as wind and flame, it can be comforting like a gentle breeze or a campfire. When the day of Pentecost came, everyone was together in one place.

Just as we are here together.

We are all part of Good Sam, gifted with the Holy Spirit. We have experiences that no one else has. We can do things that no one else can do. We’re here, and we’re together.

E pule kakou, let us pray.

O God, heavenly Father, who by thy Son Jesus Christ hast promised to all those who seek thy kingdom and its righteousness all things necessary to sustain their life:

Send us, we entreat thee, in this time of need, such moderate rain and showers, that we may receive the fruits of the earth, to our comfort and to thy honor; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.