



Free Evangelical Lutheran  
Synod in South Africa

## Sermon for Sunday Pentecost 2017

### *Streams of Living Waters!*



St. John's Lutheran Parish  
Shelly Beach

#### • The Word of God for this Sermon is written in John 7, 37-39:

• **ESV** <sup>37</sup> On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

• <sup>38</sup> "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of His heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

• <sup>39</sup> Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

• *Let us pray: Come Holy Spirit, give us ears that bear the Word of Christ, which will make our bodies to be wells of living water in the world of death. Amen.*

#### • **Dear Members of Christ's Body!**

• It was the last day, a great day, of the feast of the Tabernacles that Jesus stood up and shouted out these words to those gathered at the feast!

• The Gospel of John reveals amongst other things, that Jesus fulfills all the Feasts of the OT centered in Jerusalem. He Himself is the original reason for the feast in the first place! These feasts ordered by the Lord in the OT times pointed to Him and His glorification. His glorification is His exultation, His lifting up unto the Cross like the bronze snake in the wilderness! His glorification is Himself being the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

• This death was coming closer. We have to remember that Jesus came to this feast under serious tension. He came privately because many at the feast were looking for Him to kill Him.

• Now what was this feast all about? Central to this festival was the expectation of that final harvest when God would gather his scattered people into the unity of a *new Jerusalem* with the *temple* as the focus of a new and holy worship.

- The “living water” needs to be interpreted with this background in mind. The new temple would be the place of a new paradise from which living waters would flow ([Ezek 47:1–12](#)).
- So, when Jesus stood up and cried out His invitation, to come to Him for living water He makes Himself the fulfilment of the Scriptures! He would be the One from whom the Spirit would flow. But the Spirit would only flow after He had been glorified. That is, after His crucifixion!
- And here we have the immensely important order or pattern revealed, that the Spirit flows from the crucified Jesus! Without the Cross of Christ, no Spirit. The Holy Spirit is always bound to the Word of the Cross, is always bound to the Jesus taking away the sins of the world!
- The Holy Spirit never detaches Himself from the Cross of Christ. The Holy Spirit authorises Christ’s disciples to proclaim the message of the Cross according to the written Word. The Bible itself is a manifestation of His inspiration. And the Holy Spirit authorises called ministers to baptise people for the forgiveness of sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is eternal Life.
- Wherever people are united with the crucified Jesus, the living water, eternal Life is received. The reversal of the fall happens: through the washing away of sin, man is united to a new paradise where God dwells with man. Eternal life is given by the crucified and risen Lord, via the Spirit using Word and Sacraments.
- We may learn, today, that this gift came forth from Jerusalem, from the new Jerusalem, namely Christ. Notice how the Holy Spirit was not bound to the temple in Jerusalem anymore! The disciples who received the sound like a mighty rushing wind and the tongues like fires received these in the upper room, not in the temple of stone, but these came forth from the Body of Christ, who is the new Temple of God!
- Can you see, how the old temple of stone, the old Jerusalem, are superseded by Christ, who was glorified on the Cross, resurrected and ascended to the right hand of God. The New Jerusalem, the New Temple is the

Body in whom the living water freely flows! Forgiveness of sins is freely handed out, lavishly poured out to all sinners! Here is the ongoing Feast of our Lord. You might not feel anything nor see anything exstastic, but the Word of God reveals it to us, the Holy Spirit opens our eyes of faith so that we realise, here is the place, amongst many other places on earth, where the Holy Spirit is poured out.

- If anyone thirsts, let Him come to Jesus and drink! Do you long for eternal Life? A Life without Death. A Life of everlasting Youth. A Life at the waters of everlasting Life. A Life without war, a Life without politicians and people who will do everything for their own benefit only. A Life without any discrimination, but also a Life without Revolutions and Strikes and illnesses! And a Life, above all, without the evil within myself.
- Jesus came to finally split evil from good! He did it by giving us of His goodness, although evilness is still in me. But He united Himself with us so that the evilness in ourselves was crucified, died and was buried on the day of our Baptism, in God's eyes. We have to consider, we have to see and understand, we have to realise that this is the Truth. This is how God sees you, how He sees me. We have received His Spirit, as a guarentee, that we will be resurrected for eternal life on the Last Day.
- The New Spirit Jesus poured out into us is not only great to have for our existence after the Last Day. This living water inspires us every day to hand out these living waters to others. We all have our calling, our vocation in life, our ministry to our neighbours. It starts off with our callings within our families, within the congregation and within our country. We are on this earth to serve others. Also, or especially the leaders, should be good public servants!
- How can you withhold the living waters coming all the way from the wounds of the crucified Christ from people who have no hope, from people who are sick with worry for the future? As you are filled today with forgiveness of sins, Life and Salvation hand it out to those you know in your community! If they don't want it, let them be. The seed was planted. If they keep the seed, water

it, lead them and guide them to be baptised by water and the Spirit, so that they themselves, like you, would hand out the living water of Christ.

• They will also be divided from their old Adam and finally released of Him. But, whoever wants to keep his old Adam, well, he will forever be surrounded and stuck in his own filth. At the latest on the Last Day, he will realise what big mistake he or she has made. What looked like fun will be exposed as deep troubles. What felt like ecstasy will be revealed as deception which causes much grief. What sounded so promising, so prophetic, pious and prosperous will be demasked as building your life on sand that will wash away once the storms of the Last Day, once the Wrath of God blows over all flesh! It is a foolish way to go!

• If anyone thirsts, come to drink of Jesus! Here is the fountain who will wash you clean and give you Life! Everything surrounding His gift shouts steadfastness, truth, certainty for you! Jesus literally walked the talk. He spelled it out in so many words. He had it published, His authorised version of your Salvation into eternal Life! And He facilitated the handing out of His wonderful gifts by authorising and planting His church on earth by calling disciples and sending them out to hand out living water. He packaged this living water in His means of Grace, so that we can know, here it is, for certain, and through His Holy Spirit we have received this gift, and we continue to receive His gift in faith.

• Jesus was glorified and consequently we worship God in Spirit and Truth by receiving His living water. That is Pentecost, Pentecost for you and for those others, our neighbours we know! Alleluia. **Amen.**

• *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.** (<sup>ESV</sup> 2 Cor 13:14.)*