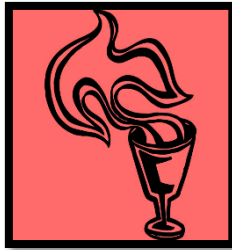


*Grace Lutheran Church and School*  
*Malverne, New York*  
*Pastor David Anglada' Message Outline*  
**"The Church A Gorgeous Mosaic," 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**  
*Pentecost Sunday*  
*May 31, 2020*

**1 Corinthians 12:3b-13: 3** And 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 knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the kinds of tongues, to another the gifts of healing by the one 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.



Spirit for the common good. To one is of wisdom, and to another the utterance of Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, discernment of spirits, to another various interpretation of tongues. All these are Spirit, who allots to each one individually 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.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:**

Almighty God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, speak to us in the language of our hearts, that we may hear your Word with understanding and answer your call with confidence. Amen.

Good morning! Today is Pentecost Sunday; this Sunday, we celebrate the birthday of the Church. It was on this day that the Holy Spirit descended on followers of Jesus Christ, the New Testament informs us that the Holy Spirit descended on the followers of Christ 2,000 years ago and gave them the power to become the Holy Catholic Church or the universal Church.

The early disciples formed the universal Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the teachings of apostles. On the Day of Pentecost, a Jewish feast The Feast of Pentecost is one of Israel's three major agricultural festivals and the second great feast of the Jewish year. All Jewish males were required to appear before the Lord in Jerusalem.

According to the Book of Acts in the New Testament, the Church grew and multiplied itself. The early Church did some wonderful things in their community

- +They helped each other
- +They supported each other especially widows and orphans.

However, the Church also faced difficult challenges: persecution and martyrdom for the sake of following Jesus.

**In Charles Dickens' novel A Tale of Two Cities, which opens with: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.** It was a great time to be the Church, but it was also a difficult time being a follower of Jesus. Christians were marked for persecution.

The Church started spreading itself into various communities; one of those communities was in the city of Corinth.

The Church was indeed a Gorgeous Mosaic like a beautiful picture or pattern produced by arranging together small colored pieces of hard material, such as stone, tile, or glass.

The Church in Corinth was typically made up of small house churches.

The Church in Corinth was a growing Church; they were known as a charismatic church. The Holy Spirit gave them many spiritual gifts or **Charismata**, given to them by God's Grace.

Church historians would affirm that the Corinthians were genuinely blessed and gifted by the Holy Spirit.

### **They were a Gorgeous Mosaic**

However, the Church was not perfect, the Church in Corinth also had their struggles they were both "Saints and Sinners," just like us!

One of the problems the Corinthian community was confronting was, that too many members in the Church were claiming the exceptional value of their spiritual gift. Furthermore, too many church participants wanted to participate in the life of the community without honoring the spiritual gifts of others. Also, without letting others join or allow them to use their talents.

This approach to ministry caused divisions within the life of the congregation.

Many were behaving as if they were better than other members in the community of faith (the spirit of pride).

They were debating sexual ethics; they were fighting about who should receive the Lord's supper. And who should not receive the Body and Blood of Jesus.

They were fighting if there was a resurrection of the dead. They were fighting over who's leadership team they were under; I am of St. Paul's side, I am of Apollos team, Cephas, others would say, I am on the Jesus team. They were suing one another in court. They were bowing down before the shrines of their culture.

To top it off, some of the church members insisted that they were more spiritual than some of the other members in their gathering. They were fighting with each other; they were at one another's throats. They were divided into political factions, you know, **blue states, red states, and purple states.**

St. Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to strengthen his argument as he writes to them that each member in the Body of Christ was needed and essential. And, that all spiritual gifts were equal, no one spiritual gift is more significant than another. The Holy Spirit inspires all spiritual gifts. Paul's message is that human beings do not produce or inspire spiritual gifts.

Paul is arguing that all spiritual gifts valued, they all mattered, and that was necessary so that the Body of Christ to be strong and healthy.

No one, nor one spiritual gift is greater than another spiritual gift. The human body has millions and millions of parts. Wonderfully made by God, our Creator, and that each part is interdependent, each part of the body needs another part to function correctly.

St. Paul's communicates to them that all members of the Body of Christ are valued and needed. ***Paul needed to level the playing field*** and bring unity where there was division. My dear sisters and brothers: The Holy Spirit has given everyone in the community of faith, a spiritual gift for the edification of the body of Christ. Also, to strengthen Christ church, the Church is strengthened by spiritual gift, St. Paul's mentions the following regarding spiritual gifts in the life of the community:

*"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."*

**Here are some questions for us to explore today:**

How are you using your spiritual gifts in our congregation and community?

What are God's dreams for your life?

What is God's dream for our congregation?

Sisters and brothers, God is calling us to be people of filled with the Holy Spirit. When we have the Holy Spirit in our lives, we become a community of transformative love. We become a ***Charismata***, Church. God is also calling us here at Grace Lutheran Church and School to be a Gorgeous Mosaic in the world so, when people see us or speak about us, they would say, wow,

they are so beautiful, they are so gorgeous. They are small pieces of glasses put together, making a magnificent picture.

For a mosaic to be gorgeous, it needs many small pieces of glass, stone, and tile to form a picture. Each member in our congregation is a small piece of glass, stone, or tile, and together we form a Gorgeous Mosaic.

On one occasion, a large Church in the Midwest was looking for a new pastor. They were down to three candidates: two male Pastors and a female Pastor of Word and Sacrament.

They called one by one into the church building- an old medieval-looking church, the test to select the next new pastor was to move a marble altar to the middle of the nave. The two male candidates tried their best to move the altar but, they could not move the altar. The female pastor waiting in the Church Council Room is called to enter the sanctuary, and she looks and looks at the altar. As she is analyzing the marble altar, she noticed two men in the back of the Church who were smirking. Unbeknownst to her, the two men were whispering to each other "I wonder what she is going to do, she is a woman plus she does not have the strength to move this massive marble altar." The female pastor facing the congregations says "I cannot move this altar by myself (pointing at the two older gentlemen) however, if the two gentlemen in rear would help me, and if ***you help them together, we can move this marble altar to the center of the nave.***" The female pastor received 1,588 votes out of 1,588 voting members: a unanimous vote.

+Each member is needed in the Body of Christ!

+Each member matters, you matter, you are essential in the Body of Christ!

+Together we form a Gorgeous Mosaic!

#### **RESPONSE TO THE WORD:**

Let us pray: With the gifts of the Holy Spirit, may our hearts overflow with the living water on this day of Pentecost, and on every day of our lives.

#### **BLESSING:**

May the Grace of God the Father bless you with peace,

May the love of Christ, God's son, sustain you in joy,

And may the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with courage, This day and forevermore.

Bless the Lord! Amen.