

Hymn: Come Holy Ghost, God and Lord—LSB 497

Rev. Matthew Tooman

Lutherans believe that the Holy Spirit operates through Word and Sacrament. Thus, when Lutherans speak of the active Word of God they refer to the work of the Holy Spirit. In the same way, when Lutherans speak of the work of the Holy Spirit, they refer to the active Word of God. Since the Holy Spirit works through Word and Sacrament, Lutherans tend not to talk about the Holy Spirit. In fact, the Holy Spirit does not want to talk about Himself. The Holy Spirit wants to talk about Jesus. When Jesus gets proclaimed, He, Jesus, is present. As Jesus gets proclaimed, people come to know and believe in Jesus. As Jesus gets proclaimed, Jesus reveals the Father to people. The Holy Spirit gives Jesus away rather than pointing to Himself.

The Lutheran confessions say, "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him. The Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith." People are so infected with sin and death that no one is able to help themselves. Only from the outside can humanity be brought from death to life. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit connects people to Jesus who is the Word of God. He produces faith in a person, and that faith receives the gifts that God produced through Jesus' death, burial and resurrection – namely forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. The Holy Spirit also sustains people in the faith through the Word of God. Christians need this Word, who is Jesus, constantly in the course of life.

Speaking of singing hymns: If you are interested in singing in our Joint Adult Circuit Choir at our Circuit Joint Reformation Divine Service on October 29th at Great Bend, email immanuelhankinson@gmail.com Practices will be set according to interest. Joint Sunday School will also sing at that service!



500 Years of the Lutheran Reformation
Southeast Circuit North Dakota District

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So what of that still small voice? Does the Holy Spirit speak to us through a still small voice? In our devotional lives we often experience a moment of clarity that comes to us in our hearts and minds. As we pray we may form thoughts and expressions that help us understand and believe what is true – the presence of God. However, we should be sure that these expressions, if they are true gifts from God, flow out of the Word of God that we have already received according to the Spirit in our baptisms, in the Lord's Supper, and as it has been preached, taught, shared and read. If it doesn't come from the Word of God, it is not the Holy Spirit. The only check on that is scripture – scripture alone.

The Hymn "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord" is a prayer. When we sing this prayer we ask for what the Holy Spirit wants to give – the Word of God. As you pray this prayer, consider all that God's Word does for you. "And the Word goes out and it does not return empty."

The Holy Spirit gives Jesus to you TODAY. Jesus is your life and salvation. You are His forgiven child.

Next Week: Hymn: Triune God, Be Thou our Stay—Rev. Anthony Ahrednt

**Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord
LSB 497**

1. *Come Holy Ghost, God and Lord, With all Your graces now out-poured On each believer's mind and heart; Your fervent love to them impart. Lord, by the brightness of Your light in holy faith Your Church unite; From every land and every tongue This to Your praise, O Lord, our God, be sung: Alleluia, alleluia!*

2. *Come, Holy Light, guide divine, Now cause the Word of life to shine. Teach us to know our God aright And call Him Father with delight. From every error keep us free; Let none but Christ our master be That we in living faith abide, In Him our Lord, with all our might confide. Alleluia, alleluia!*

3. *Come Holy Fire, comfort true, Grant us the will Your work to do And in your service to abide; Let trials turn us not aside. Lord, by Your power prepare each heart, And to our weakness strength impart That bravely here we may contend, Through Life and death to You, our Lord, ascend. Alleluia, alleluia!*

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