



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

www.ilcseoul.org

May 19, 2024

Issue #906

The Day of Pentecost

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

DRY BONES LIVE!

Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. (Ezekiel 37:5 ESV) Today at International Lutheran Church we celebrate the Day of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit. This is the birthday of the Church and the fulfillment of the words of the prophets and God's own promise to bring us back to life again. The words we meditate on this morning are from the Book of Ezekiel, one of the major prophets but perhaps a little less known. Yet, his vision of the valley of dry bones is perhaps one that we already have read before.

Ezekiel's vision was given at a time when people felt like "dry bones." His ministry was during the great Babylonian exile of the people of God and after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. Captivity and exile are not normally things we pray for but instead hope to avoid. Yet the people did not heed the warnings spoken to them and so the just result was exactly what they got. What had been predicted by Isaiah and Jeremiah came to pass. The hope that God couldn't reject His people because of His Temple turned out to be a false hope. This was a time when people didn't dare to hope as it was certainly only to end in disappointment. Things were dry, very dry, spiritually speaking.

For this reason, the vision that Ezekiel receives from God is like a breath of fresh air, a cool rain on the empty desert. This is good news that brings to life the dead. These words restore hope and a future to a people with neither. The reason that these words are so powerful is because they show us that our hope does not come from us or our own abilities but from God alone, and His mighty Word that prophesies life into lifeless bones.

While we have not lived through the exile like Ezekiel or the people of God in his day, we all have experienced the dry, life-draining effects of sin. The chains of guilt can quickly and suddenly haul us off into an exile with no hope of returning. When God asked Ezekiel the question, "Can these bones live?" He was right to hem and haw with his response, "LORD God, You know." We dare not even assume that God would possibly bring us back from a state worse than death itself, from the hell

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM	<i>Bible Class and Sunday School</i>
10:00 AM	<i>Divine Worship Service</i> (in-person and live stream)
7:00 PM	<i>Sunday Night Bible Study</i> (online)

OTHER EVENTS

Go to ilcseoul.org > Upcoming for other events

of scattered and strewn bones and the banishment that we deserve.

Yet, Pentecost is the fulfillment of Ezekiel's vision. Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the dead makes us alive in Him. His Spirit that was poured out then, pours into our lives as we hear the words, "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!" Our very bones begin to rattle when we receive in, with, and under the ordinary bread and the cup the very life-giving Word of Jesus' own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

Yes, today is the birthday of the Church - you and me - those who are baptized in His name and fed on His promise so that we would prophesy to the Breath and speak to the Wind, the Spirit that brings life into the lives of those we love, those we work and study with, those who He brings us to each day. As we feel again the mighty wind and hear the sound of rushing water, we celebrate the life-giving gift of the Holy Spirit that the Father and the Son together have poured into our lives. Blessed Pentecost!

Pastor Carl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unless otherwise noted, you may direct inquiries for any announcement to seouilc.volunteer@gmail.com. Links to online or live stream events will be included in either the electronic version of *The Messenger* or will be sent out on Sunday morning.

CLEAN-UP DAY THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all who were able to work outside last week. We accomplished a lot in a short period of time and the church is more ready for the rainy summer season.

GUEST PASTOR TODAY

Today, we welcome Rev. Dr. Jun Hyun Kim, interim president of Luther University and pastor of the Lutheran Church in Korea. ILC has been blessed with his participation in previous services and we are happy he can share God's Word with us today.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today we celebrate the **Day of Pentecost**. Next week (5/26) will be ILC's **Baccalaureate**, a part of the regular service where we will recognize students who are moving up to a different level in their schooling careers. We also will celebrate the **Confirmation** of a life-long member of ILC - Seunghye Jang. Then, June 2 is **Sending Sunday** followed by our annual **ILC Potluck BBQ**. Bring a dish or snack to share to make this event even more special!

BIBLE STUDIES

Bible studies take place throughout the week, including Sunday morning (in-person), Sunday night (online), Wednesday night (in-person), and Friday morning (women's, in-person).

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE GIVING

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FAITHFULLY MAKING USE OF ONLINE GIVING.

If you are unable to attend in-person church, we encourage you to make use of offering your tithes and gifts via online giving. Giving in this way will be recorded for your personal end-of-year giving statement.

CITIBANK 260-00497-243-01

READINGS

May 19: The Day of Pentecost

OT	Ezekiel 37:1-14
NT	Acts 2:1-21
Gospel	John 15:26-27; 16:14b-15

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

If you are interested in serving as a worship assistant, or need to make a scheduling adjustment, please write to seouilc.volunteer@gmail.com. Thank you!

MAY 19

10:00 AM

READER

Martin

ACOLYTE

Adam

GREETERS/USHERS

Christian & Ethan

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Matt

LIVE STREAM

Jordan

KITCHEN HELPER

Insun & Eric

OFFERING COUNTERS

Lily & Hyunsoo

