

In the name of our Triune God: the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The word that we have for our consideration from this same Triune God is found in the Gospel of John 7:37-39a.

“On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive.”

So far the inspired words of our God. Dear fellow recipients of the Holy Spirit.

Excuse me while I take a drink. Is anyone else thirsty? You may have noticed that I take drinks during the course of our worship service. Because of the use of my voice throughout Sunday mornings my voice becomes dry and a little sore at times.

But have you noticed something else? Have you noticed that no matter how many times I do service I still need to have some water around to relieve my voice from the amount of speaking that takes place?

Water is an incredibly important part of our lives. Without it, we will die. Our bodies require it to keep functioning. Because of this importance the use of the example of water by Jesus is a very fitting one to describe what He provides for us through the Holy Spirit.

Our God provides nourishment through His Holy Spirit that no other so called god can provide. Therefore it's truly fitting that we consider His words this morning. Through which He promised to send His Holy Spirit that we by the request of Jesus, **“Come to Me and drink.”**

For us to understand the importance of water in the way I described is easier. There was another reason that Jesus used the example of water for His discourse of the power of the Holy Spirit and the importance of His request to **“Come to Me and drink.”**

The feast in question is the Passover Feast. This particular festival went for several days and the last day was considered the greatest of them all. It was the last day of celebration in the church year of the Jews. During the feast the number of sacrifices that were offered was more at the beginning and gradually decreased.

The likely reason that Jesus used the example of water for His hearers was to reflect a particular custom that the priests performed each morning of the feast. Each morning during the first seven days of the feast a priest would take a golden pitcher to the fountain of Siloah and fill it with water. This priest would take the water to the altar. Along with wine and the contents of the golden pitcher the priest would fill two perforated bowls. Trumpets would sound and the people would sing Isa. 12:3 **“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”**

This was to commemorate the water that gushed from the rock at Meribah which was given to quench the thirst of those wondering in the desert. Although the symbolism and meaning of what was being

done was a good one, the people didn't truly understand the mercies that were being shown to them. Therefore Jesus calls to mind the true meaning of what it means to **"Come to Me and drink."**

Our text says that **"Jesus stood and cried out!"** In this simple action we can see examples of why we can have confidence in the Lord's request that He made to **"Come to Me and drink."** It was common practice for the time to sit while teaching. It was only when someone acted as a herald would they stand up to proclaim their message. Jesus cried out His message that He spoke that day. Often we hear the Scriptures explaining that Jesus sat and spoke. Here Jesus stood and shouted out. What an important message He had to give, **"Come to Me and drink."**

Here Jesus was making a comparison. He was already putting into the minds of the people that what they saw before them in the temple, the Passover Feast and all the laws associated with Old Testament worship would soon be passing away. **"Come to Me and drink."**

Jesus would soon be fulfilling all things that would be required from the Levitical Law. He was already beginning to point the hearts and minds of the people to Him and away from the temple built with hands.

The reason that this could take place is because Christ is the substance of all that the Levitical Law foreshadowed. In Him is the water of life and salvation. In Him the people would see the true Passover Lamb who came as Prophet, Priest and King who once and for all take away the sins of the world.

"He who believes in Me" is the way Jesus began His discourse. And what an important beginning that is. It took faith for those hearing Jesus and it takes faith for us to believe that Jesus is the Lamb of God. Not only that He is the Lamb of God but the One promised when Adam and Eve fell into sin. He is the One promised who would come and live the perfect life that the sacrifices were being offered for. The One who was to come that didn't need to make sacrifice for Himself before it would be made for others. The One who would cause the curtain of the temple to be torn from top to bottom and give us all access to God through His death. Not because of the rules and regulations but because they foreshadowed Him. And He came doing all that was required so that all of your sins would be forgiven.

"As the Scripture has said" Jesus continued. Jesus didn't rely upon logic to convince the people who He was. Through the workings of miracles, the content of His preaching, His holy life, His death and resurrection would all be things that would point their hearts and minds back to what He said. To give not only the hearers of His message but for us as well the confidence to believe that we should Jesus said, **"Come to Me and drink."**

Jesus once again goes back to the picture of water, **"Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."** The Lord provides for us concrete examples of what He's speaking of here.

1 Cor. 12:4-11 **"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to**

another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills."

All the words found in the text from 1 Corinthians are exactly what Jesus was referring to as rivers of living water.

"Wisdom through the Spirit" is one of the things mentioned by Paul. An example of this can be found in many parts of life. It is found in the wisdom of a parent to know how to bring up their child in the fear of the Lord. It is found in a member of the council who prays that the decisions being made are through God's wisdom and not mans.

"The word of knowledge through the same Spirit" is another gift that is described as living water. It is a gift that describes someone who by the power of the Holy Spirit is able to give sound council to the glory of God.

And all of this being brought to a head when we understand, **"But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive."**

The Day of Pentecost is a celebration in which we give thanks to God for the giving of His Holy Spirit. But we need to thank God for the fact that the Holy Spirit wasn't given just to those there on the Day of Pentecost itself.

Our text rightfully says that the Spirit would be given to **"Those believing in Him."** Because of the faith you have in Jesus Christ as the Son of God who was sent to be the Lamb of God you yourselves have the Holy Spirit as well.

You have the gifts that only He can provide through His sacraments of Baptism, the Lord's Supper and His holy word.

Paul told the Corinthians that the Sprit would be **"Distributing to each one individually as He wills."** Not everyone has the same gifts of the Holy Spirit. In our day and age many church bodies have gone so far as to teach that unless you speak in tongues your truly aren't saved and don't have the Holy Spirit living in you.

In the passage sighted Paul actually gives the gifts of the Holy Spirit in order of importance of which tongues and there interpretation are at the bottom. Even if the gift of tongues was present today the Lord reminds us that not all would even receive that gift of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit distributes **"To each one individually as He wills."**

Rejoice! Be happy and content with the gifts you've been given. Pray that the Lord, if He wills would give you more if it pleases Him. But remember that to have such gifts we must all as Jesus rightly said, **"Come to Me and drink."** Amen.