

John 14:25-27  
Pentecost; May 24&26, 2015

### “The Holy Spirit: A Counselor We all Need”

What is a “*paraclete*?” It is not something that you put on your feet for a football game. That would be a pair of cleats. A *Paraclete* is not an annoying bird that chirps all morning long. That’s a parakeet. “*Paraclete*” is actually a Greek word. It’s a word that means “*helper*” or a “*counselor*.” “**Counselor**” is the English translation given to the word *paraclete* in our text. There we see that “**Counselor**” is given as a name for the Holy Spirit. There we see him as our *helper* or *counselor* who walks alongside us in and helps us through our journey of life. We see Him as **A Counselor We All Need**

**“All this I have spoken to you while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”** The first time a person leaves their home to be on their own is both an exciting and a scary time. It is exciting because now he or she can do things his or her way. No one is there anymore to tell them all the rules. It is exciting to be on your own. But it is also a scary time for some. Because now they are all alone. They have to do things by themselves — no one to do them for them. You hope that you remember everything you need to know to live on your own.

The disciples were facing a similar predicament. Their world was about to turn upside down. Later that night, Jesus would be betrayed. The next day he would die. 3 days later he would rise from the grave. They could once again learn more from Jesus. But now Jesus was going to leave them again. They would soon be alone. Jesus would no longer physically be with them. Perhaps they were wondering if they knew it all, if they understood everything that Jesus had taught them. How were they going to remember everything that Jesus had taught them. (I can’t even remember what I ate for meals all week at times.) Jesus reassures them that it will be okay. He would send them a *Helper, a Counselor*. The Holy Spirit would teach them all they needed to know.

We need that same **Counselor** promised by Jesus. We need to remember and trust that Jesus has died for our sins. We need to remember what Jesus has done for us. We need to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. This weekend we celebrate Memorial Day. For many it is considered the first weekend in summer. It is a day to fire up the grill and enjoy each other’s company. For many this weekend is a sad day as well. There are thousands of families that it is a day to remember that their spouse, their mother or father, their son and daughter will not be coming home. Their loved one gave the ultimate sacrifice to their country. Yet, it is because of that sacrifice, you and I get to enjoy the freedoms that we have in our country.

Do you struggle with sin in your life? Do you say words that you wish you didn’t say? Have you ever hurt anyone in your family with those words? Have you ever doubted God’s promises? Have you ever been jealous? Have you ever had your mind and heart torn within you? We need **peace** in so many aspects of our lives. All those struggles and doubts and jealousy all have the same cause – sin.

People today like to talk about peace. But there really can’t be *peace* without Jesus. However, Jesus says to us: “**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.**” We need this peace. You and I entered this world as sinners. We were spiritually blind and an enemy of God. Things needed to change. There is nothing that we can do to change our sinful hearts. There was only one person who could make the change for all. His name was Jesus. This morning, we once again will have a baptism here at St. Paul’s. A miracle will happen. The Holy Spirit will give Jesus’ peace to a young child. It is the same peace that he gives both you and I as well.

The world’s peace doesn’t last. A person may be a friend today, but an enemy tomorrow. In certain parts of the world, there is peace today. However, there is no guaranty that there will be peace tomorrow. There may be peace in homes this morning, only to be interrupted later today with arguments. If we are left in our sins, we don’t get Jesus’ peace both here in this world and in heaven.

The Holy Spirit changed that. Every time we open our bibles and read his Word, the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith. Every time that we hear that Word on a Sunday, Monday, Tuesday or any day of the week, the Holy Spirit is there

working in our hearts. We know the words of John 3:16. **“For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”** Yet, we need to hear it again and again. Those words remind us of the peace that God has brought into this world. We trust those words. We trust them so much that we are willing to bet our eternal life on them. We are glad to hear those words of Jesus: **“Peace I leave with you: my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”** We all need a Counselor like the Holy Spirit who comforts our troubled hearts with an everlasting peace. We need a counselor to take all our fears away.

His peace satisfies every need in our lives. Do you like Reese’s Peanut butter cups? I do. It is dangerous to have a bag of them around. They go down some easily and quickly in our house. Before I know it, the bag is empty. Yet, I want more. God gives us something that will last much longer than any cravings for candy. He gives us heaven. He has sent the Holy Spirit to assure us that our cravings for peace are met in Christ.

Ten days the disciples had to wait for Jesus to fulfill his promise that he made as he ascended back to heaven. The wait was, however, worth it. This *‘paraclete’* would be the perfect *helper and counselor*. They needed. The Holy Spirit is the *perfect helper and comforter* that we need. On this day of Pentecost, let us thank God for His Holy Spirit. Amen.