



# Divine Service

Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider

<b>Date</b>	8th June 2025
<b>City/Country</b>	Wiesbaden (Germany)
<b>District Apostle Area</b>	Western Germany (BA Stefan Pöschel)
<b>Bibel Word</b>	John 16:13a  <b>“However, when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth.”</b>
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Acts 2:1-8,11-13
<b>Hymn</b>	207
<b>Accompanied by</b>	All District Apostles and District Apostle Helpers worldwide Apostles René Follmann, Gerd Kisselbach, Gert Opdenplatz, Franz-Wilhelm Otten, Thorsten Zisowski Bishops Pascal Strobel, Aramik Fesdjian
<b>Additional servants</b>	District Apostle Helper Helge Mutschler District Apostle Deppner
<b>Ordination</b>	Assignment of Chief Apostle Helper Helge Mutschler
<b>Acts</b>	Holy Communion for the Departed (DA Isnugroho, DA Woll)
<b>Translation</b>	Sentence by sentence into English (at the altar)
<b>Transmission</b>	worldwide

Hymn: "Safely faith through life will guide us" (Hymnal 207)

**Prayer:** "In the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit! Almighty God, dear heavenly Father. With great joy, we come before you in this large gathering to celebrate Pentecost together. We worship you, the Almighty God, and on this festive day, we proclaim our faith. We believe that you are the Almighty God, who knows everything, for whom nothing is impossible, who loves all people, who wants to help them and redeem them. And we confess our faith: You will fulfill this. We thank you for the salvation you have already granted us. We thank you for the salvation you still wish to grant many people. We thank you for your help in daily life. We thank you for the blessing you give to us again and again. We thank you for all ministers that you have given - especially for the Apostolate. We thank you for the fellowship of God's children, and we thank you for the wonderful future that you have prepared for us.

Now, Father, it is our concern to pray together for those who are in great need. When we think of our brothers and sisters worldwide, many thoughts come to mind. There are so many brothers and sisters who truly face very, very difficult circumstances. Father, you love them more than we do. Please grant them your help and let them experience your love and power. We also think of the many people worldwide who are in great distress. We cannot list everything. But even there, we trust in you. Grant your help.

Now, Father, we yearn for your word, your grace, and your sacrament. Let your Holy Spirit be active so that we can experience your presence and feel your love. Let our beloved ones from the yonder world be there. Grant us above and beyond our understanding. Hear us for Jesus' sake, Amen."

**Bible Verse:** "However, when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth." (John 16:13a)

Choir: "Lord, I stretch my hand to you..."

**Chief Apostle:** "Dearly beloved brothers and sisters, a warm welcome to this Pentecost celebration. Pentecost is a feast of gratitude and joy, where we, as Christians, come to God and thank Him for sending His Spirit. In the Old Testament, God revealed Himself, first in creation, then as the God of Israel. Then God revealed Himself through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who became human. At Pentecost, God, the Holy Spirit, revealed Himself and became perceptible to people in a special way. How this happened will now be heard in the Bible reading:

*Bible Reading from Acts 2:1-8, 11-13*

"At Pentecost, God, the Holy Spirit, was revealed to humankind. With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the promise that Jesus had given to His disciples was fulfilled. He had predicted and promised them that He would send a Comforter to support, help, and guide them. Since Pentecost, God, the Holy Spirit, has been active in the Church of Christ and proclaims God's truth—particularly where the Apostolate is active. The Holy Spirit speaks the truth and guides us into the truth. The Holy Spirit tells us the truth about God. The Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus Christ. The testimony of the Holy Spirit is very clear and simple: Jesus Christ is the true God. Whoever sees and hears Jesus Christ sees and hears God. God is truly as Jesus Christ was.

It always concerns me, and I feel pity when I realize that many Christians still see God as He revealed Himself in the Old Testament. The stern, serious God, who sets rules. The punishing God, who kills those who are not on His side. Please, dear brothers and sisters worldwide, that is not our God. For us, it is clear: The true God is Jesus Christ. We recognize God in the deeds, words, and nature of Jesus Christ. If we want to know God's will, we do not seek it in the Old Testament, nor in creation, in the stars, or anywhere else. For us, God's will is found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

And when we seek God's help, we do not seek it from people or things where a supernatural power might be effective. We seek our help from Jesus Christ—here in Europe, in Africa, and worldwide. Our helper is Jesus Christ, not any human being, not anything where supernatural forces might be active. We recognize God's will in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, not through people or elsewhere. The Holy Spirit leads us into the truth. Let us stick to what we just heard: Jesus Christ is the true God. The Holy Spirit tells us the truth. He keeps His promises. He tells us: Trust in God. He is reliable. He will do exactly what He has promised. But now we must understand: God's truth is always about eternal life. The teachings of the Holy Spirit are about eternal life. Why do I say this? Because it has happened more than once that I have spoken with brothers or sisters who are very disappointed. They had a problem, and then a minister told them: Don't worry, it will turn out well. And it didn't turn out well. The promise was not fulfilled. Dear brothers and sisters, why did this brother, this sister, this minister say that? Personally, I see it this way: With this statement, they wanted to show: I empathize with your suffering, and I hope, pray, and wish that God will now do what we expect of Him. And indeed, this often happens. But it can also happen that God says: No, I have other plans. We cannot explain or understand this, but it should not lead us to doubt God. God's truth always relates primarily to eternal life. God keeps His promises. He will always fulfill His promises. And anyone who does what Jesus Christ has taught will never be disappointed; they will attain eternal life.

A second point we want to emphasize on this feast of Pentecost: God is truthful. He is reliable. He will grant us the eternal life He has promised. He will complete His work, and nothing can hinder Him. If I believe in Jesus Christ and follow Him, I will attain eternal life. God is the truth. He does what He promises. Indeed, truth has become a problem in today's world. It was the same back then—think of Pilate. When he interrogated Jesus, he said: "Well, what is truth?" This is a problem for many people today too. Reality—what really happened—is illustrated in so many different ways. There is one fact, and hundreds of ways to illustrate and understand it. So many people are unsettled today, wondering: "What is truth?" Many are convinced: "We're not being told the truth, something is being hidden." And this leads people to seek information from those who simply tell them what they want to hear. And with my limited worldwide experience, I can confirm: this happens everywhere! Because of this mistrust, people only want to hear what aligns with their expectations and ignore everything else. This results in societies becoming increasingly divided.

What is truth? Brothers, sisters, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the truth. It always has been and will forever remain the truth. The Gospel of Jesus Christ. We see the world and what happens upon the world in the light of the Gospel. We view our neighbor through the Gospel. We see our own lives through the Gospel. We see the future—the world's and ours—in the light of the Gospel. Let us hold on to this third point: For us, the Gospel is truth, and we stick to this truth, and direct our lives according to this truth.

The Holy Spirit also reveals the truth about us. Instantly, the thought arises: "Oh dear, this won't be pleasant." The Holy Spirit bears witness to Jesus Christ, displaying His glory and perfection. And if I'm not completely foolish or dishonest, I must admit: "Oh, I'm still far from that." And it's true: The Holy Spirit makes us aware of our own imperfections. He clarifies: Without grace, you cannot be saved. He also tells us how to obtain grace. The Holy Spirit shows us who we truly are. Yes, we are imperfect. You need grace. Here's how you can attain it. But the Holy Spirit also tells us the truth about ourselves, about each and every one of us. He says: God loves you. Just as you are, today. He loves you. The Son of God gave His life for you. God loves you, and even if everyone rejects and condemns you—do not listen to them. Listen to God. He loves you. That is the truth. You are a child of God, loved by Him. The Holy Spirit reveals the truth.

The Holy Spirit not only tells us what we should do but also what we can do. A few weeks ago, I was in a discussion with a youth group. And a sister said to me: Chief Apostle, please tell us, how can I recognize the gifts that God has given me? Of course, if someone can sing beautifully, it's not hard to realize: Oh, God has given him the gift of singing. For me, this isn't so clear.

I then told the youth: It's actually quite simple. Just do what God asks of you. God tells you the truth, and when you do what He asks, you will discover how many gifts you have. You will realize: I can actually do what God asks of me. And then your relationship with God is also fine. If I approach God saying, "Dear God, I can sing well, how can I serve You?" then I start telling him what needs to be done. But if I come to God and say, "God, what do You expect of me?" and He says to me, "I told you in the last service. Do that," then you will realize, I can do it, and you will discover gifts within yourself that you didn't even know existed.

I know it's an old New Apostolic teaching that God shows us the mirror in the sermon and says: Now take a look. But this still applies. Dear brothers and sisters, God helps us to recognize ourselves. But He does this primarily through the preached Word. Let us accept this and simply act accordingly. Earlier, I was in the sacristy, and across the world, it's often the case that a picture of me hangs on the wall. Usually, it's one from twelve years ago, when I was ordained. Next to it, there's usually a mirror. The brothers are helpful in showing me: Time has passed. But you understand me: If I now look at the picture, I still look young there, but that's not reality. That's not who I am. God shows us in the mirror who we are today. He tells us the truth about ourselves in the sermon, and I say it for the umpteenth time: We want to strive to put the sermon into action. That's the truth about us.

The Holy Spirit also wants to help us become truthful and a true disciple of Christ. God is truthful. He is reliable. He keeps His promises. We have made many promises to God. We renounce evil, and we want to follow Jesus Christ in faith and obedience. Let us ensure that our "Yes" remains a "Yes." Yes to God, no to evil. Let us be and remain true followers of Christ.

The people today waste so much time and energy in presenting themselves in some way, wanting to be seen as they wish to be seen. You know, I truly have an issue with that. So much time and energy is lost in trying to maintain appearances. The Bible has a term for this: people want to please others, to be noticed, acknowledged, and respected by them. The true Christian, however, strives to please God. They use the time given to them, the strength and energy received from God, to grow into the image of Jesus Christ. First of all, he wants to please God and to be a true follower of Jesus Christ. Dear brothers and sisters, this is the last point we want to remember on this feast of Pentecost: we want to become true followers of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit helps us recognize ourselves and enables us to change. He wants to transform us to become more and more like Jesus Christ. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. He tells us the truth about God, our fellow humans, the future, and ourselves. Amen."

"So, dear brothers and sisters, at this point, I must briefly interrupt the sermon segment of this service. I look in the mirror and then? There's no need to underline it—I see for myself: the man is getting older. Last September, I turned 65, and I have decided to retire at Pentecost 2026. It is now time, a year in advance, to name my successor. You can imagine this is not an easy task. I have prayed for a long time, wrestled with God, so that He might show me the man He has chosen to be our Chief Apostle. And I know that many apostles and brothers and sisters have also brought this to God in prayer. Dear apostles, dear brothers and sisters, God has answered this prayer. Today, I can announce with absolute certainty and conviction whom God has chosen to be our next Chief Apostle: it is District Apostle Helper Helge Mutschler from Northeast Germany. Today, I will appoint him as Chief Apostle Helper. And if the Lord has not returned by then, and if I am still alive, I will ordain him as Chief Apostle next year at Pentecost in Cape Town, South Africa. District Apostle Helper Mutschler speaks German, English, and French. You can imagine how he feels. Dear brothers and sisters, if now, worldwide, all brothers and sisters offer a quick prayer to God, saying, 'Help him,' I believe this prayer will be effective. He will feel it, and we will experience it."

Choir: "Glory, be sung to you"

District Apostle Helper Mutschler: "Dear brothers and sisters, dear guests and friends, this is what it's all about: that we sing praise and glory to the Lord together across the Earth. I want to

keep my words about myself very brief. It is Pentecost. That's the focus. It is the call of God, and I firmly trust in it, and I am truly happy that I can walk the path of faith alongside the Chief Apostle and all of you across the Earth until our Lord Jesus Christ comes. I will pray for all of you. May I make a small request: please pray for me.

This is a great divine service. Praise be to our great God, the Holy Spirit, who opens our eyes. He opens your and my eyes to the truth. Thanks to God, for there is truth: In a world overflowing with lies, we can surely stand on this cornerstone, Jesus Christ, and be aware of the truth. I only want to highlight a few points from what the Chief Apostle has said. God, the Holy Spirit, opens your and my eyes to Himself. Perhaps you are going through very challenging life circumstances right now and are crying out in desperation: Where, God, are You? And who, God, are You really? And God answers deeply into your heart: I am love. And He gives you the answer He gave Moses: I am who I am. I am unshakable in My love and My faithfulness to you. The name God gave Moses can also be translated very simply. God says to you: I am here, with you. That is the truth.

God opens your and my eyes to ourselves. I was so moved that the Chief Apostle emphasized this. The truth about you is: You are loved by God. God says this into all your self-doubt. Some among us may ask: Why do I even exist? What is the purpose of me being born? The reason for your existence is that God loves you and has always wanted to live with you forever. In God's eyes, you are more precious than all the gold and treasures on Earth. You are someone in God's eyes. God loves you. Do you still know how beautiful you are in God's eyes? That is the truth about you.

God opens our eyes to our neighbor. And the Holy Spirit tells us: You do not have the right to reproach your neighbors for their imperfections. The Holy Spirit tells us: You do not have the right to make differences. Your neighbor is God's creation. Pentecost, the birthday of the church, marks the end of Babylonian confusion of languages. I was deeply impressed as we heard this in the Bible reading. Everyone was amazed: Someone is speaking with me in my language, my mother tongue. Pentecost is the beginning of coming together and peace. At Pentecost, it becomes clear how valuable every neighbor is, and that it is our task to speak to every neighbor in their language. This is so simple. Pentecost is the beginning of the language of the heart. Today, we are also called to begin speaking the language of the heart with everyone around us, and to say to each one: You are loved. To begin sowing peace and contributing to harmony in a divided world by doing good and bringing peace through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Hymn: "Praise thou the Lord " (Hymnal 58, 1 - 2)

District Apostle Deppner: "My dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ and dear friends, on this festive day we learn that we can continue with our prayers to our heavenly Father. When I was a little child, many, many years ago, I was in my grandmother's house, and they used to say: When you think there is no way forward, somewhere a little light will shine. What our heavenly Father sent out at Pentecost was not a little light. If we think about it, the room was filled, and tongues of fire were visible, but compared to the whole world, maybe it was a small light. We can see what power and strength were behind it because it is still effective today and shines into your and my heart. We definitely heard this voice of the Holy Spirit this morning. And our Chief Apostle mentioned that this voice within us, this light, shows us the truth about ourselves. When the world is so loud, this voice is very gentle and quiet, and it does not condemn us. Out of love, this voice of the Holy Spirit draws out the other voice in us that says: Oh, how could you be so stupid! The voice of the Holy Spirit brings light and hope.

Apostle Paul recommended us: Work on your salvation with fear and trembling. In English, or even French, this word "trembling" is always associated with fear. Recently, I saw another translation, and I liked it: reverence and deep respect—respect for the word, the message of love

that God has for you and for me. And I want to work on truly having deep respect for the salvation of my neighbor, even if they are entirely different. Then we use this light for ourselves and for others. Just recently, we spoke with young people, too, and they had this notion of being unqualified, or disqualified. We see this at a sports event, during a game. Maybe the goal is not recognized, or the team is disqualified. And then it's all over. There's no hope anymore. Sometimes it's even the case that the life of an athlete is completely destroyed because of it. With our heavenly Father, we are not disqualified, even if I haven't always told the truth and even if I haven't always managed to fulfill my promises. Even if the world and the devil themselves say: Now you are disqualified... My heavenly Father still loves me. Amen."

## **Preparation for Forgiveness of Sins and Holy Communion**

Chief Apostle: "Yes, dear brothers and sisters. Pentecost, the feast of the Holy Spirit. Today we can once again experience how the Holy Spirit is like. We hear the word of God, and I hope many of you feel as I do: God speaks to you. The Holy Spirit is active in the celebration of Holy Communion, allowing us not only to receive bread and wine but also the body and blood of Christ. While preparing for Pentecost, I once again read from the Catechism (I can only recommend it, the book is actually not so bad). In it, it is written that the Holy Spirit makes Jesus Christ present during the celebration of Holy Communion. The Holy Spirit brings to life the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and my first thought was: Oh, this sounds so theologically, no human being understands this. But then it is written: He makes Jesus Christ present as the Crucified One, the Risen One, and the Returning One, and I was touched by this. Brother, sister, during the celebration of Holy Communion this morning, the Holy Spirit makes the Crucified One present. God is beyond time; for Him, time does not exist. I interpret it this way: The Crucified One is now among us, looking at you, at you, and you, at all of us—He looks into our hearts! Our lives, our strengths, our weaknesses, and He says to us: For you I will now die because I love you. It is not just an event far away in history; He looks at you and everyone, even those who haven't attended a service in ten years, even those who may have done something terrible. The Crucified One is present and says: I am going to the cross for you now because I love you. It's worth thinking about this. The Risen One is present. The disciples were in total panic. The Lord had died, and now He stands before them and says to them: Peace be with you. Do not fear. I have overcome death. In this crazy world we live in today, in your life, Christ, the Risen One, now stands before you and tells you: Don't worry, I have overcome all of this. I determine what the future holds. The Returning One is present. The Holy Spirit tells us: His return is as certain as if He were already here. This morning, as we celebrate Holy Communion, the Holy Spirit wants to write into your heart and mine: I love you so much that I die for you. Do not fear: I have overcome the world. I am the one who determines your future, not the world. I am coming again. This is as certain as if I were already here."

Repentance Hymn: "Come near, you are invited" (Hymnal 274)

After the "**Our Father**" and the **absolution**, the Chief Apostle said in the

offering prayer: "God of love and mercy, we thank You from the depth of our hearts, we thank You for Your grace and the salvation You grant us. We thank You for the forgiveness of our sins. We thank You for the future You have prepared for us. We thank You that You continue to work to save people and lead them to You. We thank our Lord Jesus Christ that He has established His church and sent the apostles. We thank the Holy Spirit for His work in the church and in us. Father, now bless Your work worldwide. Strengthen the apostles in their commission. Fill them with Your power, with Your strength, and with Your love. Bless every congregation worldwide. Fill them with Your light and Your love and let them experience Your presence again and again. Now, Father, we long to celebrate Holy Communion, and we ask You, God the Holy Spirit, to be active so that we may receive the body and blood of Jesus and experience the presence of Jesus Christ. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen."

## **Celebration of Holy Communion** (hymns 400, 345)

District Apostle Pöschel: "The Holy Spirit reveals to us the true nature of God. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not be lost but have eternal life. This love of God was demonstrated in sending Jesus Christ. And in the Church of Jesus Christ, it is the Holy Spirit who encourages us to be reconciled to God. We read in the 1st Timothy chapter 2 as follows: 'God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.' This is part of the truth, proclaimed by the Holy Spirit. And it says: 'For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all.' Salvation in Jesus Christ is in the word, in the preaching, in the sacraments, and in the forgiveness of sins. The congregation we are part of today is much larger than we can imagine. In his opening prayer, our Chief Apostle invited those who have departed in the Lord Jesus Christ. They heard the word together with us, received the forgiveness of sins as we did, and now they shall be served in the sacrament of Holy Communion. This morning, the host as a visible sign will be placed into the ministerial crib."

Choir: "Amazing Grace"

Holy Communion for the Departed: "Now the Holy Spirit also calls into the yonder world; there too, He proclaims the truth. Often, people think they know the truth about those who have passed away. And over time, they start to discover: Oh, that person was much better and greater than what we thought. But the opposite is also true, and sometimes one finds out: Oh, that person did terrible things. For God, the truth does not change. Before God, whether alive or dead, He sees the person with the same love. And He also calls into the beyond to every soul: I love you. The Holy Spirit calls to all the baptized who believe in Jesus Christ, who believe in the apostleship: Be a true disciple of Jesus Christ. You can belong to the Bride. You can make it with My help. I am waiting for you in My kingdom. Come, now take what I place into the hands of the two District Apostles: The body and blood of Jesus Christ are given for you—to perfect peace in Jesus Christ, the peace of those who know: My Lord loves me; to perfect joy in Jesus Christ, the joy of those who know: My Lord is returning soon; and to eternal life, eternal fellowship with God and His own in His kingdom. Amen."

Solo Song: "Rest Peacefully in God's Peace"

Appointment of the Chief Apostle Helper "My dear District Apostle Helper, perhaps, there is not much praise and gratitude in your heart right now, but there is much praise and much gratitude in our hearts. We thank God that He has answered our prayers. We thank God that He has opened your eyes and that you could recognize God's call. And we thank you for following this call. I thank you for your trust. Today, you are to be appointed Chief Apostle Helper so that you will have time to prepare for this great task. So that the Holy Spirit can also prepare you for it. So that you can learn more about the various aspects of this ministry of Peter and familiarize yourself with it. And so that, gradually, you will open your heart more and more to ensure all brothers and sisters find a place in it. I know you; I know you will do this. Be courageous. God has called you. He is reliable. He will do what He has said and what He says. Chief Apostle Helper is a term that stems from our apostolic tradition. It sounds somewhat like: Oh, the old man has now become weak and old. He can no longer do it and needs help. That may be true, but it is not really the essence of the matter. I want to say quite seriously now: With this appointment, I commit myself to help you prepare to be our Chief Apostle. And you can be sure that I will not be the only one to help you. I know the apostles; I know many brothers and sisters who will stand behind you. They will pray for you and support you. Once again: Don't worry. God will do it. My dear District Apostle Helper, I now ask the question before God and the congregation: Are you prepared to serve in the future as Chief Apostle Helper? In faith and humbleness, in love for Jesus Christ and His people, together with the Chief Apostle and the apostles, then please confirm it with a yes."

“Almighty God! God of truth. You heard your servant’s yes, and it is a genuine yes. Father, now we ask you, let this servant of God experience that You are the true God. Grant him the fullness of Your power and blessings. Let him experience again and again that You are with him, that it is in Your will. Guide him through Your Spirit so that he can prepare for this great task, love all brothers and sisters, and truly be a blessing for many, many people. Father, we pray for him, we pray for his wife and children. In this regard, too, be the true God. Let them experience You in every way. The entire people of God pray this together. Lord, help him! Hear us for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

“My dear District Apostle Helper, herewith I assign you to Chief Apostle Helper. I am very grateful that you accept this call. Once again, be assured: God is with you. He will reveal completely new thoughts. He will open your eyes and hearts so that you will not only see the problems that exist worldwide but that you see God's work of salvation. You will see and experience: God is at work; He is going to complete His work. I am looking forward working together with you. God be with you.

Brief words. Great impact. I thank all brothers and sisters who accept our future Chief Apostle into their hearts.”

Closing Prayer: “Almighty God, dear heavenly Father. We thank You for Your word. We thank You for Your grace. For the Holy Communion we were able to celebrate together and with the departed. We thank You for the Chief Apostle Helper. Father, we pray once more for the many people who find themselves in great need. Not out of habit or tradition, but because we are really concerned about them. Grant them Your help. Continue to be with Your people. Bless the service and the offerings of Your own. And please shorten the time and send Your Son. Hear us for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

**With the closing blessing, the Chief Apostle concluded the service.**

Choir: “Gloria Fanfare”