

# Sunday, June 5, 2022 - Day of Pentecost

## First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

1 - When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place.

*Pentecost was a Jewish holiday – Shavuot – the Feast of Weeks, which commemorated the wheat harvest in Israel as well as the giving of the law on Mount Sinai to Moses. Many people would have been in Jerusalem that day – another example of God’s perfect timing.*

*Was the “one place” where the disciples were all together the same place as where they had had the Last Supper with Jesus, where Jesus appeared to them after the resurrection (John 20), where they constantly devoted themselves to prayer (Acts 1: 14) after the ascension of Jesus, and where they chose Matthias to succeed Judas (Acts 1: 26)?*

*Is there a place where you have met God that you like to go back to because there you feel especially close to God?*

2-4 - And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

*The disciples who had been fishermen knew what it was like to experience the rush of a violent wind.*

*When has the Holy Spirit been for you like a dove? (Luke 3: 21-22)*

*When has the Holy Spirit been for you like fire? (1 Peter 1: 7)*

*When has the Holy Spirit been for you like the rush of a violent wind?*

5-8 - Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?”

*I believe that tongues were not the same in Acts as in 1 Corinthians.*

*In 1 Corinthians speaking in tongues is an act of worship. The tongues are unknown languages. 1 Corinthians 14: 27-28 – If anyone speaks in a tongue let there be only two or at the most three and each in turn; and let one interpret. But if there is no one to interpret let them be silent in church and speak to themselves and to God.*

*In Acts speaking in tongues is for the purpose of outreach. The tongues are known languages. Hearing the Gospel in my own native language tells me that it is also for me.*

*Acts 11: 17 – Peter to the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem re the Gentiles in Cornelius’ house – If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?*

*“When I hear the Gospel in English, it speaks to my head. When I hear it in my native language, it speaks to my heart.”*

*Classmate at Fuller Seminary who led in prayer in Japanese.*

*Words of the angels to the shepherds sung in Urdu.*

9 - Parthians, Medes, Elamites. . . . - a lector’s worst nightmare

12-13 - All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

*Have you ever known people to sneer at and dismiss the wonderful works of God?*

14 - But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them.

*One of the strongest evidences for the reliability of the Biblical account of the resurrection of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit is the tremendous change that took place in Peter from the night of his denying Jesus to the Day of Pentecost, when he is boldly proclaiming Jesus.*

14-15 - Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel.

*It would not be good to be drunk already at nine o'clock in the morning.*

17-18 - In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

*What visions do you see? What dreams do you dream?*

*Many older people, when I have been teaching this passage and have asked them, "What is your vision? What is your dream? What are your goals?" they have responded by saying, "I do not have any goals."*

### **Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b – the Spirit as the source of life**

24 - How manifold are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

25 - Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number, living things both small and great.

26 - There go the ships to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

27 - All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.

28 - You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

29 - When you hide your face, they are terrified;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

30 - You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.

### **What are some of the other things that the Holy Spirit does?**

Lead us – Romans 8: 14 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Enable us to call God Father – Romans 8: 15-16 - When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Advocate for us and teach us - John 14: 26 - The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.