

Fifty days after the Resurrection, on the exciting Jewish feast of Pentecost, while the disciples and many other followers of Jesus Christ were gathered together to pray, the Holy Spirit descended upon them in the form of “cloven tongues of fire,” with the sound of a mighty rushing wind, and they began to speak in languages that they did not know.

There were many visitors from the Jewish diaspora to Jerusalem at that time for the Jewish observance of the feast, and they were astonished to hear these untaught fishermen speaking praises to God in their alien tongues. This account is detailed in the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2. The number fifty, as in the fiftieth day after Pascha, stands for eternal and heavenly fulfillment, seven times seven, plus one.

The Orthodox Church sees Pentecost as the final fulfillment of the mission of Jesus Christ and the first beginning of the messianic age of the Kingdom of God, mystically present in his Church.

Besides celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit, the feast also celebrates the full revelation of the divine Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Hymns of the Church, celebrate the sign of the final act of God's self-disclosure to the world of His creation.

To Orthodox Christians, the feast of Pentecost is not just a celebration of an event in history. It is also a celebration their membership in the Church. They have lived Pentecost and received “the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit” in the sacrament of Chrismation.

(from orthodoxwiki.org)



The Great Feast of Pentecost

All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC
(www.allsaintsnc.org)
919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest
The Rev. Philip Pelikan, Priest
The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

May 23, 2010

This Week's Schedule

Today: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy;
5:30p Kneeling Vespers
Monday: Church Office Closed
Wednesday: 9:15a Third Hour Prayer; 6:30p Daily Vespers
Saturday: 5:30p Great Vespers
Sunday: (All Saints Feast Day) 9:00a Orthros; 10:00a Divine Liturgy; All Saints Annual BBQ and Open House

First Antiphon

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Second Antiphon

Refrain: Save us, O Good Comforter, who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Third Antiphon

O Lord, in Thy strength the king shall be glad, and in Thy salvation shall he rejoice exceedingly. The desire of his heart hast Thou granted unto him, and hast not denied him the request of his lips. Thou wentest before him with blessings of goodness, Thou hast set upon his head a crown of precious stones. He asked life of Thee, and Thou gavest him length of days unto ages of ages.

Troparion of Pentecost (Tone 8): Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast revealed the fishermen as

most wise, having sent upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them Thou hast fished the universe, O Lover of mankind, glory to Thee.

Little Entrance

† *Entrance Hymn:* "Be Thou exalted, O Lord, in Thy strength; we shall praise and sing of Thy mighty acts. Save us, O Good Comforter, who sing to Thee. Alleluia."

† *Troparion of Pentecost (Tone 8):* See above.

† *Troparion for Ascension (Tone 4):* (see above)

† *Kontakion of Pentecost (Tone 8):* When the High One descended, confusing tongues, He divided the nations. And when He distributed the fiery tongues He called all to one unity. Wherefore, in unison we glorify the most Holy Spirit.

The Anti-Trisagion

"As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia."

Scripture

for today and next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

Epistle: Heb. 11:33—12:2
Gospel: Matt. 10:32–33, 37–38;
19:27–30

Alegalyrnarion

for the Feast (Tone 7)

O Mother that hath known no man, thou didst conceive, not experiencing corruption, lending a body to the Word, the Creator of all, becoming a receptacle to thine insupportable Creator, a dwelling place to thine incomprehensible Maker. Wherefore, O virgin Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

Communion Hymn

Tone 8

Thy good Spirit shall lead me into the land of uprightness. Alleluia.

Post-Communion Hymn

Troparion of Pentecost (see above).

Parish Notes

Altar Servers Today

Ethan Haynes, Rim Gibrealfa, John Pridgen, Jonah Sieck, Michael Fogg, Justin Fogg, Aidan Labrozzi.

Special Attention

- Building Project Update—Placing of the central dome:** We are planning to place the central dome onto the new temple in the near future. The dome over the bell tower was placed this past week and the

central dome will be positioned this week if weather permits.

- Ladies, Save These Dates:** We will have our annual summer Brunch and Bible Study sessions on these dates: June 12, July 10, August 14. We'll meet from 9-11:30 am on those dates. More details will be coming soon. *Kh. Barbara*
- All Saints Sunday:** This year All Saints Sunday will fall on May 30th. We are planning a very special day: of course, we will enjoy our annual, feast day, North Carolina, barbeque and in addition our first open house for the new building. Adults, teens, and **parent-supervised** children under 10 will have the chance to walk through the education and temple areas and view the progress so far. Please put this date on your calendar and make this a priority to celebrate with us.
- Calling All Graduates.** We need to know the names of all in our parish who are graduating from either high school or college so that we can honor them on All Saints Sunday, May 30. Please contact Khr. Barbara (772-9819 or bjsor@juno.com) if you know of one of our students who is graduating.
- General and Building Funds Opportunity.** Those who have not yet made a pledge to worshipfully and regularly contribute to our general fund and to our building fund will have the opportunity to do so this coming Sunday. If you have not made a pledge to date please prayerfully consider this. We ask that you keep your general fund giving at the same or greater level as in the past and in addition make a pledge to the building fund. To make this a successful building project we need all of our members to participate.

Today's Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenon:

Their voice has gone out into all the earth.

The heavens declare the glory of God.

†Epistle: Acts 2:1–11 (RSV)

When the day of Pentecost had come, the Disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

†Gospel: John 7:37–52; 8:12 (RSV)

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this

He said about the Spirit, which those who believed in Him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, many of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over Him. Some of them wanted to arrest Him, but no one laid hands on Him. The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd, who do not know the Law, are accursed." Nicodemus, who had gone to Him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our Law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

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A Word from Our Fathers

“The Holy Spirit comes when we are receptive. He does not compel. He approaches so meekly that we may not even notice. If we would know the Holy Spirit, we need to examine ourselves in the light of the Gospel teaching, to detect any other presence which may prevent the Holy Spirit from entering into our souls.

We must not wait for God to force Himself on us without our consent. God respects and does not constrain man. It is amazing how God humbles Himself before us. He loves us with a tender love, not haughtily, not with condescension. And when we open our hearts to Him we are overwhelmed by the conviction that He is indeed our Father. The soul then worships in love.”

(Archimandrite Sophrony; from *His Life is Mine*)

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