

June 7, 2009

**Pentecost** (also called **Trinity Day** or **Descent of the Holy Spirit**) is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated fifty days after Pascha (thus always falling on a Sunday).

Fifty days after the Resurrection, on the 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.

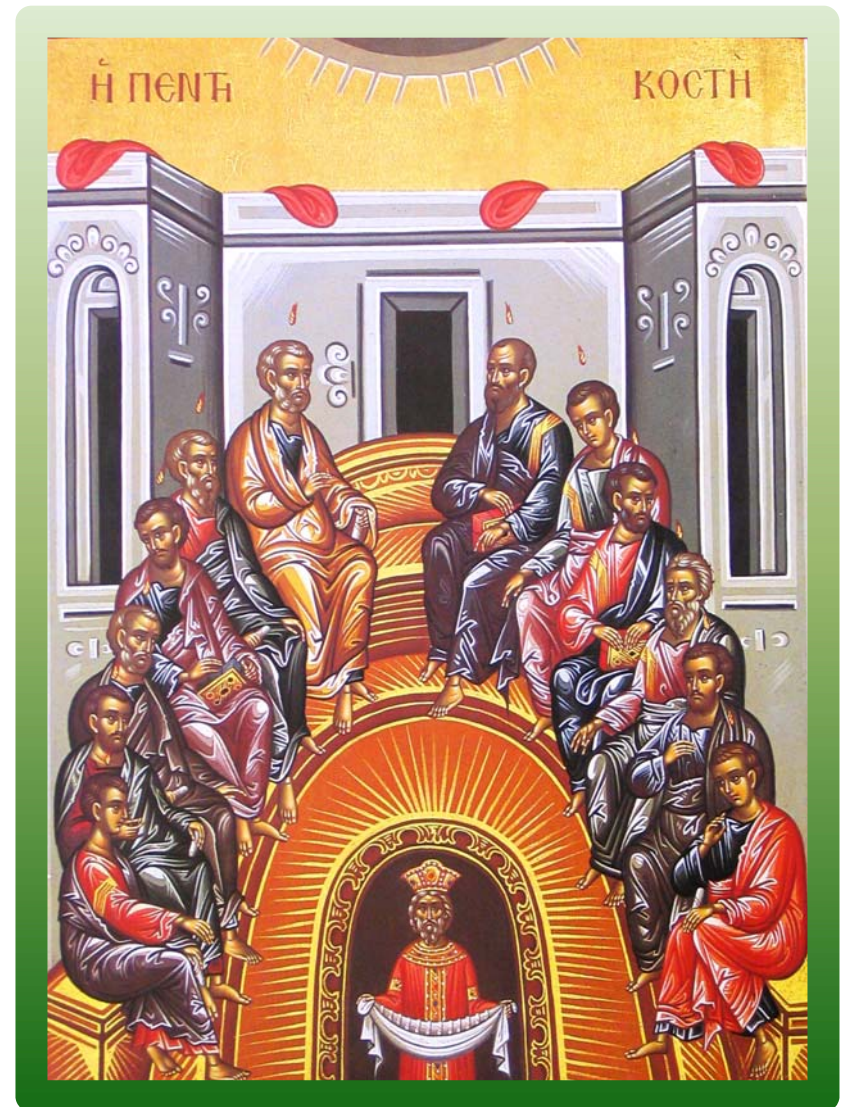
The Orthodox Church sees Pentecost as the final fulfillment of the mission of Jesus Christ and the first beginning of the messianic age of the Kingdom of God, mystically present in his Church. It is traditionally called the beginning of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

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.

For the feast of Pentecost the icon of the Holy Trinity, the three angelic figures who appeared to Abraham, is placed in the center of the church for veneration. This icon is used with the traditional Pentecost icon. The church building is decorated with flowers and the green leaves of the summer to show that God's divine breath comes to renew all creation. Green vestments and coverings are also used.

([orthodoxwiki.org](http://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

June 7, 2009

## This Week's Schedule

**Today:** 9:00a Orthros; 10:00a Divine Liturgy; 5:30p Kneeling Vespers  
(Pentecost Sunday)  
**Monday:** Church Office Closed  
**Tuesday:** 7:00p Parish Council  
**Wed.–Sat:** Church Office Closed–No Services–Parish Live Conference,  
Jackson, MS  
**Sunday:** 9:00a Orthros; 10:00a Divine Liturgy; 12:00 noon Feast Day Bar-  
B-Q (All Saints' Sunday)

## Third Antiphon

Tone 8

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:* 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.

## 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

for Pentecost—Tone 8

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

## Agalynarion

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

Matthew Wynne, Del Dillard, Noah Keim, Micah Keim, Johannes Kibret, Nicholas Kliewer, Roger Jones.

### Special Attention

- **Women's Summer Bible Study. Attention all Ladies** - We will have a Bible Study and Brunch on Saturday, June 20, 9-11 am, in the Parish Hall. Please bring your Bible and a dish to share. We'll take some time for fellowship, as well. Please let Kh. Barbara know if you plan to attend.
- **Parish Life Conference.** Fr. Nicholas and Deacon David and others from our parish will be attending the PLC in Jackson, MS from June 10 through the 13<sup>th</sup>. Please pray that the convention will be successful and that those traveling to and from Jackson will be safe.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Hour Prayers and Daily Vespers on June 10, and Great Vespers on June 13<sup>th</sup> Are Cancelled Due to the Parish Life Conference**
- **Our Parish Feast Day, All Saints, Will Be Celebrated on June 14<sup>th</sup>.**

Please plan now to attend both the Divine Liturgy that day and the free All Saints Bar-B-Q that follows. All our members and friends of All Saints are invited. Let's celebrate our 17<sup>th</sup> year birthday.



## Epistle and Gospel Readings

### **Prokeimenion:**

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

“Just as birds fear the sight of a hawk,  
those who practice humility fear the sound  
of an argument.”

“A humble man will always hate his own  
will as a cause of error. In his petitions to the  
Lord which he makes with unwavering faith,  
he learns what he should do and obeys. He  
does not spend his time scrutinizing the  
lifestyle of his superiors.

He lays all his burden on the God Who used  
an ass to teach Balaam what had to be done.

All the acts, thoughts, and words of such a  
man are directed to the will of God and  
he never trusts himself.

Indeed, to a humble man, self-confidence is  
as much a thorn and a burden as the orders  
of someone else are to a proud man.”

“If pride turned some of the angels into  
demons, then humility can doubtless make  
angels out of demons.

So take heart, all you sinners.”

*(St. John Climacus)*

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