

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Send forth your Spirit & renew the face of the earth. (v30)

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 7:37-39

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things & rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son & our Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Acts 2:1-21

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place.... ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit & began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered & was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed & 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? ...in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed & perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered & said, "They are filled with new wine." ¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice & addressed them, "Men of Judea & all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, & listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, & your sons & your daughters shall prophesy, & your young men shall see visions, & your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men & women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; & they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above & signs on the earth below, blood, & fire, & smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness & the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great & glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Review the Apostles' Creed in the Small & Large Catechisms to understand who the Holy Spirit is & what he does. Do you notice anything unreasonable or unintelligible about him or his work? Is he pure emotion or energy? See *John 15:26-27, 16:12-15*; SC, LC available bookofconcord.org
2. Some scholars think that "they" in v1 refers to the 120 disciples in 1:15. How does that interpretation fit with *John 20:19-25* (also *John 13:1-16*)?

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. In Holy Baptism, the Holy Spirit is poured out on each Christian (*Isaiah 11:2 & footnote; Acts 2:38*); how do you see the Spirit at work in your everyday life? How are you filled with new wine? See *Matthew 9:17; John 2:1-11; Ephesians 5:18-19*
4. The gift of tongues is for proclaiming the gospel (vv8, 11), not anything else- & in known, intelligible, languages (not "spiritual Chinese"; cf. Agnes Ozman, Charles Fox Parham, *et al.*). Who in your everyday life needs to hear about God's forgiveness, new life, & salvation in Jesus, in plain English? Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you the opportunity, the boldness, & the words.

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Pr. Ed Peterman is fond of saying, "God's church doesn't have a mission; God's mission has a church!" (cf. *Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 2:10*). How is your congregation Spirit-filled & making new adult disciples of Jesus?
6. Following up from #1, how can you help others learn & experience that the Holy Spirit is a person of the Holy Trinity, with the Father & the Son, & that he is not the Force from *Star Wars*, or the emotions felt at a concert or with a motivational speaker?

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Festival of Pentecost
Series: Forged by the Spirit

05.28.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Empowered for Mission

*Let us repent of our sin, give thanks for the Holy Spirit,
& boldly proclaim the Good News!*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: In our own languages we hear them speaking
about God's deeds of power. (v11)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
& kindle in us the fire of your love. *(from an ancient hymn)*

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