

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; 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 20:19-23

## 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- 2:1-21

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place.... <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit & began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. <sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered & was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed & astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>12</sup>All were amazed & perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others sneered & said, "They are filled with new wine." <sup>14</sup>But 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. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men & women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; & they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above & signs on the earth below, blood, & fire, & smoky mist. <sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness & the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great & glorious day. <sup>21</sup>Then 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. Bible prophecy is often better understood as descriptive rather than predictive. That is, it shows us the kind of things to look for rather than giving us a forecast & a timeline. How does St. Peter's quote from *Joel 2:28-32* illustrate, rather than calculate, the first Christian Pentecost event? *See Numbers 11:29*
2. How is the Tower of Babel (*Genesis 11:1-9*) a descriptive, "inverted" model/*anti-type* for Pentecost?

**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. Notice that the gospel is a *spoken* event, not "acting right," hoping someone will notice. How do you *speak* the gospel to those around you in everyday life? Who needs to *hear* the gospel *from you*?

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

5. The gift of tongues in *Acts 2* is spontaneous preaching & hearing in the known human languages of those present, **not** "spiritual Chinese" (Agnes Ozman, Charles Fox Parham, et al.) or other unintelligible utterances; how can you & your congregation ensure that your neighbors are able to hear the gospel in their own languages (v8; *figurative & literal*) (& not get caught up in gobbledy-gook with jive turkeys)?
6. Relaunching from *Corona Virus* **Keep it your goal to reach out to one other person in the congregation (not in your home/family) each day during these restrictions- it's a long way back to how we lived before.** As your congregation returns to 50+ in-person worship who can you invite to come with you? Who may need a ride or a *little* extra company? How can your congregation's new online resources help break the ice?

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Festival of Pentecost

05.31.20

Series: Easter II the Sequel

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Episode III-Pentecost

*The promise fulfilled, the great & glorious day, the salvation longed for.*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: ...In our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed & perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" (vv11-12)

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-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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