

The Great Feast of Pentecost

John 7:37-52, 8:12

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? So there was a division among the people because of Him. And some of them would have taken Him; but no man laid hands on Him. Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought Him? The officers answered, Never man spake like this Man. Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived? Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on Him? But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed. Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,) Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth? They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet. Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (KJV)

Today is the Great Feast of Pentecost. We join with believers through the centuries and drink from the Lord Jesus Christ. May our hearts, minds and souls be filled with the Holy Spirit.

May the Lord God dominate our lives and be our constant companion and goal. Let us always seek the Lord to be united with Him. God's Holy Church provides the necessary nourishment for us to continue in faith and hope.

Through the centuries from the time of the Holy Apostles, the Church has been faithful in nourishing and enlightening believers. Today's Gospel verifies Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

Believers need never walk in darkness. Jesus Christ offers life-sustaining and life-renewing nourishment. The nourishment for the heart, mind and soul is provided in God's Holy Church.

The Holy Spirit is alive in God's Holy Church. The Holy Spirit is within reach of each fervent believer. Faithful believers appeal to the Holy Spirit in constant prayer and in the Divine services.

Believers are never disappointed when coming to God in faith. God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, is ever-present. Believers are never alone. The loving and caring presence of God is readily evident.

Today the Church celebrates with all believers living and departed this life. God's loving presence is verified and fills believers with great joy. Attentive believers are mindful of the descent of the Holy Spirit.

The joy of Pascha, the joy of the Feast of the Ascension and the joy of Pentecost originate in the Lord God. Gratitude to God accompanies the great joy of today's Feast

Receptive hearts overflow with immeasurable joy. Attentive minds are filled with thoughts of the greatness, love and glory of God. God's limitless mercy and forgiveness abound today and every day.

All things work together for them that love God. (Rom.8:28) Today believers assemble around the world to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. In different countries, the unity in Jesus Christ brings believers together.

Differences in ethnicity and nationality are transcended as the Descent of the Holy Spirit is celebrated. Believers gather today in faith around the globe in remote villages and in metropolitan areas to hear the Gospel.

The troparion of Pentecost is sung heartily in different languages with a unity in spirit among all sharing the same faith in God. The Church traces and celebrates her roots back to the time of the Holy Apostles.

Time is transcended today as believers unite through the centuries in spirit and in faith. God is timeless. God's Church unites believers through the ages. Souls of the living and departed are linked together in the Divine Liturgy.

The Feast of Pentecost proclaims and declares the glory and transcendence of God. The Feast of the Transfiguration revealed the Divine uncreated Light of Christ. The Feast of Pentecost reaffirms this Light of Christ.

The Feast of Pentecost lifts believers' hearts, minds and souls to the heavenly heights. Believers filled with the Holy Spirit are emboldened to follow Christ to the end of the age and the glorious Second Coming.

God's Holy Church charts the path and provides the road to the Heavenly Kingdom. Faithful believers remain on the path to the Kingdom. With God's help, sin is avoided and new beginnings in Christ are always possible.

Believers always have the opportunity to begin anew. Drinking from the Lord Jesus Christ is always possible. Following the Light of Christ in times of darkness is always possible. Thirst and darkness in the soul need never prevail.

Thank God today for the Church. Have appreciation in the heart, mind and soul for the martyrs and saints through the centuries. Be grateful to the founders and benefactors of parish churches and monasteries through the ages.

Today is a time of renewal. The Holy Spirit renews the heart, mind and soul of believers everywhere. With continuous joy, let us celebrate this Great Feast of Pentecost.

Great Feast of Pentecost. June 7/20, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic