

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)

God's Holy Church gives us the great feast of Pentecost each year to experience and celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit. The well-known prayer says the Holy Spirit is everywhere and fills all things.

Baptized Christians are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. We know from Holy Scripture the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor.16:19) Each time a believer uses the sign of the Cross, belief in the Holy Spirit is confessed.

God's Holy Church has completed the celebration of Pascha, the Lord's Resurrection. The Church has celebrated Jesus' Ascension into heaven. Today, the Descent of the Holy Spirit is the great focus of attention.

Belief in the Holy Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is expressed in the Creed at Baptism and at each Divine Liturgy. Life as a Christian is lived inseparably with and because of the Holy Trinity.

Believers pray to Holy Spirit for strength and wisdom. Individuals with faith turn to the Holy Spirit to be purified. The days of the Christian life are enriched and shaped with the Holy Spirit.

A sense of completion takes place in the Church with the celebration of Pentecost. The descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles had a profound affect. The Holy Apostles were transformed, strengthened and motivated.

Pentecost has a transforming affect on parish life. Believers celebrating the Feast of Pentecost today are renewed, strengthened and motivated. Barriers to the life in Christ are overcome through the renewal taking place on this feast.

The Lord Jesus Christ spoke about the Holy Spirit in the current Gospel. The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed references the Holy Spirit speaking through the Prophets.

The believer's world-view and worldly actions rest in the Holy Trinity and are formed by belief in the Holy Trinity. Believers living fully in faith have lives unfolding as intended by the Lord God.

Holy Apostle Paul put life in perspective to the Corinthians. Paul said: "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." (2 Cor.3:18)

Remaining united with the Lord throughout life is a challenge. When the believer is baptized, faithfulness to the Lord is confessed and expected. Constant repentance is necessary to remain true to the Baptismal commitment.

God's Holy Church offers the nourishment and teachings for believers to remain faithful and to grow throughout life. The responsibility rests with each believer to fully utilize the Church's nourishment and teachings.

Major feasts of the year such as Pentecost strengthen, inspire and direct the believer. Attentive believers heed the Gospel teachings and the full content of the Divine services.

The life in Christ is intended from the moment of baptism until departure from this life. Joy thrives in the heart, mind and soul of the believer remaining true. God is ever-present to lead, guard and protect the believer in life's journey.

The Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life are the goal of each believer. The believer does not journey alone. Jesus said: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (Jn.10:10)

Each day and throughout the year, the Church offers guidance and nourishment for the believer seeking to follow the path to the Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life.

The parish priest is ever-present to provide guidance for believers in life's journey. In addition to the Church's Divine services, believers have the benefit of the Holy Scriptures to learn from.

The Lord Jesus Christ said in the present Gospel, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." (Jn. 7:37) Take time to drink from the Lord Jesus Christ throughout each day.

Always be mindful of the Holy Spirit and pray to the Holy Spirit with great faith. Live well in God's Holy Church and realize the boundless love of the Lord for each and every person.

The Great Feast of Pentecost May 30/June 12, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.
Father Rodney Torbic