

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)

Believers are blessed today and every day to experience the Lord Jesus Christ. Experiencing the Lord Jesus Christ is necessary for sanity, peace and truth in this earthly life.

God's Holy Church is where best to experience and learn about the Lord Jesus Christ. The Church proclaims and offers the experience with Christ until the glorious Second Coming

The present Gospel includes Jesus' invitation for believers to come to Him and to drink. Jesus' words are proclaimed as they are known and preserved in the Church.

In the Church believers learn about Jesus Christ as He has been known down through the centuries by the saints and martyrs. The saints and martyrs have lived in Christ and witnessed to Him in their lives.

The saints and martyrs are proof of the value of living in Christ, drinking from Christ and bearing witness to Him. Believers benefit greatly from looking to the saints and martyrs and learning about Jesus Christ from them.

Jesus describes Himself as the light of the world and as the antidote of darkness. Jesus said His followers shall have the light of life. Jesus' message of light is welcomed in today's world so often filled with news darkening to life.

Today's world is plagued with increased violence and the absence of truth. Greed and debauchery are very actively present. The Lord God is needed for believers to live a life of sanity and peace.

On this Great Feast of Pentecost, the Descent of the Holy Spirit is at the forefront of believers' thoughts. Belief in the Holy Spirit is first expressed at Baptism and is reaffirmed at each Divine Liturgy.

The Holy Prophets of old were filled with the Holy Spirit spoke out about the decay and decadence of the times in which they lived. The Holy Prophets have words of wisdom to address the decay and decadence in today's world.

God's Holy Church is where to learn to put present life into perspective. The Church teaches the way of Christ as the path to the Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life.

The Church teaches the love of Christ as the foundation and essence of human relationships. Greed and violence have no part in the Christian life. Prayer and fasting facilitate love and the sharing of earthly treasures.

Wisdom has been garnered in God's Holy Church down through the centuries. The Holy Spirit has filled and guided the Church through the centuries. God's love permeates the Church around the world and through the centuries.

Pentecost is a Great Feast in the Church and fills the heart, mind and soul with the Holy Spirit. The Church celebrates Pentecost with a certain fulness unique in the Church's ecclesiastical year.

The vibrancy of life is accentuated on Pentecost. Believers actively participating in the Divine services on the Great Fast of Pentecost rejoice and are transformed by the Holy Spirit.

The hunger in the soul is nourished and satisfied by participating the Great Feast of Pentecost and each of the feasts of God's Holy Church. Humans benefit by living and dwelling in unity in God's Holy Church.

God blesses and nourishes believers throughout life from conception until departure from this life. The Lord God is the Creator and Giver of Life. Pentecost is not only a celebration of life but also an expression of gratitude for life.

God's Holy Church is where to give continuous thanks for life and for being able to live and grow in Christ. Jesus offers unending growth for those choosing to come to Him for nourishment and to drink from Him.

Jesus offers nourishment and light for the soul in the present world. Believers need not suffer in hunger and darkness in the soul when Christ is ever-present to transform life into brightness and joy.

Peace and joy are always possible in Christ. Embracing and following Christ ensures peace and joy regardless of life's circumstances. On this Great Feast of Pentecost rejoice and give abundant thanks to the living and loving Triune God.

The Great Feast of Pentecost. May 22/June 4, 2023.

Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

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