

## 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)

We gather this day in God's Holy Church to celebrate the Great Feast of Pentecost. This is the time to be particularly mindful of the Descent of the Holy Spirit and the empowering of the Holy Apostles.

Today is a day to be grateful for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. At Baptism we confess our belief in the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We confess our belief in the Trinity each time we recite The Creed.

Each time we make the Sign of the Cross in daily life, we pray to the Holy Trinity. Our love for God is manifested in the Sign of the Cross. Our love for God is nurtured and nourished in God's Holy Church.

We are blessed to have chapels, churches and cathedrals dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Our hunger for God is addressed when we worship in the Church. Our lives are guided by the work of the Holy Spirit.

As believers we are indebted to the Lord God and have the responsibility to be ever grateful for the blessings in our lives. The blessings we each experience exceed our ability to give thanks and are beyond our full comprehension.

The Lord Jesus Christ was reassuring in promising the coming of the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth. (Jn. 14:16-17, 15:26) Believers have unlimited opportunities throughout the day to pray to the Holy Spirit.

Each moment of life is an opportunity to be conscious of the presence of the Holy Spirit in daily life. Truth is identified with the Holy Spirit. (Jn.15:26) Truth is essential in living the Christian life and in seeking eternal life.

Praying to the Holy Spirit keeps the believer on the narrow path to the Kingdom of God. Living within God's Holy Church and being nourished by the Church ensures the believer does not journey alone.

The journey from Baptism to the end of earthly life can be very long and is always challenging. God's Church provides the healthy and secure way to journey along the narrow path to the Heavenly Kingdom.

God's Church offers the immeasurable joy of the life in Jesus Christ. Joy is experienced in the Holy Mysteries of the Church. Joy is present in the Divine services and feasts of the Church.

Even in suffering, believers can experience joy in the Living, Loving God. Jesus Christ suffered on the Cross out of love for believers. Saints and martyrs of the Church have suffered out of love for Jesus Christ.

Today is a day to celebrate in God's Holy Church. Today is a day to be fully conscious and appreciative of the Holy Trinity. God's love is manifested and experienced in the Divine Liturgy today.

God's love is expressed everyday to believers. Believers with eyes to see and ears to hear experience God's reassuring presence in daily life. The Holy Apostle Paul made clear the nearness of the Lord God.

Holy Apostle Paul said. "In Him we live and move and have our being." (Acts. 17:28) Believers find reassurance in Jesus' words in the Gospel of St. Matthew. The Lord Jesus Christ said "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. (Mt. 28:20\_

We experience God's love in the Church. God's love is communicated in the proclamation of the Holy Gospel. God's love is manifested in the Precious Body and Blood received in the Divine Liturgy,

God's love comes alive in the relationships formed and maintained in the Church. Believers reveal God's love in their homes and their communities. God's love is realized when believers practice forgiveness in daily life.

Believers repenting of their sins appreciate God's demonstrated love through confession and forgiveness. The Great Feast of Pentecost increases believers' awareness of God's love.

Thank God for this Great Feast of Pentecost. Thank God for the Church. Thank God for the freedom and joy to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. May today be filled with abundant joy and God's love in our hearts, minds and souls

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The Great Feast of Pentecost. June 10/23, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

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