

Dear saints of God, Jesus tells His disciples and us, right before His crucifixion, it's good for Him to go, because, when He leaves a great gift will follow, gift of the Holy Spirit, sent as He promised. The fulfillment of all the Old Testament feasts are found in the Christ, the very works of Jesus, and now ascended, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit who's been working throughout the OT.

We rejoice this day the Holy Spirit given to the Church, to you, to me. Pentecost, already 1 of the 3 great feast of the people of God in the OT. God had given it to them in Leviticus -a harvest festival, gathering of firstfruits, the Lord providing the harvest, a day of joy, sacrifice, a day of rest, feast in God's works. (still happening). Later it marked 50 days after Passover; Passover, when the Lamb sacrificed, whose blood marked them, saved them, and God's people eat the Lamb. They're delivered from bondage and death (sounds familiar, still happens even greater) but it took 50 days from Passover to Mt. Sinai, God gave them the gift of the 10 commandments, foremost His promises as our God. Commandments do condemn us in our sins, failures but they are words of love, like wedding vows. He is and will forever be your God and you are to be faithful, love God, others. Commands, rendered in the future tense, "You shall.." We have this weird Hollywood notion of weddings that you say "I do." No you don't, in the wedding rite of the Church you vow, will you keep them, will you love, honor, and so forth... and you say/said, "I will." No what you are feeling at this moment but what you vow to do, to be faithful. What happened at Sinai, still happening.

This Pentecost feast of harvest, of joy, of rest, the Christ being declared in languages of all the people present. Not just in Temple requirement of Hebrew, but all welcomed, that their native languages carry the word of God. And the Lord does not undue the curse of Babel as we might expect, not of one language again, but what divides us is now a blessing of languages to come together in one Lord.

We see this in Rev. 7, St. John sees people of all nations, tribes, languages before the throne -we sang 'This is the Feast' with them moments ago, that in heaven, in perfection; the distinctions of us, of you on earth is still there, gathered together; retaining your uniqueness, languages, tribes in 1 voice to God.

Peter speaks of the fulfillment of Joel, describes the crucifix -blood, baptism of fire (Jesus speaks of), the apocalyptic event of darkness, the great magnificent day, and now, the last days the Spirit outpoured because Christ fulfilled all things.

We pray the Spirit, as in the Collect today, to give us right judgment in all things. We pray this day that God continually give us the Holy Spirit. Not that we speak in foreign languages. And not even that we would save the lost. Jesus says the Spirit will convict sin and righteousness. That is doctrine. Doctrine always matters, especially in evangelism, sharing the gospel to others. Right teaching. Pentecost is about bringing the truth of God's Word, Jesus into each language in the harvest feast, of rest, of vows of faithfulness.

The Holy Spirit loves you. I don't know if I have told you that, so true. His work all directed for your salvation, your eternal life, to work in you every moment.

I recall a couple of times, a visitor told me after, the service, it was is nice, you all seems nice, but they didn't "feel" the Holy Spirt here. Other times I'm sure you've heard someone talk about "feeling" the Holy Spirit. It's good to respond with Scripture to such a statement: no one, not one person, in all Scriptures ever "feels" the Holy Spirit. Jesus says, the Holy Spirit, **will teach you, bring to remember all I have spoken**, and in the Gospel today says, **bear witness, convict, guide you in truth, He declares to you, declares to you, He will take what I speak and declare it to you.** As St. Peter, **He speaks through the Prophets, apostles.** John declares in His epistle **the Holy Spirit only testifies to Jesus.** Words, teaching, means of God's Word, Sacraments, how the Holy Spirit works in you, giving you faith, giving you life in creational waters. Our God has always shown Himself to be a God of means, not enthusiasm.

The Holy Spirit has a number of attributes, translated- comforter, advocate, counselor, helper. The Greek word Paraclete, Jesus uses- means literally "to call forth, to walk alongside" That's working in you, with you. He makes you holy.

First, He makes you holy in giving you the works of Jesus. He presses it into our ears, into our hearts, poured on your head, put in your mouth. Faith to believe, not of your own. By that faith, you're counted righteous, perfect in the sight of God, clean, forgiven, it's done, complete, finished. You will stand before God and there is no sin, nothing to judge, nothing to condemn those who are in Christ. You belong to God.

Second, makes you holy, by His strength for good works. Sanctification. Incredible gift. The Holy Spirit works in you that you might manage to do a good work every now and again. The Holy Spirit inside you -fighting against your flesh. We live wanting to do all of the wrong stuff. Desiring stuff that harms our souls, that hurts those we're called to love, desiring stuff that hurts our neighbor, wanting stuff selfishly, not to be inconvenienced by giving of time and money and effort. We'd rather have an easy life than suffer for doing good. And you certainly aren't good by anything you do. And the Holy Spirit baptismally renews you each day, gives you the strength to begin anew,

It's always beginning, won't be finished until you breath your last. We're just beginning to love God; just beginning to love neighbor; just beginning to fight against our flesh; just beginning to do something good and helpful in His Kingdom. Sinful struggles and you fight, until your last breath, but at the same time, you are Holy. God be praised for this feast of Pentecost, for the gift, work of God the Holy Spirit, right now working upon your ears, your heart, everyday working in you in your baptism and at this altar. Declares to you the Christ and works the good work begun in your to eternal life.