



## Lectionary Bible Study Our Savior Lutheran Church

### The Festival of Pentecost Readings

Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, John 20:19-23

Join Pastor Mark for a Live Zoom Study each Wednesday, 10am:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86887930554?pwd=M0graUNzNFR5azYwUnNkdFZ5RmQ5UT09>

Meeting ID: 868 8793 0554

Password: 654321

Or dial in for audio only: 1-301-715-8592

#### Acts 2:1-21 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ ”

After Jesus rose from the dead, but before he ascended to heaven, Jesus instructed the disciples to remain in Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5). Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to empower the disciples to be witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

During this time, Jews from all the known world gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost, an agricultural festival commemorating the first fruits of the harvest. Although they came from many lands and spoke in a variety of languages, these devout Jews were united in their heritage. On the actual day of Pentecost, the disciples were all together in Jerusalem, waiting as Jesus instructed.

1. *Imagine the conversations among the disciples as they waited for the Holy Spirit.*

Suddenly, a loud sound interrupted their waiting as a violent wind filled their house. Then tongues of fire passed through the room, touching each of them. Each was filled with God's Spirit and began to speak in other languages. No doubt these disciples were speaking in languages they had never personally studied nor perhaps even heard. This was not a human event, but it was God's mighty Spirit at work, transforming scared disciples into power-filled witnesses.

2. *Describe that scene in your own words.*

3. *Imagine yourself as one of the disciples on Pentecost. Describe your feelings.*

The noise was so loud that it attracted a crowd. Everyone was amazed, perplexed, and confused. How could these Galileans have the capacity to speak in languages from far-away places – languages not studied by the Galileans? In addition, the disciples were not just babbling in other languages or talking about the weather. They were giving clear testimony to God's mighty acts.

4. *What would it have been like to be part of the crowd?*

5. *How did the crowd try to explain the actions of the disciples?*

Peter was inspired to speak to the crowd. This was the same man who cowardly denied Jesus three times in the courtyard; but once filled with the Holy Spirit, he gave a courageous witness to God and God's activity in Jesus Christ.

God was fulfilling the prophecy of the Old Testament through these disciples. God's Spirit had come and transformed them. Sons and daughters, slaves and free, women and men were to be involved in God's mission, turning the world upside down. The young would see visions and the old would dream dreams.

6. *How did the prophecy from Joel become reality on that Pentecost?*

7. *What did it mean for the Holy Spirit to be poured out?*