

Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit

Objective: Students will be able to recognize that the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Church fulfills Jesus' promise to be with us always.

For the Catechist

The Grade 4 book, *God's Promise Is Fulfilled*, emphasizes our need to trust God and His Word. In the last lesson the children learned how God kept His promise to send a Savior by sending Jesus Christ. In this lesson they learn how Jesus keeps His promise to be with us always by sending His Holy Spirit.

Children at this age know how nervous and excited they feel as they wait for important events in their lives. This understanding helps them relate to the nervousness, doubt, and anticipation that the apostles felt as they waited for the promise of Jesus to be fulfilled. Just as the apostles were surprised by the gift of the Holy Spirit, sometimes our promises are fulfilled in ways that we cannot even imagine.

The story of Pentecost includes details that are hard to describe and understand except by faith. The children will marvel at the extraordinary aspect of the appearance of the tongues of fire and the way the apostles started speaking in foreign languages. You need to help them move beyond the fascination to the realization of the greater meaning of this event. The Feast of Pentecost helps us remember that God is with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit. The extraordinary aspects of the story show us the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost recalls how the power of the Holy Spirit gave the apostles the courage and strength to travel to all nations to teach about Jesus Christ. Jesus' early followers filled with the Holy Spirit formed the Church. For this reason, Pentecost is called the birthday of the Church. We, as members of the Church and followers of Jesus, form the Body of Christ and live according to the way of Jesus. The Holy Spirit gives strength to the Body of Christ, the Church. Help the children realize the Church is a lived experience of people who are filled with the Holy Spirit and who believe Jesus is with us.

Lesson Plan Overview

Opening: Heavenly King

Introduction: Discussion of promises that are made in our lifetime **Need:** one picture of a family celebration (examples: wedding or baptism or ordination)

Read Text Aloud: Have the students volunteer to read the text aloud or have the students read sections silently.

Activity Tracks:

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity (detailed on the pages that follow) to reinforce the lesson.

- *Basic:* The Early Church and Today's Church
- *Group:* "The Holy Spirit" Surprise
- *Craft:* "Psalms and Church Songs" Booklet Cover (Part 2)

Closing: "We have seen the true light. . ."

Icon Packets:

Come Bless the Lord:

Pentecost

Packet II:

Great Commissioning

Teaching Pics

Holy Baptism SI-S8

Holy Communion S-11

Background Reading

(Direct quotations from the sources noted)

The Spirit—God With Us Today

"This awareness of God's loving presence which the Jews developed, as well as our grasp of Christ as truly the Son of God in our midst, could only come from one source. It is God Himself, through His Holy Spirit, who makes us aware of His saving presence and enables us to see it for what it is. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit we could explain away, as many do, all God's actions as coincidence, delusion or mass hysteria. And so the key to our understanding of God-with-us is the One we call the Spirit of truth—He who enables us to understand revelation as God truly showing us that He is with us.

"Christ's presence among us as a man was limited to a certain age in a particular place. Before the end of His earthly stay, however, He promised that another would come—God's presence would continue in the Spirit:

*I will ask the Father and He will give you another
Paraclete - to be with you always, the Spirit of
truth....'*
John 14:16-17

"This promise was fulfilled at Pentecost when the Spirit came upon the Church and took up His dwelling in it.

"As the coming of Christ is the high point of divine revelation, the coming of the Spirit is its climax. Through the Church the Spirit is present in all places, in all ages until the end of time. God's presence is no longer limited to one nation, but all are invited to share in His life-giving love. And so Pentecost, the celebration of the Spirit among us is the climax of the church year, the proclamation that He is 'present in all places and filling all things.' Through Him 'we have seen the true light... we have found the true faith, worshiping the undivided Trinity.' These hymns from the service of Pentecost are woven into our daily prayer all year long, reminding us that the abiding presence of the Spirit in the Church is God still with us, forever" (*WEF 17*).

The Church

"This unique experience signalling the coming of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Christ marks the beginning of the Church as we know it. The Church is much more than a society of people with the same beliefs or principles. We are a living organism, in Christ—not because we walk with Him in the flesh or even because we follow His way—but because His Spirit lives in us. The same Spirit which was shown to be in Christ at His baptism is now in the Church, creating it and giving it the divine life. Thus the Church, with the Holy Spirit as its 'soul,' becomes as it were the continuation of the incarnation of God in the world" (*WEF 47*).

The Church, a New Creation

"In the resurrection of Christ, God raises humanity from the dead; in the Ascension, He glorifies it; and in the Descent of the Holy Spirit He makes humanity godlike. The new Adam—Christ, raises the Old Adam—fallen humankind. At Pentecost, a new creation—the Church, arises from the womb of the old" (*UCD 17-18*).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

Let's stand and pray, "Heavenly King." [After the prayer have the students pick up their hearts that they placed on the icon table last week. Invite them to read their promise to Jesus aloud.] *Let's be silent for a short time while we thank Jesus for helping us keep our promise, and let's ask Jesus to help us keep our promise always.* [Remain silent for a few seconds. If you need the hearts for name tags this week, ask the students to place them on their desks with their names on the front. At the end of class, place them on the icon table again. After you have learned all the names, keep the hearts on the icon table.]

Introduction

Today I brought in some pictures I'd like to share with you. [Either use your own pictures of a wedding or christening or use some from Teaching Pics under the "Sacraments" section.] *What do two people who are getting married promise to each other? (To love each other and God always) What do the godparents of babies promise for the baby? (The child will love God always and be a member of the Church always.) Do we celebrate marriages and christenings? Why? [Let the children talk about this for a while.] We celebrate because the people will be living a new way with God in their lives. What are some other reasons for celebrations? (Graduation, birthdays) After all these celebrations, something is different; we start living a new way. Even after our birthday something is different—we are a year older!*

Whenever something changes in our life, we have to learn to live with the change. Sometimes we worry about how things will be different—What will it be like with the new baby? How will my brother or sister be after graduation? Each time we learn how to live with the change. When we ask God to help us with the change in our lives, our lives become even better.

That is what happened to the apostles. They left their jobs and families and followed Jesus. They changed their lives for the better. Then something changed in their lives—Jesus was crucified. How do you think they felt? (Confused) Were they worried about what would happen next? Let's read to find out how with Jesus' help their lives changed even more

Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit

In the Gospels we read how Jesus called the apostles to follow Him. In one story we read how some of them were fishing, and they left their nets to follow Jesus. They wanted to be with Jesus and learn how to be like Him.



One day Jesus said to the apostles, "But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you" (John 16:7). Jesus continued, "But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth" (John 16:13). The apostles were confused by these words because they did not want to think about a time when Jesus would not be with them.

On the day Jesus was crucified, the apostles were scared. Jesus, their leader, died on the cross! They were frightened even to admit they were followers of Jesus. They forgot that Jesus told them He must go and promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to guide them.

Reading of Text

As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type).

They wanted to be with Jesus and learn how to be like Him.

Last year you learned about the apostles who were fishing. Does anyone remember any of their names? (Simon-Peter, Andrew, James, and John) What would you have done if you were one of them? [Give time to think and answer.]

... He would send the Holy Spirit to guide them.

Does anyone know what an Advocate is? (Someone who supports) About whom is Jesus talking? (The Holy Spirit) The Holy Spirit supports us and gives us courage to follow Jesus.

Jesus appeared to many people and spoke about the Kingdom of God.

How do you think the apostles felt when they saw Jesus? What would you do if you were one of the people who met Jesus?

... waited for this promise to be fulfilled.

Where did Jesus tell the apostles to go? (He told them to stay and wait in Jerusalem.) Did they listen? (Yes) Do we always listen to what Jesus tells us? Maybe we should learn from the apostles to listen to Jesus.

... we see the apostles waiting for God's promise to be fulfilled.

How many days did Jesus walk on earth after His Resurrection? (40) On the 40th day He ascended into heaven. Our Church calls that feast day the Ascension. How many days after Jesus 'Resurrection did the Holy Spirit come down to the apostles? (50) What do we call that feast day? (Pentecost)

The Holy Spirit gave the apostles courage to go out and preach the Good News to all people.

What were the apostles able to do after the Holy Spirit descended on them? (They were able to talk in different languages, and they had courage to preach about Jesus.) What is the Good News? (Jesus' death and resurrection saved us from eternal death and granted us eternal life.)

Three days later Jesus appeared to the apostles after He had risen from the dead. "Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord" (John 20:19-20).

How excited they must have been when Jesus appeared to them! For forty days after His Resurrection, Jesus appeared to many people and spoke about the Kingdom of God.

One day Jesus called the apostles together. He was going to leave them and return to His Father. Before He left them, He said, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the apostles remembered what Jesus had told them. He said, "And [behold] I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). The apostles stayed together in Jerusalem and waited for this promise to be fulfilled.



When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. (Act 2:1-4)



As more people were baptized, the Church began to grow.

What do we call the people of God who follow Jesus as their Lord? (The Church) Who formed the first Church? (The apostles and the early followers of Jesus) Who gives life to the Church? (The Holy Spirit) How did we become a member of the Church? (Through the Mystery of Baptism)

[At the time of the Apostles, the gift of the Holy Spirit was not given by Chrismation but by the laying on of hands of the Apostles, who had received Him on Pentecost. After the apostolic era, the use of chrism was introduced so that the gift of the Spirit might be conferred through the prayer of the Apostles' successors and their presbyters.]

As members of the Church, we want to tell other people the Good News.

What are the Mysteries of Initiation? (Baptism, Chrismation, and Holy Eucharist—the first three Mysteries we receive when we become members of the Church.) As members, what are we to do? (Tell other people about the Good News)

Words to Remember: [Read the words together, and use them to introduce, summarize, and/or review the lesson.]

Activity Tracks

Basic: The Early Church and Today's Church
[This worksheet is in the student text.]

Today we learned about the early Church. Let's match the quotations taken from a description of the early Church with the sentences that tell us about the Church today.

We celebrate the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Feast of Pentecost, fifty days after Pascha. In the icon of Pentecost, we see the apostles waiting for God's promise to be fulfilled.

After the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles, they were different. One difference is that the apostles started speaking in different languages. The people were amazed! Another difference is that the apostles were no longer afraid. The Holy Spirit gave the apostles courage to go out and preach the Good News to all people.

People listened to the apostles and started living according to the teachings of Jesus. The apostles told these people that they too were filled with the Holy Spirit. These followers along with the apostles formed the first Church. The Holy Spirit gave life to the Church, the people of God who follow Jesus as their Lord.

Through the Mystery of Baptism, people became members of the Church. They received the gift of the Holy Spirit. They were called Christians because they believed in Jesus Christ and were baptized. As Church, people came together to worship God



and to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus through the Mystery of the Eucharist. As more people were baptized, the Church began to grow.

Jesus calls people today to be His followers. We said "Yes" to Jesus on the day we were christened when we received the Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation, and Eucharist. These three Mysteries are called the Mysteries of Initiation.

The Holy Spirit, in the Church since Pentecost, fulfills Jesus' promise to be with us always and to send us His Holy Spirit. As members of the Church, we want to tell other people the Good News.

Words to Remember:
Advocate: A supporter. The Holy Spirit is our advocate.
Feast of Pentecost: This feast day recalls the descent of the Holy Spirit. We celebrate this feast fifty days after Pascha.
The Good News: Jesus' death and resurrection saved us from eternal death and granted us eternal life.
The Church: The people of God who follow Jesus as their Lord.
Christians: The followers of Jesus who believe in Him and have been baptized.
Baptism: This Mystery joins us to Christ and makes us members of the Church.
Chrismation: We receive this Mystery together with Baptism. This Mystery seals the gift of the Holy Spirit through the placing of chrism, a special oil, on our head, chest, back, hands, and feet.
Eucharist: The Mystery of the Body and Blood of Jesus. When we receive the Eucharist during the Divine Liturgy, we become one with God and with each other.
Mysteries of Initiation: Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation, and Holy Eucharist.

The Early Church and Today's Church

Match the columns by placing the appropriate letter from "Column I" next to a sentence in "Column II" which is similar in meaning. The biblical references in the first column are taken from the Act of the Apostles, the New Testament book that tells about the early Church. The statements in the second column tell us about the Church today.

Column I—The Early Church	Column II—Today's Church
A. "Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ" (Acts 2:38)	D We gather to worship and partake of the Eucharist during the Divine Liturgy.
B. "You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)	A We are baptized into Christ on the day of our christening (baptism).
C. "They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles." (Acts 2:42)	B We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Mystery of Chrismation.
D. "They devoted themselves ... to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers." (Acts 2:42)	C We listen to God speak through the Gospel and the Epistle during liturgical services.

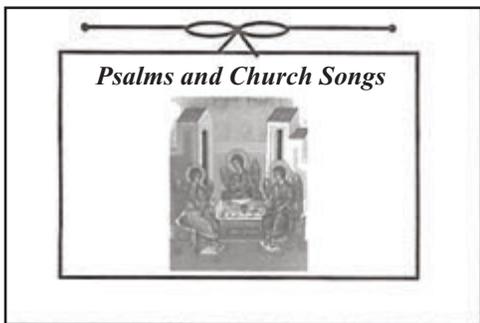
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Group: The Holy Spirit" Surprise

Materials: 2" x 2" squares of red and green felt or construction paper—one of each for each student

Today we are going to try to recreate the way the apostles felt when they experienced the gift of the Holy Spirit. Let's gather in a circle. [Either sit or stand.] Let's close our eyes and pray "Heavenly King" once.

Now keep your eyes closed, and I am going to tap you on the shoulder. I am going to ask you to pretend you are feeling the "tongues of fire" touching you. [Place a red and green square of felt on each shoulder as you do this.] When I do, open your eyes and wait for everyone to be touched. Why do you think I placed red and green squares on your shoulders? (Red for the "tongues of fire" and green for the Holy Spirit) Now, who remembers what happened next to the apostles? (They started talking in different languages.) Move to a different part of the room as if that section is the one that can understand you. Now let's pray "Heavenly King" again. The apostles became brave and started teaching about Jesus. Would it help us if we felt the Holy Spirit's presence in us at all times? Why? I'd like you to keep these red and green squares somewhere special to remind you that the Holy Spirit is with you always. Where are some places we could keep them? (In our pocket, on our icon table, in our bookbag, by our bed)



Craft: "Psalms and Church Songs"
Booklet Cover and Pages

Materials: Prayer pages from lessons 1 and 2, hole punch

[Have sample ready to show children.] Students will complete the cover they started last week and add the following prayer pages: "O Heavenly King," "The Creed," and "We Have Seen

Closing

Let's pray a song we sing during the Divine Liturgy, "We Have Seen. . ." [Sing the prayer if you are able. Distribute the prayer page from the end of this lesson. If you are making the "Psalm and Church Songs" booklet that is part of the craft, add this prayer page to it.]

Advocate

*Feast of
Pentecost*

The Good News

The Church

Christians

Baptism

This feast day recalls the descent of
the Holy Spirit. We celebrate this feast
fifty days after Pascha

A supporter.
The Holy Spirit is our advocate.

The people of God who follow
Jesus as their Lord.

Jesus' death and resurrection
saved us from eternal death and
granted us eternal life.

This Mystery joins us to Christ
and makes us members of the Church.

The followers of Jesus who believe
in Him and have been baptized.

Chrismation

Eucharist

*Mysteries of
Initiation*

The Mystery of the Body and Blood of Jesus. When we receive the Eucharist during the Divine Liturgy, we become one with God and with each other

We receive this Mystery together with Baptism. This Mystery seals the gift of the Holy Spirit through the placing of chrism, a special oil, on our head, chest, back, hands, and feet.

Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation, and Holy Eucharist.

We Have Seen the True Light

We have seen the true Light. We have received
the heavenly Spirit. We have found the true
faith, worshipping the undivided Trinity who
has saved us.

Melkite
Greek
Catholic
Church

We Have Seen the True Light

We have seen the true Light. We have received
the heavenly Spirit. We have found the true faith.
We adore the undivided Trinity for It has saved us.

Romanian
Greek
Catholic
Diocese of
Canton

We Have Seen the True Light

We have seen the true light; we have received
the heavenly Spirit; we have found the true
faith; and we worship the undivided Trinity,
for the Trinity has saved us.

Ruthenian
Byzantine
Catholic
Metropolitan
Province

We Have Seen the True Light

We have seen the true Light. We have received
the heavenly Spirit. We have found the true faith.
We adore the undivided Trinity for It has saved us.

Ukrainian
Catholic
Diocese of
St. Josaphat

We Have Seen the True Light

We have seen the true Light. We have received
the heavenly Spirit. We have found the true faith.
We adore the undivided Trinity for It has saved us.

Ukrainian
Catholic
Synod