

RESOURCES FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH THE SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

Parents: Blessed ✠ is our God at all times, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Response: Amen.

Parents: Glory to You, our God, glory to You. Heavenly King, Consoler, Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, the Treasury of blessings and the Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

Children: Holy ✠ God! Holy Mighty One! Holy Immortal One! Have mercy on us!
(Three times w/ metany)

Glory be to the Father ✠ and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us! Lord, forgive us our sins! Master, pardon our transgressions! Holy One, look upon us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy! *(Three times)*

Glory be to the Father ✠ and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

HYMNS FOR PENTECOST

Blessed are You, O Lord, Christ our God, You filled the fishermen with wisdom,
sending down upon them the Holy Spirit
through them You have caught the whole world in Your net
O Lover of mankind, glory to You.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
You are everywhere present and filling all things.
The Treasury of blessings and Giver of life, come and dwell within us,
cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O Good One!

EPISTLE & GOSPEL

EPISTLE: ACTS 2:1 - 11

When the days of Pentecost were ending, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a violent wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them separate tongues as of fire, and they settled upon each one of them, and all were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in foreign tongues, as the Holy Spirit granted them to speak.

Now, there were staying in Jerusalem devout Jews from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, a great crowd gathered, and they were astounded because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And all of them, amazed and wondering, were saying to each other, "Look, are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? How then have all of us heard our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Lybia around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, Jews also and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs, we have heard them speaking in our own language of the wonderful works of God."¹

GOSPEL: JOHN 7:37 - 52, 8:12

Now on the last, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Anyone who believes in Me, as the Scripture says, '*From within him there shall flow rivers of living water.*'" He said this, however, of the Spirit, whom they who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit had not yet been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. Some of the crowd, therefore, when they had heard these words, said, "This is truly the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." Some, however, said, "Can the Christ come from Galilee? Does not the Scripture say it is of the offspring of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David lived, that the Christ is to come?"

So there arose a division among the crowd because of Him. And some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him. The attendants therefore came to the chief priests and Pharisees; and these said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" The attendants answered. "Never has man spoken as this Man." The Pharisees then answered them, "Have you also been fooled? Has any one of the rulers believed in Him, or any of the Pharisees? But this crowd, which does not know the Law, is accursed." Nicodemus, the man who had come to Him at night, who was one of them, said to them, "Does our Law judge a man unless it first gives him a hearing, and knows what he does?" They answered and said to him, "Are you also a Galilean? Search and see that out of Galilee arises no prophet." And again Jesus spoke to them saying, "I am the Light of the world. Anyone who follows Me does not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life."²

¹ Epistle Book, English (Apostolos): Bishop Joseph Raya, Alleluia Press, 1980

² Gospel Book, English: Bishop Joseph Raya, Alleluia Press, 1978

CATECHETICAL SUMMARY

“OUT OF HIS HEART SHALL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER.”

Today we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, fifty days after Pascha. And while we hear the historical account of Pentecost read in the church today from Acts of the Apostles, we also hear in the Gospel the promise of Jesus that those who believe in him will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit which will become a life giving spring which will flow out to others. In other words, we who have received the gift of the life of Jesus within us cannot remain simply consumers but must become, like Jesus, a people who live our life as a gift to others. “For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it” (Lk 9:24). It is in giving of our life, then, that the Christian finds his truth purpose in life.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

1. How can we gain our life by losing it?
2. In what tangible ways can we give our life for others?
3. How is prayer for another a way in which we share our life with others?

THE FATHERS ON SCRIPTURE

Do you see the type? What is this Pentecost? The time when the sickle was to be put to the harvest and the fruits to be gathered. Look at the reality now, how the time has come to ply the sickle of the Word. The Spirit, keen-edged, came down in place of the sickle. For hear the words of Christ, “Lift up your eyes and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.” And again, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” He himself, taking [our nature] as the first fruits, lifted it up high and he was himself the first to ply the sickle. For this reason he calls [the Word] also the Seed.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, HOMILIES ON THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 4

They partook of fire, not of burning but of saving fire. This is a fire that consumes the thorns of sins but gives luster to the soul. This is now coming upon you also in order to strip away and consume your sins, which are like thorns, and to brighten yet more that precious possession of your souls, and to give you grace, the same given then to the apostles. The Spirit descended upon them in the form of fiery tongues, that they might crown themselves with new and spiritual diadems by fiery tongues upon their heads. As a fiery sword had barred of old the gates of paradise, a fiery tongue that brought salvation restored the gift.

ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, CATECHETICAL LECTURE 17.15³

³ Martin, F., & Smith, E. (2006). *Acts*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.