

Day of Pentecost

Whitsunday

May 23, 2021

Year B RCL

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:25-35, 37; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

“He will guide you into all the truth”

By: The Rev. Fr. Fabian Villalobos

Today we are celebrating the Feast of Pentecost, according with the books of Exodus, Numbers, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy, Pentecost was the Jewish celebration seven weeks after the Passover. For us Christians, Pentecost is the moment when the church, represented in the disciples, receives the Holy Spirit as we hear in today's first lesson.

50 days have passed since Easter Sunday, when we gather today like each Sunday as a community of believers to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the living presence of God in our lives.

The presence of the Holy Spirit was manifested with the physical expressions of sound, wind, fire, the ability to speak and understand in different languages.

The disciples as followers of Jesus were filled with the strength, capacity, boldness coming from heaven. Their lives changed, they passed from fearful and confused men living in enclosed doors to be bold and brave leaders capable to speak about God's deeds of power in front of people and authorities.

Jesus promised to be with the disciples forever and to send to them the Holy Spirit, the advocate and paraclete that will lead them into all truth. Like in the gospels of the apparitions, after the resurrection of Jesus, when the disciples were together, the Holy Spirit irrupts in the human history and his presence transforms the disciples making them announcers and preachers that publicly give testimony of what they saw and lived with Jesus.

The gift of the Holy Spirit was promised by Jesus as we found in today's Gospel *"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf."* We children of God are never orphans, God the Father and Jesus the Son share with us the love they have for each other in the person of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit makes it possible for the believers today to be the new disciples; each new baptized received the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that the Church is capable to be the community of love that preaches the Gospel. We in our congregation of Christ Episcopal Church Dallas have

experienced the uninterrupted guidance of the Holy Spirit since Pentecost Day in 1890. Today and for the past 131 years, the fearful disciples had become the announcers by God's Holy Spirit. Our church like any congregation overcome and surpass the obstacles and difficulties because of the strength and support that comes from God.

After receiving the Holy Spirit, the disciples begin to speak in languages unknown to them and those who listen to them understand each one in their own language. God makes the communication and communion among them different possible because the language of love surpasses all cultures and races. In front of God, all human beings are equal heirs of the same promises.

The fact that there were multiple languages in Jerusalem at the moment of the Pentecost, and that the Holy Spirit allows the communication and comprehension in a multicultural setting, manifests how inclusive, accepting, and diverse is the grace of God.

It is in this sense that the Feast of Pentecost manifests how much the church and society of today needs to appreciate and learn from the gift of the Holy Spirit to work in the development of the new humanity.

We today like all human beings need to be renewed and restored. The Feast of Pentecost is always a new beginning. As the new disciples for today's world, it

is our responsibility to proclaim and show God's deeds of power. The Holy Spirit will continue supporting and encouraging our human efforts transforming them into the new society God is making.

As we celebrate Pentecost, we can experience the same peace the disciples received. The community today is transformed again with the powerful presence of God's Holy Spirit that continues journeying in human history making it possible to speak and understand the language of love. We and all who believe are sent like messengers of the Father as agents of reconciliation and forgiveness for a new humanity even in a broken society. Amen.