

Feast of Pentecost

Multilingual Congregational Participation Instructions

On the Feast of Pentecost, members of the congregation who are proficient in other languages are invited to read in unison a portion of the second lesson from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:5-13) with others who will be speaking in a variety of other languages.

This is how the lesson will be read:

The lesson will be introduced in Spanish. The lector will then read from Chapter 2 (verses 1-4) in English. After the lector says, “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability.” then each member of the congregation (who chooses to read in another language) begins reading verses 5 through 13 in their respective language – all in unison. You may stand or remain seated. No one will prompt you when to begin – just start reading after the lector says, “as the Spirit gave them the ability.”

It will sound odd, awkward, and chaotic – that’s okay – that’s Pentecost. Just keep reading. Keep reading until you finish your translation, but stop at the end of verse 13. Some languages will take longer than others. You may be the last one speaking all by yourself. That’s okay too. After the last person finishes speaking in tongues, the lector will resume with verse 14 in English and the lesson will conclude with the final verses in Spanish.

You may choose to read in any language – dead or active, imaginary or real. You may read in Latin or Klingon or Pig Latin – or even Klingon Pig Latin or Latin Pig Latin if you choose! The purpose of reading the lesson this way is to have some sense of the experience of what it might have been like to have been there on that day at the birth of the Church and to know how the Gospel truly speaks to all people in all tongues.

You may find a variety of translations online at: BibleGateway.com