

Pastor's Bible Class

May 19, 2024

The Day of Pentecost

#496 "Holy Spirit, Light Divine"



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, light di - vine, Shine up - on this heart of mine;
2 Let me see my Sav - ior's face, Let me all His beau - ties trace;
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, Cleanse this guilt - y heart of mine;
4 Ho - ly Spir - it, joy di - vine, Cheer this sad - dened heart of mine;
5 Ho - ly Spir - it, all di - vine, Dwell with - in this heart of mine;



Chase the shades of night a - way, Turn the dark - ness in - to day.
Show those glo - rious truths to me Which are on - ly known to Thee.
In Thy mer - cy pit - y me, From sin's bond - age set me free.
Yield a sa - cred, set - tled peace, Let it grow and still in - crease.
Cast down ev - 'ry i - dol throne, Reign su - preme, and reign a - lone.

Read Acts 2:1-21

1. In verse one, Luke writes, "when the day of Pentecost arrived." While this certainly sets the stage for the Pentecost story, the Greek verb that Luke uses (translated in the ESV as "arrived") is unique and literally means "to be completed." This same verb is used in Luke 9:51 and Galatians 4:4. How does this change or enhance the meaning of verse one?
2. According to Leviticus 23:15-22, the festival of Pentecost or "The Feast of Weeks" was established as a day of sacrifice and Sabbath to be, "a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live" (Leviticus 23:21). How should we understand this command in light of Acts 2:1? See also Hebrews 8:13.
3. Who were the "they" mentioned in verse one? See Acts 1:15 and Acts 2:17-18.
4. What does the word "like" in verse two tell us about the sound that "filled the entire house where they were sitting"?
5. Why did Luke describe the manifestation of the Holy Spirit as "tongues" of fire?

6. Read today's Old Testament lesson from Ezekiel 37:1-14. What makes this a fitting reading for the Day of Pentecost?

7. What were the "mighty works of God" proclaimed on Pentecost (Acts 2:11)?

8. How does Peter begin his Pentecost sermon and why is this significant?

9. What do you see as the main point or teaching in this account of the birth of the Church?

Read John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

10. In verse 26, Jesus calls the Holy Spirit, "the Counselor." What other words can be used here and what do they contribute to our understanding of the person and work of the Holy Spirit?

11. According to 16:4b, why didn't Jesus tell them about the Holy Spirit before? What does this tell us about the Holy Spirit?

12. In John 16:6, Jesus comments about the grief of the disciples over His statement that He is returning to the Father. What does this tell us about them?

13. Read Romans 4:25. How does this capture the truth of Jesus' words in verses 5-6?

14. Read John 16:8-11 again. What work does Jesus attribute to the Holy Spirit? Which of these actions are Law and which are Gospel?

15. According to verse 15, what is the Holy Spirit's job? Think back to the different titles for the Holy Spirit that we study in question 10. How does this job description for the Holy Spirit relate to these names?

Devotional Thought (The Lutheran Study Bible)

"Christ comforts the disciples by promising to send them the Helper (the Holy Spirit) who will guide them into a deeper understanding of Christ's word. Mistakenly, we sometimes think that Jesus' physical absence places us at a disadvantage, but Jesus is present with us through the witness of the Spirit who works among us through God's Word and Sacraments" (TLSB, 1814).

Prayer

O Holy Spirit, through the Word, guide us into all truth. Amen.