

Pastor's Bible Class

May 24, 2026

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. How does the gift of languages relate to the Old Testament reading from Numbers 11:24-30?

7. What were the “mighty works of God” proclaimed on Pentecost?
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 7:37-39

10. What Feast is taking place? See 7:2 and Leviticus 23:34-44.
11. What does Jesus do during this particular Feast of Booths? See 7:14
12. How does the crowd react to His teaching? See 7:25, 30-31.
13. What happened on the “last day of the Feast?” See Leviticus 23:36.
14. In verse 38, John tells us that Jesus says about the Spirit: “Whoever believes in me...out of his heart will follow rivers of living water.” What does this tell us about the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer?
15. In verse 39, John ties the giving of the Holy Spirit to the glorification of Jesus. What is this glorification? See John 12:23-34.
16. How is the work of the Spirit related to the message of the cross? Luther said, “For this is the special work and office of the Holy Spirit, that He reveal and glorify Christ, that He preach and give testimony concerning Him. This office was then not yet in active working; the office of glorifying Christ the Lord was not yet in use, that is, the preaching of the forgiveness of sins, and how one may be delivered from death, have comfort and joy in Christ, that it concerns us, all this was at that time unheard of and not mentioned; that deliverance, salvation, righteousness, joy and life should be given us through that man, Christ, whom people did not know at that time.”

Devotional Thought (The Lutheran Study Bible)

“The Holy Spirit descends as a gift, sounding forth one message in many tongues, showing that Israel will soon burst its ethnic bounds. Cynics of all eras belittle God’s mighty deeds and explain them away. However, humility before the Spirit is in order, along with sheer wonder that God gives Himself to all nations” (TLSB, 1833).

Prayer

Come, holy Fire, Comfort true. Grant us the will Your work to do. And in Your service to abide; Let trials turn us not aside. Amen.