

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Day of Pentecost – May 24, 2026

“On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted, ‘If you are thirsty, come to me and drink! Have faith in me, and you will have life-giving water flowing from deep inside you, just as the Scriptures say.’

***Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit,
who would be given to everyone that had faith in him.”***

- John 7:37-39 -

How often do we follow a tradition without really understanding it? Christmas and Easter are celebrations of the church steeped in rich tradition. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, in Holy Week we prepare for his death, and at Easter we praise his resurrection. But why do we observe Pentecost and what is the significance?

“Pentecost” comes from the Greek word *pentekostos* and translates as “fiftieth day.” For Christians, it marks the 50th day after Easter when the Holy Spirit descended upon a group of followers. Jesus says to the group, “If you are thirsty, come to me and drink! Have faith in me, and you will have life-giving water flowing deep inside of you.”

In Acts 2:1-4 we learn “On the day of Pentecost all the Lord’s followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there. The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak.”

We celebrate Pentecost as the very moment the church was formed with all its followers receiving the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the beginning of the sainthood of all believers as we are baptized into faith. We are now steeped in rich tradition with our brothers and sisters in Christ from this early establishment. We are a part of this ancient church!

Jesus invites us to follow, have faith, and receive the power of the Holy Spirit. What a powerful invitation! We can walk in the light as Jesus did and bear witness to others by sharing the Good News!