



## Season of Pentecost

Earlier on this page we discussed the season of 'Eastertide' and learned that Easter continued well beyond the day of resurrection. We learned that Eastertide was a period of fifty days beginning with Easter Day and ending on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017. On that note let me say welcome to the season of Pentecost. Pentecost season will encompass the remaining Sundays in the church year, ending when the church year begins again with the season of Advent. The first Sunday in advent is generally the first Sunday following Thanksgiving, this year of 2017 it will be November 26.

Pentecost Day was celebrated here at Trinity on June 4, 2017. However to understand Pentecost entirely we must look at both the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament Pentecost was the feast which occurred fifty days after Passover. As the Passover feast celebrated the exodus of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt, so the Pentecost feast celebrated God's gift of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

In the New Testament, the Passover event takes on its new meaning as the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection, the "exodus" of mankind from this sinful world to the Kingdom of God. Pentecost Day is described in the book of Acts, chapter 2. This day is especially significant for Christians because it is the day Christ poured out His Holy Spirit upon the first followers, and in so doing empowered them for their mission and gathered them together as a church.

Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the twelve apostles, Jesus' mother and family, and many other of His disciples gathered together in Jerusalem for the Jewish harvest festival that was celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover. What happened next:

### The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost (Acts 2: 1-4)

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Before these events of the first Pentecost, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called "the church". Therefore from a historical point of view, Pentecost is the day the church was started and has traditionally been called the 'Birthday of the Church'. This is also true from a spiritual point of view, since the Holy Spirit gives power to proclaim the gospel of the risen Christ and breathes life into the church and its members. To read the full scriptural account of that day turn your Bibles to the book of Acts, chapter 2 and read verses 1 through 41. Here you will also find an account of the Apostle Peter addressing the crowd in his first sermon. Peter preached the gospel of Christ. He went on to explain that Jesus had been crucified, raised from the dead, seen by many believers, ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of God. He explained that Jesus has poured out His spirit in fulfillment of God's promise in the book of Joel 2: 32-33. When the crowd asked Peter what they should do he replied that they should turn their lives around, and be baptized in the name of Jesus. Then they would be forgiven and also be filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit. (See Acts 2: 36-38)

As mentioned in the first paragraph the season of Pentecost is the longest season of the church year. It begins on Monday after Pentecost (May 16, 2016) and continues until the church begins a new year with the season of Advent. This is a time of growth and development for the church and a time to reach out to all who need Christ as our Lord and Savior. With the Holy Spirit living within us we are able "to do all things through Christ who strengthens us!" (Philippians 4: 13)

The Pentecost season is a time to grow in your faith and commitment to Christ. If you would like to learn more about this season of the church, please visit Trinity Lutheran Church, at 446 S. Gay Street here in "the loveliest village on the plains" Auburn, AL or call us at 334-887-3901. You may join us any Sunday to hear the message of Christ or stop in and visit with the pastor if you have specific questions.

Our summer worship schedule for the Sundays in June and July are as follows:

Bible Study: 8:00am  
Worship at 9:00am

In Him,

Trinity Lutheran Church