

This is your Pentecost. No one ever says, only 5 shopping days til Pentecost, or I hope the family can get together for Pentecost. Perhaps we should. This is your Pentecost. On the Church's calendar even before Christmas.

Pentecost, 1 of 3 great OT feast, 50 days after Passover. Early harvest festival: first-fruits of the season. No conscience the Lord uses this as He, the first-fruit of the resurrection, brings forth the harvest of souls, after 50 days His resurrection, unleashing the benefits of our Passover Lamb, to all peoples in the NT Church, still 1 of 3 great feast of our Lord.

St. Paul writes, **No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. For in one Spirit we were baptized into one body, Jews, Greeks, and all drink of one Spirit.**

Preaching Christ, the Sacraments, Pentecost -all tied together. The rest of Peter's Sermon there, **be baptized, and your children, for the forgiveness of sins and receive the Holy Spirit.** Then, **they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching** (preaching, doctrine), the **fellowship in the breaking of the bread** (the Lord's Supper) **and the prayers** (we know what that was, the liturgy, as we do today).

This is your Pentecost. And you **drink of one Spirit** from the Chalice, to give you faith when you hear, Take, eat the body of Christ. Take, drink the very blood of Christ. You confess, Amen. The Gospel reading, Jesus speaks the Holy Spirits' work of **remembrance**, for that very night He institutes the holy Supper. For when Jesus says **Do this in remembrance of Me**, it's not, what was that really nice thing He did 2000 years ago to remember?

Remembrance in all Scriptures, means invocation, call on God to bring His saving work. The same Hebrew word for remembrance is also proclamation. St Paul writes, **For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.** Preaching Christ, Sacraments, Pentecost -tied together.

Note well the Holy Spirit's work. Beware of any who 'feels' the Holy Spirit. They've been mistaught. No one ever 'feels' the Holy Spirit in the Bible. Jesus says in John 14,15,16 of the Holy Spirit, **He declares; He will teach you all things and He will bring to remembrance all I have said; He speaks; He guides you in truth I have said; He takes what is mine and declares it to you; speaks truth; bears witness about me.** This is all words. Jesus words of Scripture. It's false teaching the Holy Spirit works apart from the Word and Word in Sacraments. A critical thing. God spoke, they heard the external word of God. Like with the Virgin Mary and people on Pentecost, God spoke through messenger. People heard, not in their own voice or babbling talk or feelings, or meditations or nature, but in spoken word from men.

When the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, He came by the spoken word, enters her ear, she conceives, becomes the mother of God; when the Holy Spirit overshadowed Jerusalem that day and you, He came by the spoken apostolic word, by the ear. The Church conceives sons, daughters.

This is your Pentecost, repent. The Holy Spirit works that in you, works faith in you. Realize everything in the Church and in all of our lives -everything is work of the Holy Spirit. It's easy to forget this.

All the benefits Jesus brings you, that the Father gives, come through the Spirit. In the Large Catechism, every time I read it, it really strikes me, because, it's striking. Luther writes, "the death of Jesus would be no benefit at all to us if it weren't for the work of the Holy Spirit. The resurrection of Jesus would be no benefit at all to us if it were not for the work of the Holy Spirit; because it's God the Holy Spirit who brings what Christ has done, what he has accomplished, and he presses that into our ears and into our hearts and into our consciences and into our lives and gives us faith to believe it so that our salvation, our hope, our faith, our life, the forgiveness of sins, all God the Holy Spirit doing His work."

This is your Pentecost. The miracle of Pentecost, the church growing, is not the ceremony of wind, fire, but the real miracle -spoken into ears, faith, baptisms -that **everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Everyone.** no exceptions, requires no special intellect, works or character, no conditions, **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.** It matters not what you've done, it matters not if your life is seen as valuable by the world, if your life really makes a difference or not. It doesn't matter how sincere or if you've tried hard or how many times you fail each day. Because no one good enough, no one deserving; yet, the least, the most vile, even the likes of you -redeemed by the Passover Lamb.

This is your Pentecost, as always, just as powerful then as now- preaching Christ and His Sacraments. Through these means of grace, the Spirit works, lives changed, salvation from sins, eternal life given, the harvest of souls. In those waters, Pentecost, still continues in you today, the Spirits continual work pouring out upon you.

The Lord has made you His, loved you to the end and will not stop. He is coming back. His Church cannot fail, nor can He ever fail you or **leave you.** Not ever. **Let not your heart be troubled neither be afraid.** You are His. Made holy. All your enemies have been defeated, even death, and nothing can truly harm His own. And you are **devoted to the apostle's teaching and fellowship in the breaking of bread and the prayers.** This is your Pentecost.