

Today we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the church in fulfillment of Jesus' promise to the disciples. This completes the Holy Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

Shortly before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told the disciples “you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. . . . You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:5, 8. Several weeks after that, the disciples were all together and the Holy Spirit descended upon them:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Chapter 2)

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.*

*<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? . . . <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” . . .*

*Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. . . .*

*<sup>32</sup> “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. <sup>33</sup> Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear.” <sup>34</sup>*

*<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers,<sup>[i]</sup> what should we do?” <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

The Nicene Creed states our beliefs about the Holy Spirit:

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.*

The Holy Spirit is God in action, sometimes moving directly on the earth and sometimes moving through servants such as the Prophets, the Disciples or people like you. The Holy Spirit has existed as long as God has existed. In Genesis 1 it is written:

*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. <sup>2</sup> And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

When Jesus was baptized by John, the Holy Spirit anointed Jesus as the Messiah.

After receiving the Holy Spirit, the disciples spread the Good News about Jesus and performed many miracles in his name, using the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit reveals the word of God to the prophets who provide it to us. All who have been baptized have been baptized “in the name of the Father, the name of the Son, and the name of the Holy Spirit.” In baptism, we are reborn and sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever. This gives each of us the power to be God's people in the world.

How have you used this power in the past?

How will you use it in the future? At home? At school?