

Scripture Readings:

John 14 “15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

John 15 “26 “But when the Comforter comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”

John 16: “7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Luke 24: “44 Then [Jesus] said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. 46 Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things. 49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

Acts 1: “4 And being assembled together with them, [Jesus] commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

“The Comforter Has Come!”

- Today, we come to another high point in the Church calendar with the celebration of Pentecost Sunday!

On Good Friday we reflected on the suffering and death of Jesus where on that cross Jesus paid the unspeakable price for our sins.

- On Easter we celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus which confirmed the power and victory of His work giving us new life in Him!
- Last week on Ascension Sunday Pastor Denna reminded us that Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the Father ruling as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- And on Pentecost Sunday we remember how Jesus kept His promise to send the Comforter Who would empower His Bride, the Church, to fill the earth with His Kingdom subduing all the nations of the earth as the Psalmists had foretold.

This morning I will use the account of Luke and the sermon of Peter to remind us of the important events of that day and the impact they have had on the Church down to our very day.

- Nothing new here at Church of the King but things that are SO important for us to remember and apply!

Acts 2: “2 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

- Here we are reminded of how the Glory Cloud of God filled both the Tabernacle and Temple when they were dedicated, with fire from heaven consuming the sacrifices King Solomon prepared at the Temple service.
- Now the Spirit fills the Church!
- And these tongues they spoke were NOT the charismatic tongues of today, but rather foreign languages for others to understand as God reverses the judgement at Babel and prepares to bring all the nations together again in Christ.

5 “And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs— we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.” 12 So they were all amazed & perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” 13 Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

- So the Spirit has gotten their attention and then He uses Peter, who had denied Jesus three times in the midst of even young slaves girls not sixty days earlier: He uses him to deliver a powerful message, which is the message of Pentecost!

14 “But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: */ask kids what ‘this is what’ means/* 17 ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. 21 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.’”

Now as Pastor Denna has so rightly shown us, that awesome day of the Lord is pictured in Revelation 19 and was proceeded by the judgment of Israel and Rome, described by Joel in apocalyptic terms and time-stamped here by Peter!

- Peter then turns his attention to his Jewish audience, the very ones who had crucified the Lord of Glory just seven weeks before...

22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose & foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. 25 For David says concerning Him: ‘I foresaw the Lord always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’” [mention talk of a future reign of David]

29 “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. 33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. 34 “For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, 35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”’” 36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” 38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

Peter is here confirming what Jesus had commanded: They were to be witnesses of Jesus to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles, those who are afar off... Very far off in the minds of the Jews which is why we have so much teaching about this wall of separation being taken down in the New Testament.

We also need to see comfort that Peter is bringing to those Jews in the midst of much conviction...

➤ They not only killed Jesus, but put a curse on their own children!

Matthew 27: “22 Pilate said to them, “What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said to him, “Let Him be crucified!” 23 Then the governor said, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they cried out all the more, saying, “Let Him be crucified!” 24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it.” 25 And all the people answered and said, “His blood be on us and on our children.” 26 Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.”

➤ Those who had called down

God’s judgment on themselves AND their children were now offered the promise of salvation for themselves AND their children!

40 “And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”

➤ So in one day the 120 become about three thousand!

Of course numbers are usually not just numbers in the Bible and yes there was another event that spoke about 3,000 men...

Here at Pentecost the Spirit of God is coming to bring life, writing the Law of God on the hearts of His people and 3,000 are saved. At Mt. Sanai, Moses came down with the Law of God chiseled in stone and three thousand died!

Exodus 32: “25 Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies), 26 then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, “Whoever is on the Lord’s side—come to me!” And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. 27 And he said to them, “Thus says Jehovah God of Israel: ‘Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.’” 28 So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day.”

Dr. Luke then turns quickly to the life of this new Body...

- Showing clearly the balance of truth and love that is always essential for a healthy church!

42 “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

- They learned and they loved!
- They were instructed in right doctrine and sought God’s guidance & power with their prayers.

They enjoyed fellowship together and celebrated around bread...

- Both at the Lord’s Table and their household tables!

43 “Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.”

- The Power of the promised Comforter has impacted ALL of history, but He would immediately do what was necessary to help the Apostles establish the proper foundation of the Church.

There would be many signs and wonders until the Cannon of Scripture was completed and all that Jesus predicted about the judgment of the nation of Israel had come to pass.

And we must remember that the Comforter is still with us today as He has been down through all of Church history. He no longer needs to give abundant signs and wonders to confirm the authority of the Church or the Scriptures but He is still in charge and can move in whatever ways He deems to be appropriate for any moment or situation in history!

- However, an important lesson for today is to see how He has built the Church of Jesus Christ down through the ages.

Solid growth has always come as the Saints follow the pattern set for us in those early days...

44 “Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.”

Now while there are many who use this and other portions of Scripture to attack private property or promote a socialist agenda, we must remember the later lessons about how this giving was done with Barnabas and with Ananias and Sapphira.

And we must remember the principle taught here that the members of the Body were to be cared for! Which is why we have a deacon fund and if that is at some point insufficient for a need we would approach all of you for more!

We know that it also involved the practical end of such care as we later see deacons appointed for the care of the Body, which continues to this day, and must be carried on in the next generation as well... Hint, hint!

- And next we see a beautiful picture of the life in this new Body...

46 “So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people.”

Now after the judgment of the nation of Israel in AD70 there was obviously no more Temple for them to gather in, but the writer of Hebrews reminds us that the gathering of God’s people is still very important today...

Hebrews 10: “**23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **25** not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

- And finally we should remember the command of Jesus to His early Apostles and Saints at His ascension...

Acts 1: “**8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

We are those witnesses today taking the Good News about Jesus to the end of the earth! And as we learned over and over again in our study of the Book of Acts, the Comforter is still with us taking history where He wants it to go and so we are encouraged still by Dr. Luke’s last comment on this very important event in history...

- “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Communion Meditation: Acts 2

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