

Acts 2:1-21 ESV

# The Mighty Works of God!

Sunday, May 15 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, May 16 at 7 PM

**The Day of Pentecost – 2016**

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Today is the Day of Pentecost; *one of the BIG DAYS in the Church Year!* Jesus had completed His saving work, *but people still needed to learn about Him and His saving work*, so the Spirit was given to empower the followers of Jesus to share the good news!

Let's understand that Pentecost is both an OT and NT event:

- In the OT it focused on the giving of the Ten Commandments, *which cannot save*; in the NT it focuses on the Spirit, *who is the Lord and giver of life!* When the law was given *3,000 died* (Ex. 32:28); when the Spirit was poured out, *3,000 were saved* (Acts 2:41).
- In the OT *it was the birthday of God's promised nation*; in the NT *it is the birthday of the NT Church!*
- In the OT Pentecost was the *second of three festivals* in which all men were required to gather in Jerusalem (Deut. 16:16), *so Jews from everywhere were gathered!*

1. **Loud, Attention-Getting, Amazing:** <sup>1</sup> **When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place** [either the 12 or possibly the 120 people mentioned in Acts 1:15]. <sup>2</sup> **And suddenly there came from heaven** [or from the sky] **a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting** [so they were in a hall in the temple or a large area of some kind, since thousands were drawn to where they were (2:41)]. <sup>3</sup> **And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and**

rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. // It seems probable that all the believers of that time, about 120, were gathered together. Then, *when the great sound occurred*, the Holy Spirit filled those believers, many others were drawn to their location, and the 12 – *powered by the Spirit* – began to speak in known languages which they had never learned (see 2:14)!

**HYMN: O Holy Spirit, Enter In**

**LSB 913, st. 2**

2. **Best Language, Best News:** <sup>5</sup> Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven [*so some Jews lived in Jerusalem, but many who had been scattered to every nation in the world were also present for the required festival of Pentecost*]. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the multitude came together [*thousands of people, since 3,000 who heard Peter's message were baptized later that day*], and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language [*the language each one knew best, rather than the common languages of Jerusalem – Hebrew in the synagogues, Greek among the Romans, and Aramaic among the Jews*]. <sup>7</sup> And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? [*Then they spoke this list, which covers the whole known world:*]
- <sup>9</sup> Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup> both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—
- a. ...we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” // *So that was a miracle,*

showing that God was at work in those men, so the people should trust the words of those men! In the verses following today's text (22-36), Peter focused on their sin and God's saving work through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection!

- b. <sup>12</sup> And all were amazed and perplexed [at a loss], saying to one another, "What does this mean?"  
<sup>13</sup> But others mocking said, "They are filled with new [sweet] wine." // Those people who heard the various tongues were shocked; most had no explanation at all, but some foolishly mocked.

**HYMN: O Holy Spirit, Enter In**

**LSB 913, st. 3**

3. **Peter's Explanation and Call to Repent:** <sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem [thus, you who live in Jerusalem and you who are here for the festival], let this be known to you, and give ear to my words [thus, pay careful attention]. <sup>15</sup> For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day [9 AM]. <sup>16</sup> But this is what was uttered [thus, spoken] through the prophet Joel:
- a. Beginning and ongoing fulfillment: <sup>17</sup> "And in the last days it shall be, God declares [thus from the Day of Pentecost to Jesus' second coming], that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh [on all who know Jesus as Savior], and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; <sup>18</sup> even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. // In today's world, we tend to think of prophesy *only in the*

narrow sense – foretelling future events, but the “chief effect of the Spirit’s activity is always prophesying...in the broad and far more important sense of voicing the saving and blessed will of God to men everywhere (Lenski, 74). *Let us take advantage of every opportunity!*

- b. Jesus’ return: <sup>19</sup> **And I will ~~show~~ [give] wonders in the heavens [sky] above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke** [thus there will be wars as mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 24; wars do not indicate Jesus’ immediate return, but remind us that Jesus will be coming soon]; <sup>20</sup> **the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the [great and magnificent] day of the Lord comes.** // Jesus said, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven... (Mt 24:29-30 ESV).
- c. Call to repent: <sup>21</sup> **And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon [invokes] the name of the Lord shall be saved.”** // That means to *know we are helpless sinners*; then to call upon the Lord for *spiritual help, rescue, salvation!*

**Conclusion:** Let us pray: Dear Father, You have made us, saved us, and powered us; now, **move us forward with joy to tell others about Jesus!** In His name, we pray! Amen!