

Pentecost

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness. The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter "the ordinary time" of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called "after Pentecost"—and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches—for the Church "never grows old, but is always young." It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit—"the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life—comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity," and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope.

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the West

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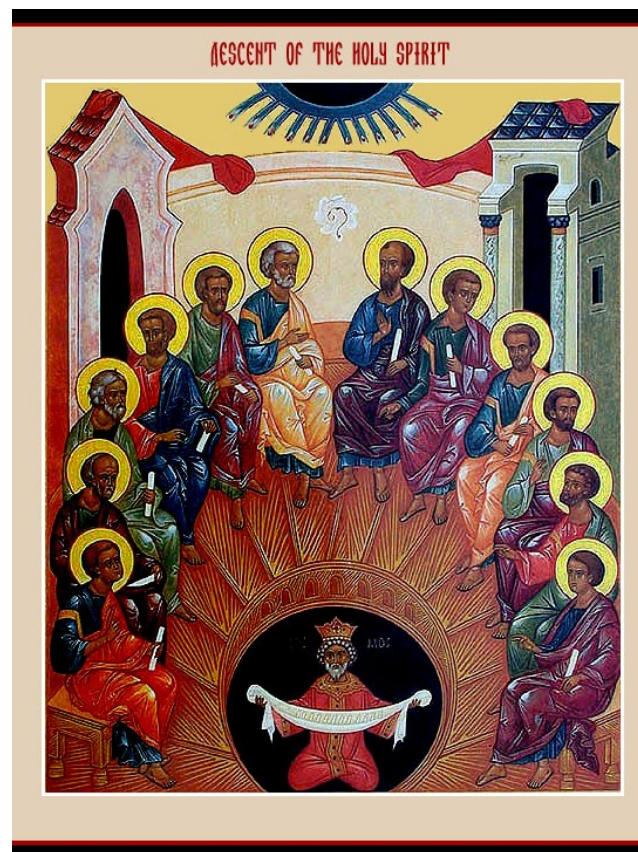
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Holy Pentecost

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Readings

Epistle

Acts 2:1-11

Gospel

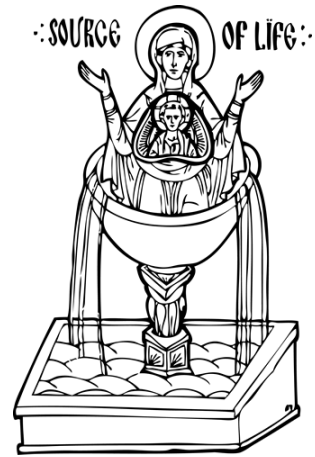
John 7:37-52; 8:12

Tone 8 Troparion

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. // O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

Tone 8 Kontakion

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. // Therefore, with one voice we glorify the All-holy Spirit.



This Week at St. Herman's

Sunday, June 16th - Pentecost

- 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy
- Children's class after Liturgy
- Coffee Hour in the parish hall

Tuesday, June 18th - Martyr Leontius and his companions

- 10:00 AM - WOCA Meeting at St. Katherine's in Kirkland; Frs. Nicholas, Daniel, and Deacon Christopher away.

Wednesday, June 19th - Holy Apostle Jude, brother of the Lord

No Fast

- 6:45 AM - Coffee and Books

Thursday, June 20th - Hieromartyr Methodius

- 6:00 PM - New Testament Greek Class

Saturday, June 22nd - St. Alban, protomartyr of Britain

- 6:00 PM - Jesus Prayer
- 6:30 PM - Great Vespers