



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

Very Rev. Fr. Tom De Medeiros, Pastor
11025 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, IL 60465
Phone (708) 974-3400 Fax (708) 974-0179
www.stconstantinehelen.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020

Κυριακή 7η Ἰουνίου 2020
ΤΗΣ ΠΕΝΤΗΚΟΣΤΗΣ
Αποστ: Πραξ. 2:1-11
Ευαγγ: Ιωαν. 7:37-52; 8:12

Pentecost
Today's Readings
Epistle: Acts: 2:1-11
Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

LET US EXPERIENCE CHRIST AT PENTECOST

Experience is a great teacher. Every so often we hear people say, "I go to Church, I pray, I try to give my life to God, but He seems far away, and nothing happens to me." If one starts questioning these people, we usually find that they never did have any joyous sense of the presence of God in their lives. They had been in contact with the forms of religion but never the Spirit. It was an inherited religion passed down through their family. There is no life or power in that kind of hand-me-down religion. It is not personal. Each person has to have his or her own experience of God.

The most effective way of acquiring knowledge is through experience. For many people, the same applies with their faith. They study the charts and diagrams, memorizing the number of sacraments, concentrating on the mechanism and specifics of faith. They will not walk into the world to see it for themselves. They need to proceed from theory to experience, from knowledge *about* God, which is abstract, to knowledge *of* God in Christ, which is personal.

For example, every Easter the church is filled to overflowing. If the Easter crowds really believed in the resurrection of Jesus, *really believed it*, those same people would be here every Sunday. The Church would be bursting at the seams. The resurrection is real, but people need to experience it in their own lives. They need to experience the power of Christ to resurrect them from their own lost hopes, shattered dreams, strained lives, from the deadness of sin, to a new life, a life of glory and peace and hope and joy in the Lord.

That is why the call of God in the Bible is: "Come and see!" When Andrew found Christ, he said to his brother Simon, "I have found the Messiah, the Christ. I do not ask you to take it on my word. I ask that you come and see for yourself." After the Samaritan woman found Christ at the well, she ran to her people and said, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" That night when they came back, they said to her, "Now we believe, not because you told us: for we have seen and heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world!"

Faith is not something that must be intellectually understood as much as it is something that must be experienced and lived. Faith is an experience of God, a living relationship of love with Him, with, and through His Son, Jesus. Listen to the Apostle John: "That which ... we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands ... (this) we proclaim to you" (I John 1:1-3).

Our Orthodox Christian faith is based on the Bible and on Sacred Tradition, but let us not forget that the Bible and Tradition become real when we experience God's presence, power and love personally in our lives. "We have seen ... we have heard ... we have touched." We have experienced.

How do we gain this personal experience of God that we have been talking about? How did the apostles gain it? It came to them on the day of Pentecost. Jesus commanded them "not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

for the promise of the Father, which he said, you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit... you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:4-5, 8).

When the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost, he brought a new and powerful experience of God's presence and power in their lives. They were never the same again. The experience of God in their lives through the presence of the Holy Spirit was powerful and personal.

"I know him in whom I have believed," said Paul. I know from experience. "I am persuaded that nothing shall separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus." "I know that all things work together for good, to make men Christ-like, when the heart loves God." "I know that if the earthly tent we live in is dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens..." - "I know." Here is a faith that was born not of argument or discussion but in the inner experience of living by faith and prayer, obedience and love in the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost was the day on which the apostles experienced God's powerful presence in their lives through the Holy Spirit. Through prayer every day can be Pentecost. For, it is through prayer that the Holy Spirit comes to us today.



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΠΕΝΤΗΚΟΣΤΗΣ

Μετά την Ανάληψη του Κυρίου στους ουραμούς, οι Απόστολοι και οι υπόλοιποι μαθητές του, καθώς και οι γυναίκες που από την αρχή τον είχαν ακολουθήσει, η Παναγία Παρθένος Μαρία η Μητέρα του, περίπου 120 άτομα, γύρισαν στο όρος των Ελαιών στην Ιερουσαλήμ και, παίζοντας στο υπερώο, δηλαδή στον πάνω όροφο του σπιτιού εκεί, περίμεναν με προσευχή την επιφοίτηση του Αγίου Πνεύματος, σύμφωνα με την υπόσχεση του Σωτήρα Χριστού. Στο μεταξύ εκεί, εξέλεξαν και τον Ματθία και τον συναρίθμησαν με τους ένδεκα Αποστόλους.

Τότε αυτοί πληρωθέντες από το Πνεύμα το Άγιο, άρχισαν να κηρύττουν και να καλούν τους ανθρώπους να βαπτισθούν και να λάβουν κι αυτοί την χάρη του Αγίου Πνεύματος. Ό,τι είχαν ακούσει και ζήσει κοντά στο Χριστό και δεν το είχαν τότε κατανοήσει, τώρα εν Αγίω Πνεύματι το γνώρισαν και το επαγγέλλονται στο λαό.

Τώρα γνωρίζουν ποια είναι η προοπτική της καινής ζωής και που πρέπει να οδηγήσουν το λαό, γι' αυτό και τους πρώτους τρεις χιλιάδες που βαπτίστηκαν, τους οδηγούν στο Δείπνο της Ζωής, την Τράπεζα της Θείας Ευχαριστίας, όπου στο εζήξ θα βρίσκεται συναγμένη η Εκκλησία ως σώμα Χριστού, θα τρέφεται με το Σώμα και το Αίμα του Κυρίου και θα συμμετέχει έτσι στην αιώνια ζωή της Βασιλείας του Θεού.

Με την Πεντηκοστή δεν γεννήθηκε η Εκκλησία ως απλός θεσμός, αλλά ως συνεχής παρουσία της χάριτος του Αγίου Πνεύματος, και γι' αυτό η Πεντηκοστή δεν είναι ένα γεγονός που συνέβη μια φορά κάποτε, αλλά είναι η ζωή της Εκκλησίας, ως αδιάκοπη κοινωνία του Αγίου Πνεύματος.

Η Πεντηκοστή, αποτελεί τη γενέθλια ημέρα της Εκκλησίας. <http://www.saint.gr>



<p><u>Monday, June 8 - Monday of the Holy Spirit</u> 9:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><u>Δευτέρα 8η 'Ιουνίου</u> <u>ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΟΣ</u> Ώρα 9:00 π.μ. - Θεία Λειτουργία</p>
<p><u>Sunday, June 14 - All Saints Day</u> 9:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><u>Κυριακή 14η 'Ιουνίου</u> <u>ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΠΑΝΤΩΝ</u> Ώρα 9:00 π.μ. - Θεία Λειτουργία</p>