

### Prepare for the Coming of the Holy Spirit, So That We May Be Empowered to Continue Jesus' Ministry until He Comes Again

The ancient world view was of a "three-storied" universe, the Rev. Dr. Brook Thelander said in his Ascension Sunday sermon: "hell down below, earth on the main floor, and heaven 'up there'".

Ascension has gotten "short shrift" in recent years among many, he continued, because moderns "know that with our exploration of space we have rendered that old way of seeing things obsolete. They conclude, wrongly I think, that the Ascension could not have happened.

"They are incorrect, because . . . Ascension is not about where Jesus went *spatially*. The Ascension is about the fact that God finishes what He starts. And it is a *prolepsis* (i.e., a foretaste) of our own resurrection and our reign with Christ in glory. . . .

"The Ascension . . . is a great 'bridge' connecting Easter and Pentecost. It signals a climatic conclusion to God's saving work, and shows us the promise that in his *absence* Jesus is still very much *present* with us by the power of the Holy Spirit."

In the Lukan account (24:49-53), Jesus refuses to allow the disciples' speculations about the restoration of the kingdom to Israel. Pastor Thelander said. "Essentially, Jesus says, 'Throw away your calculations and your calendars, and patiently wait for the Holy Spirit. Quit speculating about when I'll return, hunker down for the long haul, and do the work I've called you to do. Plan for the long haul, and rest assured that eventually I will return.'

"This is precisely the message we need to hear today. As we prepare to embark upon the long season of Ordinary Time, or Kingdomtide, it will be our task to place ourselves once again in complete dependence upon the Holy Spirit, of loving God and others in the daily, ordinary, rhythms of life. Now it's time to prepare for the coming of the Spirit, so that we may be empowered to continue Jesus' ministry, until he comes again."

#### Hymns Sunday Will Be Prayers for the Holy Spirit's Filling, Empowering

Sunday's sequence hymn will be *Lord of the Church*, by Edward Oster and Charles Wesley, including: "Lord of the church, we humbly pray for those who guide us in thy way, and speak thy holy word; with love divine their hearts inspire, and (p. 2→)



"The Descent of the Holy Ghost", by Vecellio Tiziano (1490-1576), © Web Gallery of Art. This Sunday: "(T)he Holy Spirit . . . lives with you now and later will be in you." John 14:17 (NLT). "You send forth your Spirit, and . . . you renew the face of the earth." Ps. 104:31 (BCP). "And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit . . ." Acts 2:4 (NLT). "A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church. But we have all . . . received the same Spirit." 1 Cor. 12:7, 13b (NLT)

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Sundays

10:00 a.m.: Word & Table service

11:30 a.m.: Refreshments, conversation

11:45 a.m.: **Pentecost dinner this Sunday. Bring side dish, wear red!**

6:00 p.m.: (First Sundays only) Evensong, then tea & refreshments

**Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.:** Evening Prayers

**For the poor:** Meat; fresh produce; canned fruits and vegetables; dairy products; peanut butter; cooking oil; pancake mix; syrup; spices; diapers; baby wipes; bathroom tissue; for personal care: soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors, shaving cream; new underwear (adults and children); cleaning supplies; bleach.

**Readings, 5/11:** Acts 2:1-11; Ps. 104:25-37; 1 Cor. 12:4-13; John 14:15-26.  
**5/18:** Gen. 1:1—2:3; Ps. 150; 2 Cor. 13:5-14; Mt. 28:16-20.

**Prayer Emphases:** Norway; Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Church; Trinity Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, OH, and interim pastor Rich Genzman; Vancouver School of Theology; parishioners on Leisure Drive.

**(Hymn, cont'd.)** touch their lips with hallowed fire, and needful grace afford." Charles Wesley's *Simmers, Lift up Your Hearts*, the hymn before Eucharist, includes: "Sent down to make us meet To see his glorious face, And grant us each a seat In that thrice happy place, The Holy Ghost to man is given, Rejoice in God sent down from heaven." Charles Wesley's *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, the recessional, includes: "Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit, Into every troubled breast! Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; . . . Set our heart at liberty."