

Devotion, Week of May 24, 2026 – Week of Pentecost

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Well, we have moved from the joyful mystery of the resurrection and ascension to the rather strange mystery of Pentecost. I'm still not sure about these tongues of fire settling on each of the believers' shoulders in that room. Much less sure about those folks speaking in other languages – not babble language but real languages from nearby countries. No wonder the witnesses to this thought they were drunk. But Peter stands up and makes sense of it all. He quotes Joel:

In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.

And then Peter quotes David as proof that Jesus was the Messiah. We read that about 3000 people repented, were baptized, and joined the community. So in addition to this mysterious coming of tongues of fire and the Holy Spirit, Peter used Hebrew scripture to convince the witnesses that this was, indeed, a holy event. The disciples remembered that Jesus told them he would send the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, to help them carry on. And we read that "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Peter's testimony begins the spread of the gospel. May we remember this event as we too devote ourselves to teaching, fellowship, and prayers, and as we too give testimony of the Risen Lord.

Jeanne