

this reason, it seeks from the Church the satisfaction of its individual religious, social and material necessities. It is not able to think that the Church, as the body of Christ which gathers together “in the Holy Spirit”, cannot exist without this harmonious joining together of the validation of the person who receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit and of his enlistment in the Church. So that all together, we can share the creativity of our gifts and become one, changing our own self and the world.

Our personal Pentecost cannot be conceived of without the Pentecost of everyone. In a world that remains in its individual-centricity and which refuses to leave itself to the presence of the Holy Spirit, who “grants everything”, let us insist in opening up ourselves to our neighbor through the Church. This is the gift which Christ left us, and the Holy Spirit gathers it together, in order for us to live and confess the Triune God not only in words but also in works. And with the grace of the Holy Spirit our salvation comes.

Fr. T. M

**SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021 HOLY PENTECOST**, *Methodios the Martyr, Bishop of Olympus, Kallistos I, Patriarch of Constantinople, Nicholas Cabasilas of Thessaloniki*

**tone of the week** :

**EOTHINON** :

**Epistle Reading** : Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

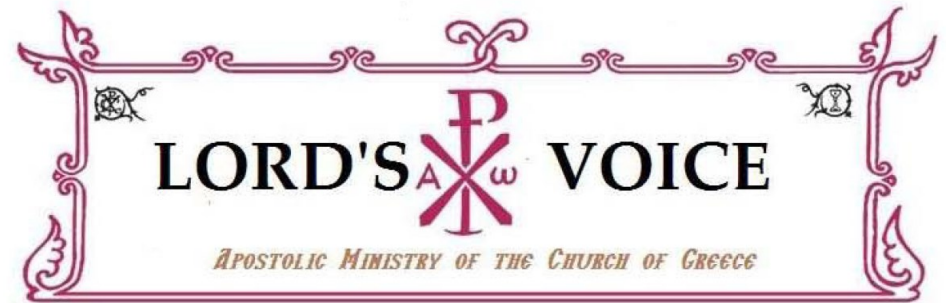
**Gospel Reading** : John 7:37-52; 8:12

**SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2021 THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS**,

*Samson the Hospitable, Joanna the Myrrhbearer, Anektos the Martyr, Tychon the Wonderworker, 40 Martyrs of Rome, Mark the Just of Apollonia*

**Epistle Reading** : St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

**Gospel Reading** : Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30



69<sup>TH</sup> YEAR JUNE 20 2021 PAMPHLET # 25 (3551)

## HOLY SPIRIT, THE TREASURE OF GOODS

Our age more easily accepts a God, as an impersonal, abstract power, rather than a God, who adopted, on account of love, flesh and bones, and who cares for us, sending the Holy Spirit, so as to not leave us orphaned and to continue to sanctify us, being present in our life. We confess “Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Trinity, one in essence and undivided”, but our logic does not allow us to entrust the power which we receive in the life of the Church, as the starting point for change and as communion with God who exists “in three persons”, He is not abstract, but He meets us personally.

The starting point of this constant presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the world and of people, in our own personal life is the feast of Pentecost. The narration in the Acts of the Apostles presents particular interest related to the way with which the Holy Spirit is revealed to the Apostles. “He sat upon each one of them” (Acts 2:3). His presence was personal upon each one of the disciples. It was not only a general gift to the entire world and to people, but also a special blessing to each disciple, who awaited him.

## EPISTLE READING ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 2:1-11

WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

### Presuppositions of Pentecost

Precisely this expectation, the fruit of love for Christ, who prepared, both before the Resurrection as well as after it, the Apostles, for the coming of the Holy Spirit, comprises the characteristic point, which often is lacking from our own life. Signs of expectation were the gathering of the Apostles together in the same place. It was their unity of soul. It was their readiness to share the joy and treasure of the goods. They knew that it would be given to them; it would not be for their personal validation, but for the ministry of the Gospel to all creation. For the continuation of the work that their Teacher had started out. And they awaited this presence of the Holy Spirit being

of one soul. Having one soul and one heart. Not putting their personal beliefs, way of seeing the world, gifts, knowledge, their abilities above the unity between them. Their unity also included the joy of the company, of the community, of the presence in the area where they had already been sanctified thanks to the presence of Christ, they had communed His body and blood on the night of the Mystical Supper.

### The way of the Gospel

These three points, the expectation, unity of soul and community comprise the basis for the Holy Spirit to touch them on a personal level. When we people belong to the Church, in other words, we gather "in Christ" in the place of the church, in the way of the Gospel, when our heart is of one soul with the others, in other words, we await the presence of Christ, we seek Him, we love Him, and we are eager for His sake to leave aside every human and everyday thing, then we have all the presuppositions to receive the Holy Spirit. But also, when we have the disposition to undertake the mission to proceed to the world, each one speaking about the miracle that he is living, then the Holy Spirit does not remain in the general blessing. He comes to each one of us and gives us the grace and the blessing to offer, to offer ourselves and to serve the work of love and the salvation of everyone.

### The Church as the body of Christ

The world has the human self, the individual, as the center. It seeks the personal gifts, not in order to function in a perspective of collectivity, but for individual validation and success. Society is comprised of a gathering of individualities, that do not aim to the oneness of soul in the community, but to individual glory. So, for