



74<sup>th</sup> Year

May 31, 2026

Pamphlet #22 (3809)

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## **THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (John 7:37-52,8:12)**

### **"I am the light of the world"**

*On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

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## **PENTECOST, THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES**

The Lord Jesus Christ, before His voluntary death on the Cross, promised His disciples that when He departed to His Father, He would send another Comforter, that is, a consoler and advocate, the Holy Spirit, "that He may abide with you unto the ages" (John 14:16). On the Sunday of Pentecost, we celebrate the coming and descent of the Comforter, the time of fulfillment, the "appointed time" of the Father's promise (Luke 24:49). This Holy Spirit constitutes the entire institution of the Church in the historical time of the present world, for the Church existed before all ages as a Kingdom and Glory hidden in God, in which God dwells with the Word and the Holy Spirit (Fr. John Romanides). Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church, because at that time it is revealed as the Body of the Lord Jesus. At its center, on the one hand, is the Divine Eucharist, during which the faithful eat and drink the Body and Blood of Christ, and on the other hand is the whole ecclesiastical life, that is, the sacraments, prayer, dogmas, and teaching. This life is fulfilled through the Holy Spirit, because it is He who acts within the person, through whose will and cooperation salvation is achieved – participation in the Kingdom and Glory of God.

### **Revelation of the Holy Trinity**

The feast of Pentecost is above all a theological feast, because through the coming of the Holy Spirit the mystery of the Holy and Consubstantial Trinity is more clearly revealed, and the faithful gain experience of this mystery. The Holy Spirit came, who proceeds from God the Father "before all ages" and is sent "in time" by God the Son, Jesus Christ; and as the Comforter God, He guides us "into all truth" (John 16:13). These three persons of the Holy Trinity share the same nature (essence) and the same glory (energy). That is, they are of one essence, equal in glory, and equal in power. Saint Gregory the Theologian, who had a revelatory experience of this mystery, speaks of three

lights that illumined him: "I cannot reach to think of the One without being shined about by the Three; nor can I reach to distinguish (to divide) the Three without being carried back to the One" (Oration 40, 41). God is a Monad in His essence and Three in His hypostases. Great and unfathomable is the mystery of the divine Being.

## **The rebirth of man in the Holy Spirit**

Within the saving space of the Church, the believer feels that he is renewed, is continually reborn by the breath of the Holy Spirit of God. This rebirth consists, mainly, in the ability to approach, with faith and love, the incarnate Word of God, and thus to be freed from sin and from the inner darkness of the "old man" that we all carry within us. Rebirth in the Holy Spirit means that the "new" person, the new person in Christ, whom the Holy Spirit forms within us, prevails over the "old" who seeks to dominate our conscience and to lead us away from the life in God, offering us as nourishment "the pods" that the swine eat (Luke 15:16).

The Holy Spirit renews us because, through communion in the love of God, He imparts to us the true and eternal life, which enlightens, beautifies, and gives meaning to the present life, which is subject to evil, sin, and death. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the conscious participation of the believer in the sacraments of the Church, the apostolic exhortation is fulfilled: "Do not conform to the mindset of this world, but be continually transformed toward the good, acquiring the new mindset of the faithful. Then you will be able to discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing to Him and perfect" (Romans 12:2). Thus, the person is renewed and reborn. We consider this to be one of the most important messages of the feast of Pentecost in the contemporary world, which, having embraced an anti-spiritual culture, encourages the fragmentation of man and traps him in individualism. However, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of unity, peace, reconciliation, and love; therefore, He teaches humility, repentance, sacrifice, and the overcoming of selfishness, which causes misery and pain.

## The Holy Spirit, the cause of our salvation

In the love and power of the Holy Spirit we place the hope of our salvation, as we chant in a wonderful hymn: "By the Holy Spirit is every saving cause; if He breathes upon someone worthily, He swiftly lifts him from earthly things, gives him wings, makes him grow, and sets him on high." That is, the Holy Spirit is the cause that saves all; whoever is deemed worthy to receive His breath, He quickly raises from earthly things, gives him wings, increases him, and places him in heaven (Anavathmoi Hymn, Plagal of the Second Tone).

Archimandrite N. K.

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May 31, 2026: 8th Sunday of Pascha

THE FEAST OF PENTECOST,  
Martyr Hermeias (2nd century).

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11 – Gospel: John 7:37-52,8:12

NEXT SUNDAY: June 7, Sunday of All Saints  
Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-12:2 – Gospel: Matt. 10:32-33,37-38,19:27-30

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