

Pentecost Sunday – May 24, 2026

Acts 2:1-21

It's 10 days after Jesus ascended. We remember where we left off last week? At the end of Luke, the disciples were in the temple praising God. But then at the beginning of Acts, we heard the angels had to give the disciples a little push to leave the place where Jesus left them because they were too busy looking up at the clouds. So, ten days have passed since then. We are now 50 days out from the resurrection – which is where we get the term Pentecost. It comes from the Greek word - pentekostē - which literally means fiftieth.

And where do we find the disciples? In some place. One place. Somewhere gathered together. Christian tradition has them back in the Upper Room. Some say they were in a room in the temple. We know they were in Jerusalem. They at least followed Jesus instructions to go and wait. And so they did. They sat and waited.

They were living in this in-between moment. They had a promise, but no timeline. They were living in this period between the end of one chapter and the beginning of the next. I think often we can find ourselves in this in-between. Waiting for clarity. Waiting for healing. The moments between getting a diagnosis and waiting to start treatment. Or getting a new job and waiting to start it. Or even getting a new pastor and waiting for all the members to come filing in. So much of life gets spent in these spaces where nothing dramatic seems to be happening.

It's also interesting to note what the disciples aren't doing. The disciples aren't coming up with their mission plan. They aren't strategizing where they're going to go first. They truly are just waiting. Worshipping. Trusting that God will deliver what Jesus had promised.

And God shows up, With a force that cannot be reckoned with. God breaks into everyday life without warning and changes everything. They are filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit. These disciples certainly didn't earn it, or prepare for it. They don't even understand it at first. But then Peter broke through. Gave his first sermon.

Remember, this is the same Peter who denied Jesus 3 times. The same Peter that Jesus rebuked when he was trying to explain to the disciples what was to come. The same Peter who was walking on water and then began to doubt the miracle that Jesus was doing. This same Peter. Now filled with the Holy Spirit, is ready to preach the gospel.

I always resonate with Peter because he seemed to be the disciple who most often ends up putting his own foot in his mouth. And most of the time I feel like a screw-up just like him. But then, seeing what the spirit can do. Seeing how the spirit changed Peter and gave him the gifts and ability to go out and create the new church following after Jesus. That's certainly humbling. Because it's a reminder that God can work through the goofiest of the disciples. And certainly God can work through me as well.

There's no prerequisites. No abilities you have to have. The spirit is alive and active in you and I. Even when we feel like we're in those in-between moments, God is still acting. We just don't know how yet. We won't get tongues of flame above our heads. Or sounds of a rushing wind. And while I'd love the ability to understand the multitude of languages, God is acting in new ways.

The church is changing. It's not the same Church it was when Peter gave his first sermon. And it won't be the same in another hundred years or so. And we don't know what exactly the spirit is up to. But we trust like the disciples did. Waiting for the spirit to make itself known. And when it did, the world changed.

Because the Spirit did not come just to create one powerful moment. The Spirit came to create connection. The Spirit does not stay locked up in the room. The Spirit moves outward. Through us.

Everyone today is going to get a little reminder of that. Something to carry in your purses, keep in your car, or on your nightstand. Just a little reminder that the spark of the spirit is in you. Even when God feels distant. When we don't know what God has in store for us. May this be a reminder that the spirit is burning in you.

Sometimes the wait feels endless. Other times, the spirit makes herself clearly known. In the in-between moments, God is not absent; God is preparing ordinary people to be filled by the Spirit and sent outward in love, witness, and connection.

The very first thing the Spirit did was push the disciples beyond their comfort zone and into the lives of other people. They didn't plan it. They were simply carried by the Spirit into the world.

Pentecost is not about perfect words or perfect faith by us. Pentecost is about a God who refuses to be contained. Not in a room, not in a temple, not in a church, not even in us. Go out, and let your light shine bright. Know that God is working through you and will equip you in ways that are beyond your greatest comprehension. God's not done with any of us yet. Amen.