**Acts 2:1-5 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.**

Today, I want to speak about Pentecost. Pentecost was last Sunday, but we had scheduled to recognize our graduates. As Christians, we recognize Christmas and Easter, but we don’t do as well recognizing events like Advent, Ascension, and Pentecost.

Pentecost comes from the Greek word for fifty. Pentecost is not peculiar to the New Testament. Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the Sabbath of Passover. In the Old Testament, it’s called the Feast of Weeks, celebrating many things, including the first fruits of the harvest and the giving of the Law to Moses. In Deuteronomy 16:16, God says, *“Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed.”* It’s a pilgrimage feast and drew a large number of the Jewish people to Jerusalem from all over, which explains why there are men gathered from all nations, as stated in Acts 2.

Pentecost is sometimes considered the birthday of the Church. It’s the day that the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. It’s a time of excitement knowing that the promise that Jesus made in Acts 1:5 - *for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now -* has been kept. And we can trust that, since He kept that promise to the disciples, He’ll certainly keep His promise to us from John 14:15-18 *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.* How wonderful that Pentecost fulfills the prophecy of Joel 2:28, spoken 500 years earlier – “*And it shall come to pass afterword That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.* Pentecost – a promise kept.

This is all the more reason to be confident today. We’ve nothing to fear, nothing to wring our hands over. The God that knows the ending from the beginning, knows our name as well. There’s nothing to fear when we’ve placed our faith in Jesus. We can rest easy, even as the storms rage.

Verse 1 says – *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.* The disciples have waited in Jerusalem, just as Jesus commanded in Acts 1:4. It’s no coincidence that they’re gathered during this Feast. God’s perfect timing. But let’s take note of the state of mind of the disciples on this day. This is the group that hid 50 days ago, denied 50 days ago, doubted 50 days ago. Yet, here we find them in one accord – perfect agreement. This is the group that argued over who was the greatest. Yet, here we find them in one place. 50 days has changed this group and prepared them to change the world.

How did they go from frightened to fearless? Look at Acts 1:12-14 *Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey. 13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.* Fellowship, prayer, and supplication… humble prayer to God for the coming of the Holy Spirit. What must we do to be fearless conquerors? The Same.

Verses 2-4 *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*The sound of a mighty rushing wind, speaking in language other than their own. Does this mean that, when we receive the Holy Spirit that we hear a mighty rushing wind and speak a language we’ve never heard before? No. Why the sound? Why the speaking in another language? Acts 2:6 provides the answer – to get the attention of and communicate with the people around. *And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.* Remember, these are Jewish pilgrims. They very likely speak Greek, Aramaic, or Hebrew. God speaking to them in their native language is incredible. No need to translate. The Gospel is coming in their native tongue. Nothing lost in translation. No word that doesn’t quite fit. The Gospel from Galileans who shouldn’t know the language.

Christ chose a day when Jerusalem would be filled with men from every nation to bring His church into being and launch the Great Commission. Verse 5*And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.* Devout men from every nation there to hear the Gospel preached. Men who had studied the scriptures, knew the prophecies, and believed. Men who were looking for the Messiah. Men not easily fooled. Men who would take the Gospel out to all nations. It’s no coincidence that this is a Feast celebrating the giving of the Law. Christ fulfilled the Law It’s no coincidence that this is a Feast celebrating the first fruits. The day of Pentecost was a day of the First Fruits of the Great Commission. When Peter looked out upon the multitude, he understood well why Jesus said in John 4, *Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!* And so the fields are today.

The Day of Pentecost has fully come. The fields are white (meaning light) unto the harvest. Luke 10:2 says *Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.* As we look out onto this world filled with fear of disease and disorder, we feel an inner peace, knowing that Jesus holds us. Now’s the time to spread the love of Jesus like never before. Now, it is we who must be the laborers in the field. Push away from the table and go to the field. Perhaps you’ll sow; perhaps you’ll reap; God gives the increase. Human connection doesn’t happen Facebook to Facebook. It happens face to face. We must be boots on the ground to a lost and hurting world. That is the message Pentecost sends down through the ages.

Today, if you have not surrendered to Jesus, let’s get that straight. It’s no time like the present. Jesus is speaking in your native language, straight to your soul. Hear Him, answer Him today.