

Pentecost Miracles

- This service today: big deal, bec today in this service we celebrate fest of Pent. And Pent, big deal. Pent is one of three great festivals of Christian Church, up there with Xmas, East. Church dresses in beautiful red on Pent to celebrate work of HS. Can see that work depicted in Pent window (7th, flames, baptismal seashell [today]). Pent took place exactly 50 days after Jesus rose; 10 days after ascended (celebrated Asc week ago Thurs). Before ascended, Jesus promised to send HS. On Pent kept that promise, poured out HS on his people. That's big deal!
- Many people in Jerusalem at this time; special Jewish fest going on called Festival of Weeks. Took place 7 weeks after Passover; like the Jewish Thanksgiving. So many gathered in Jerusalem; and just as Jesus turned Jewish Passover into Lord's Supper, so now turns Jewish Festival of Weeks into Christian Pent. Shows how big a deal that is with number of Pent miracles.
- All kinds of miracles took place that day. #1 – sound. **Vs. 1-2.** Deafening noise, like tornado. People who have lived through tornado: sounds like freight train, jet engine. Here, loud sound.
- #2 – fire. **Vs. 3.** Like flames of fire on heads, but didn't get burned. This is picture we most often think of when think re Pent. Way back at beginning of Jesus' ministry, John Baptist: **"He [Jesus] will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Mt 3:11)**; today fulfilled; could actually see the fire. Why fire on paraments, stoles, window; why we light fire at baptism – work of HS is always associated with fire. Faith is like a fire: HS starts as flame at baptism or conversion; through God's Word, HS fans that flame of faith into blazing fire. So second miracle: fire.
- #3 – languages. **Vs. 4b.** Later, **vs. 6b-8.** Common, blue-collar Galilean fishermen, not Ivy-league educated scholars. Yet all of sudden, speaking (fluently, powerfully) foreign languages of world! Never studied; but not stumbling over words; preaching sermons; people understand exactly what saying! You ever studied/learned foreign lang? Hard work to learn lang! But not here. Here, just suddenly know language; miracle. Pent miracles happening all over place on this special day.
- These miracles (loud sound, tongues fire, diff languages) – all secondary to what's about to happen; meant to call attention to and highlight greatest Pent miracle that would happen that day: when God poured out HS on his people and filled them with his Spirit. **Vs. 4a.**
- What even mean: to be filled with HS? See what meant for disciples that day: these timid Xians (who on MT abandoned Jesus; on Easter locked selves up in room for safety) now turned into bold preachers of gospel. They're fulfilling prophecy of Joel: **vs. 17-18.** Got that long list of foreigners visiting Jerusalem from all over world (P,M,E); at end they said: **vs. 11b.** "Wonders of God:" imagine what they were hearing. Prob hearing things like: "Listen, all you in Jerusalem: you know what written in prophets, psalms re coming Messiah, Savior of world. Let me tell you: that Messiah has come to us in person of JC. Born of virgin girl named Mary, wife of Joe Naz. This Jesus was prophet who lived among us, walked our streets, proclaimed kingdom of God. Performed miracles: healed sick, fed starving, drove out demons, raised dead. This is same Jesus, who almost 2 mos ago at Passover was executed on cross under PP, he now has risen from dead (we saw him, own eyes!). Now, ascended back into heaven, where rules world. This Jesus is the Messiah; our Savior; put your faith in him." They proclaimed "wonders of God." So to be filled with HS, for those disciples on that day, meant they were turned into bold preachers of the gospel.
- But wasn't just those disciples who were filled with HS. That day, all believers present, and all people who became believers in Jesus, were filled with HS, too! Really, this is greatest of all Pent miracles: that God poured out his HS and filled many people with Xian faith. That's what HS does: fills people with faith. I suppose today, as celebrate Pent, we should probably remember who HS is, what does. HS is true God, 3rd person of Trinity. Proceeds from Father & Son: goes into world, into peoples' hearts, creates or strengthens faith in Jesus. He's the active faith-worker in our hearts. As before: faith like fire; and it's HS who lights that fire, gives it fuel to grow. Fuel he uses to grow our faith: means of grace (gospel in Word, Sacr). So whenever gospel preached (read, studied, pondered),

Sacrs administered, Spirit is at work, growing fires. Growing fires right now, in this church service. As grows these fires and works faith in believers, also doing something else: gathering believers into one big group, called HCC (confess in 3rd article: HCC, CoS). So HS creates faith, strengthens faith, gathers people of Xian faith into his Church.

- That's what happened at Pent in major way! Vs. 41. But what makes Pent such big deal for us: HS still works Pent miracles to this very day, among us, as well. Just look at HS's work in your own life. HS brought you to faith (prob at baptism). Throughout your life, HS has kept you in that faith – every contact you've had with God's Word (sermons, worship, Bible studies, personal devotions) that's an occasion when HS has thrown fuel on fire of your faith; every time take Communion, HS makes faith stronger. That's just you. Think about Church at large. HS has been at work, performing Pent miracles throughout church history among believers of every era of world and area of world, like:
 - people in list today – P,M,E;
 - your children, your own sons/daughters you're bringing up in training, instr of Lord;
 - people around world who hear gospel as result of our offerings, our support of mission work;
 - children in our elementary school who hear gospel everyday from loving Xian teachers;
 - all our fellow members in this cong; and Xians all over world.
- These are all miracles of the HS's work! What makes Pent such big deal is not only how God poured out HS 50 days after Easter, but also how he still pours out HS on Church today (on us!). And he's going to continue to pour out his HS until end of time, when HS's miracle-working will finally be complete, and HCC is finally all gathered together in heaven.
- But until that day, Pent miracles will continue to take place, in simple ways: like when you see baptism, take Communion, come to church; wherever sermons preached, Bibles studied, Xians gathered around gospel; no matter what country that may be, century that may be, what language may be spoken – HS will be there: lighting fires, growing faith, and performing Pent miracles.

Acts 2:1-21, 40-41

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?"⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.