

# Pentecost, the Feast of Fulfilment

Congregation, we wish to consider the gospel of Pentecost, as it can be found in Acts 2, verses 1 through 4.

- 1 And when the day of Pentecost was 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 all the house where they were sitting.*
- 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*
- 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

We consider the Feast of Pentecost, the feast of fulfilment and focus on three main thoughts:

1. The day was fully come;
2. The house was filled;
3. Hearts were filled.

## **1. The day was fully come**

Pentecost is the crown on all the redemptive events which we have celebrated in the past couple of months. The redemptive events began with the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ in the stable of Bethlehem. They continued with His death on the cross, His resurrection from the dead at Easter and His ascension to heaven from the Mount of Olives.

Deep down, also Pentecost is a Christ-feast. It is not a feast that comes as a supplement after Christmas, Easter, and Ascension Day. No, Pentecost too is a Christ-feast. That which commenced in the stable of Bethlehem was brought to fulfilment on the Day of Pentecost. It is the last redemptive event before the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ on the clouds of heaven.

No other redemptive events are to follow anymore. Neither is there a need for any other because all that has transpired, till the feast of Pentecost, constitutes the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because of the coming of the Holy Spirit on this earth, there will always be a church on this earth, throughout all ages. The Lord Jesus continues to minister His Word here on earth through His Holy Spirit. He will gather His elect by His Word until the fulness of His church. Then He will take her to Himself in glory. So, Pentecost is truly the bringing to completion of the work of Christ.

The Spirit came to apply the work of the Lord Jesus and to impart it through the preaching of the Word. Thus, we see a close connection between Luke 2 which describes the coming of the Lord Jesus to this earth and Acts 2 which relates the coming of the Spirit to this earth.

On the morning of the Day of Pentecost we find all the disciples of the Lord Jesus gathered together in Jerusalem. There were the 11 men whom He had chosen to be His disciples. Judas' place had been taken by Matthias who was chosen as apostle. Together with these 12 there were more than one hundred other disciples. They belonged to the wider circle of disciples, including women and children. This then was nothing less than a congregation gathering in Jerusalem.

They had come early, already at the third hour of the day, that means at 9 o'clock. In doing so, they acted according to the Lord Jesus' instruction to His disciples, as He had commanded them to stay in Jerusalem and to wait for the fulfilment of the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit, till they would receive power from on high.

After Christ's ascension the disciples had returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem with great joy and had obeyed Jesus' word. They had attended to His instruction and kept it and had been waiting for the fulfilment of the Lord's promise. And as is always the case, the fulfilment was received in the way of prayer.

That is how the disciples had gathered together, continuing with one accord in prayer and supplication, as we read in Acts 1:14.

Together waiting for the Spirit of Christ, sharing a bond with Him but also with each other. For ten days they had lived together in prayer and supplication, lifting up their heads to heaven, from whence they expected that the Lord would fulfil His promises.

How precious this waiting, congregation! This prayerful anticipation of these one hundred and twenty people. If we compare the church of back then with ours today, divided as it is, torn apart, crumbled and not at all in one accord, how should it fill us with shame! We live so distant from Christ. We keep so far from the promises of the Lord Jesus. If we would live holding close to these promises as people who in themselves do not have anything nor are able to do anything, we would also live more in unity with each other. A unity in which the one esteems the other better than themselves. We wouldn't esteem ourselves superior to others. We would not disregard the other. Rather, we would be united in a bond of brotherly love. One in heart, one in mind. One faith, one hope, and one baptism tied these disciples together. This was the way in which their expectation was from the Lord alone.

Some people speak of our days as dark days. Supposedly the Spirit doesn't work anymore and very little is seen of the work of the God. The problem is though, that those who say this live themselves far away from God and thus are not able to see His work. They only see trivial things, things that have no value before God and man.

But if you live a close life with the Lord Jesus and His Word and together with others lift up your soul to God in heaven, you will see the things of the Word of God. And you will live in unity with each other, a unity which defines the true church of God.

These one hundred and twenty people were congregated together in a room in Jerusalem. We don't know their exact location, but this we know: they were waiting for the fulfilment of God's promises with prayer and supplication. Here was the church of Christ and now was the time of the sending forth of the Holy Spirit. He didn't descend in the temple because that was the place of the Pharisees. No, the Spirit of the Lord came to the place where the one hundred and twenty disciples were gathered together in unity, looking up to heaven. He came on the Day of Pentecost upon them who had come together in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. The Spirit did not only come to this congregation. No, as He came to fulfil the Old Testament feast of Pentecost, He came to the multitudes.

There was a big multitude of people who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate this feast. Soon these one hundred and twenty people would begin preaching and through the preaching of this church of Christ in Jerusalem on which the Spirit would descend, the multitude would be pierced in their hearts.

They had come to Jerusalem from all the countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. Jerusalem was crowded with visitors because Israel celebrated the harvest feast. The wheat had been harvested and the first fruits of the harvest, the bread, were to be presented to the Lord in the temple, as had always been done at the feast of Pentecost since the days of old.

Pentecost was celebrated seven weeks after Passover. This time it was to be the feast of the first fruits of Christ's harvest. They were gathered to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. On this particular day Christ's harvest, the harvest which belongs to Him, would be reaped and gathered in through the simple means of preaching.

Besides celebrating the harvest, after the Babylonian exile, Israel had started to commemorate on the feast of Pentecost that it had arrived at Mount Sinai fifty days after they had left Egypt. There the Lord had entered into a covenant with the people of Israel. There He had given them His law, which began with the words *"I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage"* (Exodus 20:2). There He had given them the ministry of reconciliation, through which He entered into communion with Israel.

What a precious thought if we consider that the Spirit of Pentecost was poured out on the day that Israel commemorated that the Lord had engaged them. That's the expression the prophets used when the Lord had made a covenant with the people. He had engaged them. He betrothed them. He took them for His own and would care for them. He would be their God. From their side, the people of Israel would serve the Lord in love. It was a marriage covenant.

That was also how the Spirit in the New Testament came to dwell here on earth. Particularly on the day of Pentecost, because on that day, Jesus, from His position at the right hand of His Father in heaven, betrothed His people. He gave them the Spirit as a pledge on this earth. The Spirit as a guarantee of His love, of His faithfulness and of the obtained deliverance.

The new covenant became a reality. No longer the old covenant of Israel with all its ceremonial laws; no longer grace, as it were, shrouded by the law. The new covenant had come, and the administration of the law had come to an end. Instead, the Holy Spirit came to dwell in the church of God. That is why the Spirit was poured out on these 120 people in Jerusalem and dwells in the hearts of all God's own. The Spirit writes God's law in their hearts and dwells in them. He gives them a new heart and removes the heart of stone and for that reason they begin to walk through the Spirit of God.

This then is how the Lord Jesus betrothed His church here on earth on the feast of Pentecost.

The bonds of the law broke, and the church of God was set free, the glorious liberty of the children of God. They now walk through the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ.

For this reason, the church would prosper from now on. The work of Christ here on earth will flourish. When the church is alive, she will speak through the Spirit and become fruitful. She will see her offspring. Through the Spirit she gives birth to new members, of which Psalm 87 sang, *"This man was born there. And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her"* (Psalm 87:4, 5).

This is what happened in Jerusalem in the house where the church of the Lord Jesus was gathered. They were in one accord at the feast of Pentecost. Jerusalem was filled with strangers who had come to celebrate the feast of weeks and to commemorate the making of the covenant at Mount Sinai. All things were ready, so to speak. On that day of Pentecost, it was going to happen. *"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."*

The Lord was about to answer the prayer of His church and to fulfil His promises, which we wish to consider in our second main thought.

## **2. The house was filled**

As the congregation was gathered there in the early morning, suddenly there came a sound as of a rushing mighty wind. Split tongues as of fire appeared on the heads of the one hundred and twenty disciples. It was a sign and symbol. The Holy Spirit revealed Himself in His coming in an audible and visible sign. Something of His coming to His house in Jerusalem could be heard and seen. It had to be that way. Because when the Lord Jesus was born, the Child could be seen in the stable of Bethlehem. And when the Lord rose from the dead, He appeared bodily and visibly to His disciples. When He

ascended to heaven, the disciples saw Him ascending to heaven. So at each of the preceding redemptive events there was the visible and the audible. The Lord Jesus could be seen.

Now however, the third Person in the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, came to earth. He is invisible; He cannot be seen or touched. His presence cannot be noticed outwardly. Therefore, when He came, His coming was accompanied by signs which had a certain meaning. They showed what the Spirit came to do here on earth. The Holy Spirit showed His office, His duty, in the way He came. At Christmas angels came to tell what had happened. After Jesus' resurrection again angels announced what had taken place. Again, at His ascension from the Mount of Olives two angels stood by the eleven men who had seen Jesus departing.

But there is where the role of the angels ended. No angels came anymore to explain things. What happened now is that the Holy Spirit explained Himself on the day of Pentecost. No angels were needed anymore. Now the Holy Spirit would use normal people, eleven men, plain men of flesh and blood.

Hear the sound of a mighty rushing wind. The sound of a hurricane. These were mighty signs! There was no actual wind but the sound of a wind. And then there was the sign of fire. There was no real fire but tongues as of fire. Fire and storm. Here you have it: the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit shows that the power with which He is going to work on this earth equals that of a hurricane. We know the devastating power of a hurricane. In the Netherlands our forefathers experienced the power of storm winds. Think of the year 1953, when they saw the destructive power of storm wind and sea. Villages were swept away; numerous houses destroyed. Everything in the wind's path is swept up and dragged along with it. The wind is immensely powerful. This is how the Holy Spirit comes with the power of a hurricane.

When the Lord Jesus sets out to work here on the earth by His Spirit and His Word, His power equals that of a hurricane. The Spirit will overthrow everything that rises up against Christ.

As happened in Jerusalem. There were those who had called: "Crucify Him; away with Him. We do not want to have anything to do with This One. We do not want Him to be King over us!" But then came the simple preaching of Peter and the other apostles and three thousand people who previously had been offended at Christ and the Gospel of His mercy, surrendered, unconditionally. Why was that? Well, when the Spirit came with His great power He overturns all that is ours. At the same time, He plants the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ in the heart.

Still today He works the same way. He works through the preaching of the Word. The sound of the wind can be heard and the tongues can be seen. Tongues symbolize language; the tongue speaks. The flames that were on the heads of the disciples were like speaking tongues. When the Holy Spirit speaks with power in your heart, everything which opposes the Lord will be overthrown.

The wind of the Holy Spirit has a twofold effect. The Song of Solomon says that this Spirit comes as a north wind and as a south wind. The north wind is a very strong wind, which cleans the gardens and blows away all impurity. All the dead leaves, all the dead fruits, are blown away.

This is how the Holy Spirit penetrates your life and purifies it. He purges what does not belong in it. He penetrates your life and discovers. You will see what kind of person you are to God. You will see who you have always been to Him and that you did never truly seek God. These are the things you begin to see.

The Spirit also comes as the south wind. That's a soft, a sweet breeze. It makes the gardens of Israel fertile. The blossom will bud, bear fruit and then the spices will flow over the gardens. It is a fertile, sweet south wind.

From the Word of God the Holy Spirit will reveal Who Christ wants to be for a lost one. The Spirit does not come to earth to testify of Himself, or to speak of Himself, as some teach. They single out the Holy Spirit. Just think of the Pentecostal movements, or of the Anabaptists and Baptists. They want to think of the Spirit apart from Christ, but that is impossible.

The Spirit comes to earth with the Word and has only one goal: to make the Name of the Lord Jesus a living reality in your life, so that you only expect it from Christ. The Lord Jesus says: *"He (the Holy Spirit) will glorify Me; for He will take it out of Mine, and will declare it to you"* (John 16:14). He comes into your heart to model Christ in you, so that your expectation would be from the Lord Jesus alone. That's what He comes for.

He does this irresistibly so that you cannot say 'no' anymore. Just like a hurricane comes unstoppably. You cannot shut out the hurricane or sidetrack it to a specific location. The hurricane goes where it wants.

Well, so does the Holy Spirit; He comes sovereignly. What an impressive truth! Because you may think you can hold out against the Spirit, but that is impossible. None can stand against the Spirit. When the Spirit comes, He comes irresistibly. He also comes wonderfully sovereign. We humans may think we have figured out how the Spirit works and will work in us. But He chooses a completely different way. The Spirit always chooses a way we never envision and we see people coming to the Lord. We see them coming in a wonderful way. Children of men, who have been touched by the Spirit of God and have come to love the Name of the Lord Jesus. They come from the east and from the west. We see boys and girls coming; we see young people come. People in whom the Spirit of the Lord works. They are driven by this Spirit. They don't become Pentecostals, but they become people, driven by the Spirit.

How can you tell that it is the true work of the Spirit? Well, from this: They are attached to and love the Word of God. These people begin to hearken to the Word of God and bow to it. They begin to seek the God of that Word. They are people who come by the Spirit of God, driven in silence; very quietly. You don't notice it from the outside. You don't see any special, extreme things. But they are people who bend their knees to the Lord in all simplicity and seek Him and His strength. They open the Word of God and ask, "Lord, teach me through Thy Word."

Thus the Spirit of Christ blows upon the garden of the church through the preaching the Word. In this way His power will be revealed. Inspiring, life-giving. Such is the Spirit of God, the breath of the Almighty, who comes and changes the heart with His power. He works with life-generating power, which causes people to begin seek after God.

Then you hear the jailor asking, *"Dear Sirs, what must I do to be saved"* (Acts 16:30)? You also hear the tax collector praying in the temple, *"God, be merciful to me a sinner"* (Luke 18:13).

This then is the sound of the wind. For the Lord Jesus says to Nicodemus, *"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit"* (John 3: 8). That's the way the Holy Spirit works.

What is the sound of the Holy Spirit? It's the petition: "Give me Jesus or I die; Jesus is my soul's life; apart from Jesus I perish" (Jacob Groenewegen). It is all about Christ and His grace alone. That's how the wind works; irresistibly and sovereign.

On the other hand, there were the dividing tongues like as of fire. Where the Word is preached - and this became evident at the Day of Pentecost - the preaching of it will work like flames of fire. It actually

says in our text: dividing tongues like as of fire. You could see these flames spread from one head to the other. Everyone saw the tongues as of fire resting on the other. Dividing tongues like as of fire. It spread everywhere. So does the preaching of the Word. Hearts are lit by the love of God in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hearts are set on fire. They start burning. Where this Word is preached, this fire of the Word goes everywhere. That is the awesomeness of the work of the Holy Spirit. The hearts of people are set on fire by the Word and the preaching of God's testimony. It is the testimony of Jesus that sets the hearts on fire. And it spreads, like those dividing tongues of fire.

Where there is fire, light comes with it. First and foremost, the light of knowledge will come to the soul. It begins to illuminate the darkness of the heart. Most people live in the total darkness of the world and give in to it. They think worldly and not according to the Word of God and God Himself. If you've never seen the darkness of your foolish mind, you begin to see it through the Word and the Spirit. You begin to see that you are foolish and live in the world without God, someone who makes his decisions without God, doing all things in life without Him.

The world does everything without God. We work without God and rule without God. We live without God, marry without God and have children without God. We have excluded God from all this. He is no factor at all. He doesn't play any role in our lives. He's meaningless. That is how man lives in this world. But through the fire of the Spirit you begin to see the total darkness of an ungodly life. You begin to see that you are a poor lost sinner, wandering through the darkness like a fool. *"We grope for the wall,"* (Isa. 59:10) says Isaiah, and cannot find it. Not even, he says, at noon when it is light.

The Spirit works knowledge. In the darkness of your heart, in the darkness of your life, the light of the Light of the world, Christ, rises. *"I am the Light of the world"* (John 8:12). What a miracle it is when this Light rises in your heart and knowledge is kindled in your soul by the Holy Spirit, when the light of Jesus rises in the darkness of our Christian paganism and you begin to see the glory of His kingdom, when you begin to see the glory of His grace and love.

Fire also gives warmth. Where there is fire, there is warmth and the love of Jesus. When you begin to see something of Him Who gave Himself for such a one as I am. He gave Himself unto death, the death of the cross. You will momentarily taste something of this and you will love Him, who knows the whole church. *"We love Him because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19). Where the Spirit comes, He will teach to spell that childlike prayer, *"Abba, Father"* (Rom. 8:15) and we begin to pray childlike and dependent to the God of life.

Warmth comes into the soul through the Holy Spirit, so that in Christ we see a Father who has compassion on His children, Who is moved with fatherly compassion, on which the church of the Lord begins to rely.

*Call to mind, o Lord Jehovah,  
Tender mercies manifold,  
And Thy store of lovingkindness  
Which has ever been of old. (Psalter 415:3)*

Where the Spirit begins to work through the preaching, there will come zeal also. There comes the light of zeal and one becomes a witness of the Lord Jesus Christ and His grace. You begin to speak of what the Lord has done to your soul. You begin to speak. You don't others to live their lives without God.

There are hundreds of thousands of Christians in this world who never open their mouth to speak of their King and God. But where the Spirit of the Lord comes, there comes the light of zeal also, the fire of zeal to speak of Him, of His grace, which He has acquired for His own, but also of His tender kindness and the riches of His grace and goodness.

The fire of the Holy Spirit divided by tongues like fire. It spread to all the people present there and the church of God was filled with the Holy Spirit. How amazing that the Lord has come down to this earth. He wanted to fill with the Holy Spirit and made His dwelling in the church of God. From now on the kingdom of God would expand through the preaching of the Word. The Spirit descended not only on the twelve apostles, but also on those hundred and twenty people. The Spirit began to dwell in them. Under the old covenant, the Holy Spirit's presence was linked to special offices, but under the new covenant, every Christian is in that sense an office bearer. He is a prophet, priest and king.

The Holy Spirit descended on all those hundred and twenty people, whoever they were. Publicans, people who had been possessed by devils, Pharisees. They were apprehended, they were raised up, God brought them to Himself, they were filled by the Holy Spirit.

God's church today does not pray anymore for the coming of the Spirit on this earth, for He has come once and for all, but they do pray for His effectual workings on the earth. *"Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits"* (Song of Solomon 4:16). Thus the church will pray, as the poet of Psalm 73 did and we will now sing with him from Psalter 203, all stanzas:

*In sweet communion, Lord, with Thee,  
I constantly abide;  
My hand Thou holdest in Thy own  
To keep me near Thy side.*

and what follows in the other stanzas of Psalter 203.

The day was fulfilled. The Day of Pentecost. The house was filled; the Spirit came there with His awe-inspiring signs of power and love. But also the hearts were filled. Because it says: *"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost."*

Being filled with the Spirit can be in two ways. Firstly, there is this being filled with Spirit when He comes into people's lives. When the Lord, by the preaching of the Word, raises people up, then there is a being filled by the Holy Spirit. He comes to dwell in them, never to leave them anymore.

The twelve apostles and the one hundred and twenty men and women gathered there were not spiritless people who suddenly received the Holy Spirit. No, they were people in whom the Spirit already lived. He had worked in their hearts. No one has ever been converted and exercised faith without the Holy Spirit, not even Abraham, the father of all believers.

But there is also another way of being filled, and that is to be equipped for a particular office, for a particular event. You will find this again and again in the Acts of the Apostles: the apostles are filled with the Holy Ghost, and they begin to speak. We see it in Acts 2 where they were filled with the Holy Ghost. Yes, but the Spirit already dwelled in the apostles before Acts 2 began. He was already working in the hearts of these people, preparing them for a particular task. And this happens time and again.

Do you remember Acts 4? The congregation prayed for the apostles while they were in prison. And then we read that they were filled with the Spirit and spoke the Word of God with boldness.

So, a two-fold way of being filled. The one way is to be filled with the Spirit when the Lord comes to dwell in the heart. That is the fundamental, the essential meaning of being filled with the Spirit. When we, as a poor sinner, may meet the Lord Christ in this way and find in Him our Savior. Then that is the day you will never forget; our third point:

### **3. The hearts were filled**

The heart becomes a dwelling place of the Spirit. Both when He comes to dwell in us for the first time, and when He comes with special workings to equip us for a certain task. Our body becomes a temple of the Holy Spirit, says Paul.

The dwelling place declared uninhabitable, the ruin we made in Paradise, is filled again by the Spirit of the Lord. He is going to live there again in two ways.

*"They were all filled with the Holy Ghost."* Filled with His workings. This is about being equipped to the office to which they were called: to preach on the Day of Pentecost. Notice that on this Day of Pentecost, the Lord puts all the emphasis on the prophetic office of the church, on the preaching of the Word. Because that is what these people began to do: they began to preach. When the heart is filled, the mouth opens. *"I believed,"* says Paul, *"and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak"* (2 Cor.4:13).

When the mouth opens, what are you going to speak of? Are you going to speak of: "I have this, I have that, I have such and I have so"? No, if you may experience that the Spirit fills you and equips you to speak, then you will speak of the wonderful works of God.

What, then, are these wonderful works of God? Are that the marvelous things of creation and the interesting things in nature? No, those wonderful works of God, the Magnalia Deï, are the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, the work of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the work of God's salvation in Christ Jesus. That is what these disciples proclaimed. Their hearts were filled and opened up.

They began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them to speak. And there were quite a few different languages spoken there. Who were there? *"Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God"* (Acts 2: 9-11).

Notice that it is quite a peculiar mix of people that is mentioned here. Because Arabs means the Ishmaelites. Take notice! And what to think of Egypt? They were the enemy of Israel, who oppressed them at the brickkilns. What to think of Mesopotamia? The idolatrous land from which Abraham had left, and to which he was not allowed ever to go back to? They were there! And what do you think of the Cretans? You should read what Paul writes about them to Titus. They were liars, slow bellies. They were people who didn't like to work. They were idlers or spongers as Paul tells us. But they were there! There they were on the day of Pentecost. As Psalter 44: 3 sings: *"The Moor with the Philistine and the Tyrian shall soon, O Zion, throng thy holy gate."* There they stood and heard about the wonderful works of God in their own language. That's the miracle of Pentecost. The Lord crosses the borders of Israel. The covenant of grace, the Gospel, goes to all nations. And to that end, the Lord removes for a moment the confusion of tongues that has come in Babel.

In Babel the people boasted about themselves. They challenged God and united around the tower. But now, on Pentecost, God comes down. He shows that, by His grace, the consequences for man are removed. Every man heard in his own language the disciples speak of the wonderful works of God. That



may not be so surprising to us anymore. Or has it ever become a miracle for you, so that you said, "Lord, how gracious Thou art to look at a Gentile like me and let Thy Word speak in my own language."

How glorious it will be when one day the church will arrive above. On the day of Pentecost we see a glimpse, a foretaste of how it one day will be. When they arrive in heaven, the whole church of Christ will with one voice, as the sound of many waters, magnify God. Then sin will be done away.

Through the miracle of the languages the Holy Spirit provides the way by which the Word is brought to the ends of the earth, and people who have not heard of Jesus will hear about Him. The Spirit of Pentecost comes, the Word goes out, and the same Spirit of Pentecost equips for the office.

These people, equipped by the Spirit of Pentecost, are going to preach the Word of God. If we perhaps have brethren from the mission field in our midst, this is a sign of the Spirit of Pentecost.

They heard them speak of the wonderful works of God in their own language. The Spirit has gone out and continues to work to the ends of the earth.

Congregation, is our heart filled with that Spirit? You might say, "Yes, once I experienced something."

But I'm not asking if you've ever experienced something, but if your heart is filled with that Spirit.

You will say, "How can you know?" Listen to Peter as he preaches to those who soon will mockingly say, "*These men are full of new wine*" (Acts 2:13). What is Peter going to preach? Nothing but Christ. He refers to the prophet Joel and says: 'This is what Joel prophesied. For Christ has ascended to heaven and is now pouring out what you now see and hear.' His heart is filled with Jesus.

So let me ask it in a different way. Is your heart filled with Jesus? Then your mouth will also be filled with Him. It will become a miracle for you that Jesus came into this world. That He still shows compassion about people and that He wants to save them. You will begin to speak of this miracle. Because if it has become a miracle for you and it is possible for you, then you will desire it to happen to others too.

Because then it is certainly possible for someone else too. And you begin to share this with those in your house, with your children. Of course, you do. And you begin to speak about this to your friends and colleagues.

Then it can happen sometimes that you meet someone on the street and think, "I want to share it with him or her." That is what the Holy Spirit does: witness of this Jesus who has come to save sinners.

It actually starts with Christmas, with the message from the angels. And at Pentecost the disciples take over and begin to proclaim too. "*I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord*" (Luke 2:10 11). And so Pentecost connects with Christmas. Only the angel's voice has been replaced by a human's, driven by the Holy Spirit, proclaiming that Jesus came to save sinners. Does that Spirit of Christ live in us? That's a question for you on Pentecost.

Amen.

Slotzang: Psalm 57: 7

Uw goedheid, Heer', is groot en hemelhoog;

Uw waarheid reikt tot aan de wolkenboog.

Verhef U dan ver boven 's hemels kringen;

Uw eer versprei' haar luister in elks oog;

Laat ieder die door heel de wereld zingen.