

Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday, 49 days after Easter, we change the color that is on the altar. Red is chosen for Pentecost Sunday. It is appropriate to use because red represents power. During Pentecost, we remember the power and the fire of the Lord and Giver of Life, who revealed Himself as the promised one. It communicates the motif of strength and power the Holy Spirit gives for God's people to call on the name of Jesus.

Where did the first Pentecost happen? Traditional interpretation holds the Descent of the Holy Spirit took place in the Upper Room while celebrating the day of Shavuot. It's interesting to note, the first time the Upper Room was mentioned was when Jesus told his disciples to make ready for the Passover. Luke 22:12-13 says "He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there. They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover." This room was the location of the Last Supper and the institution of Holy Communion. It seems fitting that this would be the same location the Holy Spirit would descend on the followers of Jesus Christ. In Acts 2:1-6, "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken."

While the Spirit had descended on Jesus' followers, they were speaking in many languages. Peter stood up with the eleven and proclaimed to the crowd this fulfilled the prophecy. In Acts 2:17-21, "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. Even on my servant, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Your Brother in Christ,
Sean Tietze