

Pentecost (The Descent of the Holy Spirit) to the st. Apostles

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Today here in Bulgaria as well as in the rest of Orthodox Christian world, we celebrate one of the most bright Christian feasts [Pentecost!](#)

The celebration on this feast 50 days after the Glorious Descension of the Lord Jesus Christ to heaven, whenst the our Lord and God's Son has sat on the Right Hand of God.

The word Pentecost is probably derived from latin is a word (pente = five) and is describing the glorious event that happened on the 50th day after the descension of our Lord to heaven.

On Pentecost, fifty days after the Resurrection on the exciting Jewish feast of Pentecost, while the disciples and many other followers of Jesus Christ were gathered together to pray, the Holy Spirit descended upon them in the form of "cloven tongues of fire", with the sound of a mighty rushing wind, and they began to speak in languages that they did not know. There were many visitors from the Jewish diaspora to Jerusalem at that time for the Jewish observance of the feast, and they were astonished to hear these untaught fisherman speaking praises to God in their alien tongues. This account is well described in [the book Acts of the Apostles - chapter 2](#)

Another interesting fact is that on this date we in the Orthodox church have the so called "faithful kneel" in Church for the first time since Pascha.

The "faithful kneel" service which is served right after the evening service following the liturgy is followed right after that with this "faithful kneel" prayers on which we the believers kneel to venerate the Holy Spirit and direct a prayer to God that he forgives us and prevents us and save us through his holy Spirit.

It's an interesting fact that Pentecost is historically and symbolically related to the Jewish harvest festival

of [Shavuot](#) which is a feast on which the God's giving of the 10 commandments on Mount Sinai is commemorated, this according to jewish orthodox tradition is exactly fifty days after Exodus.

In practice Pentecost is the day on which the Orthodox Church, e.g. the True Church of Christ was born. On that date when the Holy Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit which was earlier promised by our Lord Jesus Christ to the faithful disciples.

When the Holy Spirit descended and sat upon each of them. The disciples of our Lord was filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak in other nations tongues.

When that event occurred, there were many visitors from the Jewish diaspora to Jerusalem at that time for the jewish observance of the feast, and they were astonished to hear these untaught fisherman speaking praises to God in their alien tongues.

Here is what is recounted in Acts 2:1-4 and how the event was described in the Holy Bible.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Happy Feast to all Orthodox Christians!

And for the glorious event that happened, glory be to the Father, To the Son and Thy Holy Spirit now and unto ages of ages! Amen!