

**HOLY PENTECOST
THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: Eight stikhera of Pentecost
tone 1:

We celebrate the feast of Pentecost
and the coming of the Spirit,
the appointed day of the promise, the fulfillment of hope.
How majestic and great is the mystery!
Therefore we cry aloud to you://
“Glory to You, O Lord and Creator of all!”

You renewed Your Disciples, O Christ,
by giving them the gift of foreign tongues,
that through them they might preach of You,
the immortal Word and God,//
Who give great mercy to our souls.

The Holy Spirit provides all things:
He pours forth prophecies,
He leads priests to perfection,
He teaches unschooled people wisdom,
He reveals fishermen as theologians,
He confirms the Church.//
O Comforter, one in essence and enthroned with the Father and the Son,
glory to You!

tone 2:

We have seen the true light!
We have received the heavenly Spirit!
We have found the true faith,
Worshiping the undivided Trinity,//
Who has saved us!

In the Prophets, O our Savior,
You proclaimed to us the way of salvation.
In the Apostles the grace of Your Spirit shone forth.
From the beginning and ever after You are God, //
our God before the ages.

In Your courts I will praise You, the Savior of the world.
On bended knee I will worship Your invincible might.
In the evening, in the morning, and at noontime -//
at all times I will bless You, O Lord.

In Your courts, O Lord,
we faithful bend the knees of soul and body;
with songs we proclaim You, eternal Father and co-eternal Son,
and You, all-holy and co-eternal Spirit, //
Who sanctify and enlighten our souls.

Let us praise in song the consubstantial Trinity:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. //
For this was the preaching of all the Prophets, Apostles, and Martyrs.

GLORY...NOW AND EVER..., tone 8:

Come, O peoples,
let us worship the Godhead in three persons:
the Son in the Father with the Holy Spirit.
For the Father timelessly begot the Son, co-eternal and co-enthroned with Him;
and the Holy Spirit was in the Father and is glorified with the Son.
We worship one Power, one Essence, one Godhead,
and we say: "Holy God,
You created all things through Your Son
with the cooperation of the Holy Spirit.
Holy Mighty,
through You we know the Father;
through You the Holy Spirit came to dwell in the world.
Holy Immortal,
Comforting Spirit,
You proceed from the Father and rest in the Son. //
O Holy Trinity, glory to You!"

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

The Reading from the Book of Numbers: So the LORD said to Moses: “Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone. So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD, and he gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tabernacle. Then the LORD came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again. But two men had remained in the camp: the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those listed, but who had not gone out to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, and said, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” So Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant, one of his choice men, answered and said, “Moses my lord, forbid them!” Then Moses said to him, “Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the LORD’s people were prophets and that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!”
(Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29)

The Reading from the Book of Joel: Thus says the Lord: Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you – the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. “So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; and My people shall never be put to shame. Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the Lord your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. And it shall come to pass afterward 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. And also on My

menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the remnant whom the Lord calls. **(Joel 2:23-32)**

The Reading from the Book of Ezekiel: Thus says the Lord: “For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. “Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. **(Ezekiel 36:24-28)**

LITYA, tone 2:

In the Prophets, O our Savior,
You proclaimed to us the way of salvation.
In the Apostles the grace of Your Spirit shone forth.
From the beginning and ever after You are God, //
our God before the ages.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen*

Tone 8

When You sent Your Spirit on the waiting Apostles, O Lord,
the Hebrews were amazed at the wonder;
for they heard them speak in foreign tongues, which the Spirit gave.
They were common people, but You made them wise;
and as they proclaimed the things of God,
they caught the nations for the life of faith.
Therefore we also cry aloud to You://
“O Lord, Who appeared on earth and saved us from error, glory to You!”

APOSTIKHA, tone 6:

Pentecost, page 5

The nations did not know the power of the Holy Spirit,
which came upon Your Apostles, O Lord,
so they mistook the foreign tongues for drunkenness.
But we are strengthened by the Apostles,
so we ceaselessly pray to You, O good God Who love mankind://
“Do not take Your Holy Spirit from us!”

Verse: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me!

The coming of the Holy Spirit
filled Your Apostles, O Lord,
and made them speak in foreign tongues.
To the faithless this wonder was but drunkenness,
but to the faithful it brings salvation.
We pray to you, O good God Who love mankind://
“Make us worthy of such enlightenment!”

Verse: Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me!

O heavenly King,
The comforter the Spirit of truth,
Who art everywhere present, and fillest all things;
Treasury of blessings
and Giver of life,
come and abide in us,
and cleanse us from every impurity,//
and save our souls, O Good One!

GLORY...NOW AND EVER...., tone 8:

The arrogance of building the tower in the days of old
led to the confusion of tongues.
Now the glory of the knowledge of God brings them wisdom.
There God condemned the impious for their transgression.
Here Christ has enlightened the fishermen by the Spirit.
There disharmony was brought about for punishment.//
Now harmony is renewed for the salvation of our souls.

Troparion, tone 8

Blessed are You, O Christ our God,
You have revealed the fishermen as most wise
by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit;
through them You drew the world into Your net.
O Lover of Man, glory to You. (thrice)

at Matins

The Praises, tone 4

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens!
Praise Him in the highest!
To You, O God, is due a song!

Praise Him, all you Angels of His!
Praise Him, all His hosts!
To You, O God, is due a song!

Today in the city of David
all the nations beheld glorious wonders,
when the Disciples of Christ had gathered together,
and the Holy Spirit came down in tongues of fire,
as Luke, inspired of God, records:
“A sound came like the rushing of a mighty wind;
it filled all the house where they were sitting,
and they all began to proclaim strange words, strange doctrines,
strange teachings of the Holy Trinity.

The Holy Spirit was, and is, and ever shall be,
without beginning, without ending,
always ranked and numbered with the Father and the Son’
He is Life and the Giver of life;
He is Light and the Giver of light;
all good and the Fountain of goodness,
through Him the Father is know, the Son is glorified;
through Him all people proclaim one power, one ranking,
one worship of the Holy Trinity.

The Holy Spirit is Light and Life,
a living Fountain of spiritual gifts,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
all knowing, upright and good:
He leads us and washes away our sins.
Hi is God, and He makes us gods;
He is Fire and proceeding from Fire,
speaking and acting and distributing gifts.
Through Him all the Prophets, Martyrs and Apostles of God are crowned.
Strange account, strange and wonderful sight:
fire is divided for distributing gifts.

THE VESPERS OF PENTECOST

LORD I CALL, Tone 4

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all the nations beheld glorious wonders,
when the Disciples of Christ had gathered together,
and the Holy Spirit came down in tongues of fire,
as Luke, inspired of God, records:
“A sound came like the rushing of a mighty wind;
it filled all the house where they were sitting,
and they all began to proclaim strange words, strange doctrines,//
strange teachings of the Holy Trinity.”

The Holy Spirit was, and is, and ever shall be,
without beginning, without ending,
always ranked and numbered with the Father and the Son;
He is Life and the Giver of life;
He is Light and the Giver of light;
all-good and the Fountain of goodness,
through Him the Father is known, the Son is glorified;
through Him all people proclaim one power, one ranking,//
one worship of the Holy Trinity.

The Holy Spirit is Light and Life,
a living Fountain of spiritual gifts,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

all-knowing, upright and good:
He leads us and washes away our sins.
He is God, and He makes us gods;
He is Fire proceeding from Fire,
speaking and acting and distributing gifts.
Through Him all the Prophets, Martyrs and Apostles of God are crowned.
Strange account, strange and wonderful sight://
fire is divided for distributing gifts.

GLORY...NOW AND EVER..., TONE 6

O Heavenly King,
The Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,
Who art everywhere present and fillest all things.
Treasury of blessings
And Giver of Life,
Come and abide in us
And cleanse us from every impurity//
And save our souls, O Good one

Great Prokeimenon – Who is so great a God as our God...

APOSTIKHA, TONE 3

Now the fiery tongues
have become a bright sign for all peoples.
The Jews, from whom Christ came according to the flesh,
in their unbelief have fallen from divine grace.
But we, the peoples of all nations,
are made worthy of divine light.
We are strengthened by the words of the Disciples,
who revealed the glory of the Benefactor and God of all.
Let us bend our knees and hearts with them,
since we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit, //
bowing down in faith to worship the Savior of our souls!

VERSE: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Now the comforting Spirit

has been poured out on all flesh,
spreading grace to the faithful,
beginning with the choir of the Apostles.
As a pledge of His mighty coming
He distributed the tongues of fire;
He gave them to the Disciples
to the praise and glory of God. (continued)

Spiritually enlightened in our hearts,
strengthened in faith by the Holy Spirit,//
let us earnestly pray for salvation for our souls!

***VERSE:** Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.*

Now the Apostles of Christ
are clothed with power from on high.
The Comforter is renewed in them
and renews them with newness of knowledge.
They preach in foreign tongues,
proclaiming mystical knowledge in lofty words.
They teach us to worship the Benefactor and God of all
in His simple, eternal, tri-personal Nature.
Enlightened by their teaching,
let us bow down to worship Father, Son, and Spirit,//
earnestly praying for salvation for our souls!

GLORY...NOW AND EVER... TONE 8

Come, O people,
let us worship the Godhead in three Persons:
the Son in the Father, with the Holy Spirit.
For the Father timelessly begot the Son, co-eternal and co-enthroned with
Him;
and the Holy Spirit was in the Father and is glorified with the Son.
We worship one Power, one Essence, one Godhead,
and we say: “Holy God,
Who created all things through Your Son
with the cooperation of the Holy Spirit;

Holy Mighty,
through Whom we know the Father;
and through Whom the Holy Spirit came to dwell in the world;
Holy Immortal,
Comforting Spirit,
Who proceed from the Father and rest in the Son.//
O Holy Trinity, glory to You!

