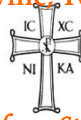




Κήρυγμα



Kerygma

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Prepared By: Fr. Anthony Stratis, Protopresbyter

2020~16



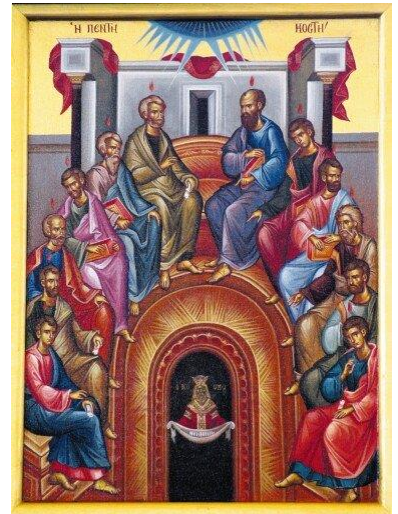
Feast of Pentecost  **Speaking The Same Language**  Feast of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-11 + June 7, 2020 + John 7:37-52;8:12

While it is common enough for people to communicate with one another by language, it is also quite common for two people to speak to each other in the same language and yet walk away with each not understanding what the other person was saying. Sometimes it leads to humorous conclusions, such as with a quote attributed to George Bernard Shaw: *“The English and Americans are two peoples divided by a common language.”* However other times, the conclusions may be severe; and all too often entirely unacceptable.

Eighty years ago, nations around the world sacrificed thousands of lives to fight injustice, prejudice, and unfair treatment. And yet today, during a time when the world is engaged against another common threat, certain practices continue to persist. As a society, we have promoted staying home so lives could be preserved. Meanwhile, the injustices of the past, the prejudices, the unfair treatment perpetrated against so many in our society continue to persist – even thrive! Consequently, we are all threatened by these practices.

Although we may be speaking *in* the same language when we call out for peace, tolerance, and justice for all people; clearly, as we look around and as we so easily perceive whenever we hear the news, we must conclude that we are not always *speaking* the same language. How many times must we tolerate the excessive practices of a misguided or insensitive few to be perpetrated upon innocent parties? Such problems are not the responsibility of elected officials alone, but of us all!

In the Gospel, the Officers confessed, *“No man ever spoke like this man!”* Meanwhile, the Pharisees were up in arms. They all heard the teaching of Jesus – same teaching, same language – while leaving His presence with different, conflicting ideas! The Officers were impressed; the Pharisees were bent on having Jesus killed. Where was the justice in Jesus’ Crucifixion? Where is the justice when fellow citizens are ruthlessly murdered or carelessly killed? Where is the fairness when such crimes, perpetrated by extremists, are met with the silence of others?



Most of us would have nothing to do with such heinous criminal activity, but that fact does not relieve us of our responsibilities as citizens and more so as followers of Jesus Christ. We are called to prayer for our fellow children of God – regardless of who they are, where they are from, or how they appear to us! We are called to hear the Word of our Lord that we may, *“have the light of life.”* We are called to speak the same language as Christ, the language of mercy, of love, of compassion, of respect for everyone else. Our Savior has given us His example, He has given us His commandment, and He offers us His grace – we must respond with commitment, not indifference or uncertainty.

In Genesis, when people arrogantly tried to make their own way to heaven, God confounded them with a confusion of many languages. In Acts, when people sought God in prayer and humility, He sent the Holy Spirit to grant the power of speech in various tongues so everyone could understand that God offers us salvation. That is the glory of the feast of Pentecost. Even when people do not speak the same verbal language, we can all accept the gift of the Holy Spirit and communicate in the common language of the love of Christ. We can all demand – of ourselves and society – justice for everyone. May we all eagerly embrace His gifts in His love and truthfully love one another. **God Bless!**

