

Day of Pentecost

June 8, 2025



PROCLAMATION POINTS

The following are some thoughts and questions to be used for a text study on the weekly lessons, or for jump-starting the imagination of the preacher and hearer in preparing for the proclamation event.

Thou sweet love, give us thy favor.

Let us feel the fire of love:

That we from our hearts love one another,

Of one mind in peace remain together.

– Martin Luther–

Luther's Pentecost Hymn

Genesis 11:1–9

The beginning of this passage asserts, “Now the whole earth had one language and the same words” (11:1). However, if you go back to the previous chapter, the author explained how the descendants of Noah’s sons spread out through the land moving eastward as they settled. Verses 10:5, 20, and 31 all report that the offspring of Japheth, Ham, and Shem had their own “families, languages, lands, and nations.”

Scholars attribute chapter 10, the Table of Nations, to the “Priestly” source, and chapter 11 to the “Yahwist” source (who seems to have no knowledge of the spread of Noah’s people). Yet both chapters convey the Word of God.

- *Compare the point made in each of the two chapters. Based on the texts, what would you say are the differing objectives of the Priestly and Yahwist sources? Which one is concerned with the filling of the earth? Which one is concerned with disobedience of God’s command?*

Psalms 143

Have you ever felt as poorly as the psalmist does in this song? The truth is, being a person of faith means that the enemy attacks us and is relentless in his pursuit to draw us away from God. The psalmist recognized the antidote to the crushing blows of the enemy: call on God for his presence and deliverance! It takes trust to call on God when we become mired in sin and darkness. Only the Lord can save us from that deathly darkness that overpowers us at times.

Recognizing we are in danger is often the hardest part; but when we do, we know where to turn.

- *Why is it so hard to see when we are being attacked by the enemy? What do we usually chalk it up to?*
- *How have you experienced the enemy’s attack in your life? Was it during times of spiritual growth or times when you felt far from God?*

Acts 2:1–21

If you’ve ever studied a foreign language, more than likely you’ve recognized how it helps you to understand the intricacies of your own native language. Verb tenses, definite and indefinite articles, and even word roots help us to better comprehend the structure and form of the first language we learned to speak and write. Once you learn a second language, it is far easier to learn a third because of the patterns and connections we have made along the way.

From the east of Judea to the west, all who were gathered on that day of Pentecost heard a message in their own language. It was spoken by Galileans, according to Luke, but the surprise was that each person heard it in their native tongue. The Holy Spirit is fluent in all languages!

- *Why did it surprise the hearers of the multitude of languages, that they could understand all that was being said? Did they not recognize Who was making that happen?*
- *Reflect on the languages used by God. What language did Jesus speak? What languages did Paul speak? What languages did God speak when he spoke to his people?*

John 14:23–31

Can you recall all of the details of every home you’ve lived in during your life? Perhaps you lived in an apartment, a house trailer, a dormitory, or a starter-home before you took residence in the place where you live now.

- *How have your homes all had some of the same qualities? What were those? How was each home different from the others?*

Jesus told his disciples that he would reveal himself to those who love him and keep his word (v.21). One of his disciples asked him how he would show himself to them and not to the world. Jesus’ answer had to do with the sending of the Holy Spirit to them. The Spirit comes to those who love Jesus, in whom He makes his home.

- *What does Jesus mean when he says he and the Father will come and make their home in believers?*

The Greek word for “home” in this passage is *mone* (Greek: μονη — pronounced “moe-nay”) which means *abode* or *dwelling place*. In some translations the word is rendered as *mansion*. If Jesus lives in us, then we also live in him.

- *How is the home that Jesus makes within the ones he loves, the best home we could ever hope for?*

The disciples misunderstood or simply failed to understand many things Jesus said and did while they were with him. The promised Holy Spirit would help them to make sense out of all they had experienced. The Spirit would take them to a place of deep understanding that would allow them to pick up where Jesus left off in the ministry to the world.

- *Can you think of a time when you heard something in a class and had no idea what it meant only to learn it later and “get it?” What was that? What made the difference?*
- *In what ways does the Holy Spirit help disciples today to understand God’s Word, just as he did those first apostles?*