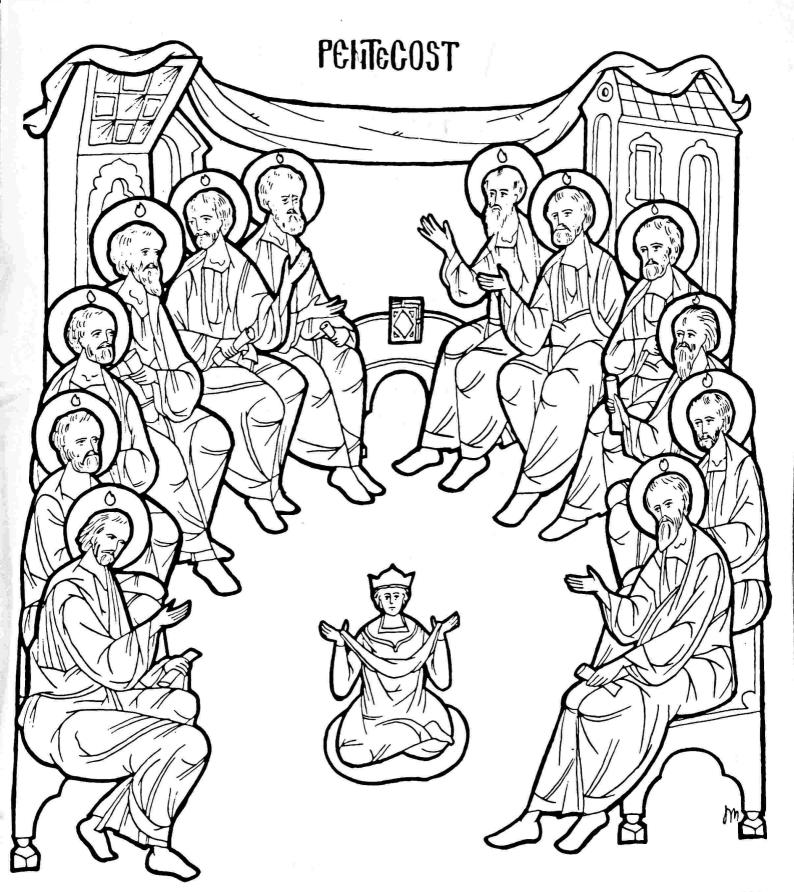
Sign of the Cross
"We have seen the true light!
We have received the heavenly Spirit!
We have found the True Faith!
Let us worship the undivided Trinity
Who has saved us!"
Sign of the Cross





THE PENTECOST STORY

ACTS 1:4, 5, 13-14; 2:1-17, 22-47

It was Pentecost, a holiday in Israel. Pentecost came about fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus' friends and disciples met together in a room in Jerusalem. Peter and James and John and the other disciples were there. So were Mary, Jesus' mother, and other men and women. Jesus had said that they should wait in Jerusalem.

Suddenly, as they sat together, they heard a sound like a great wind. It was rushing and roaring through the house, filling the room where they sat! Then small flames appeared like tongues of fire! These flames seemed to rest over each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to talk in other languages that the Holy Spirit made them able to speak.

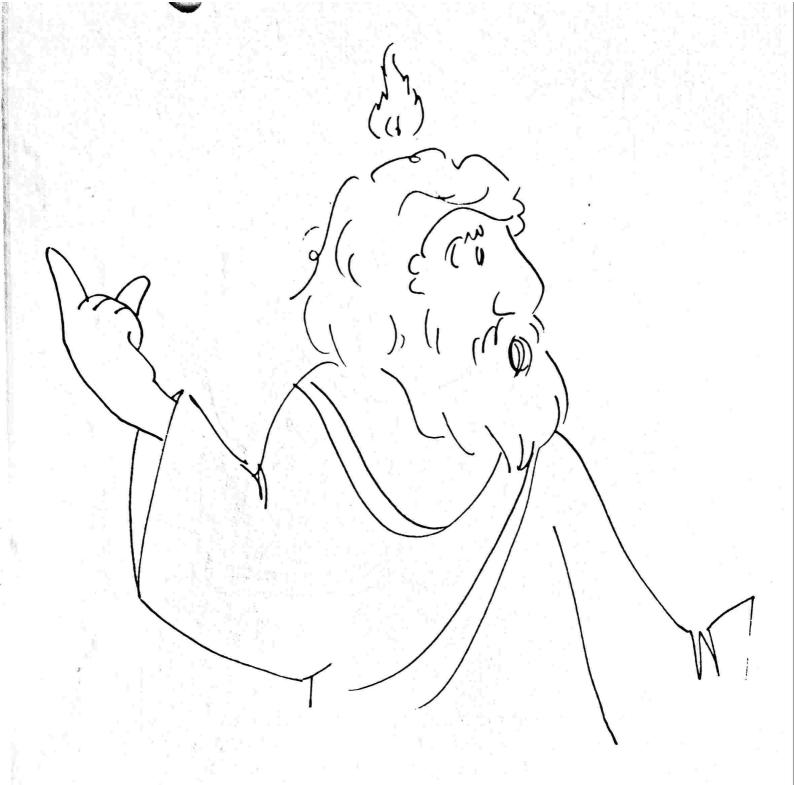




They ran into the streets, still speaking in these languages. Now there were many people from other countries who were in Jerusalem for the Pentecost holiday. They came from Iran and Iraq and Greece and Turkey and Egypt and Libya and Rome. But as the Apostles spoke in the languages the Holy Spirit gave them, all the visitors heard the story of God in their own language!

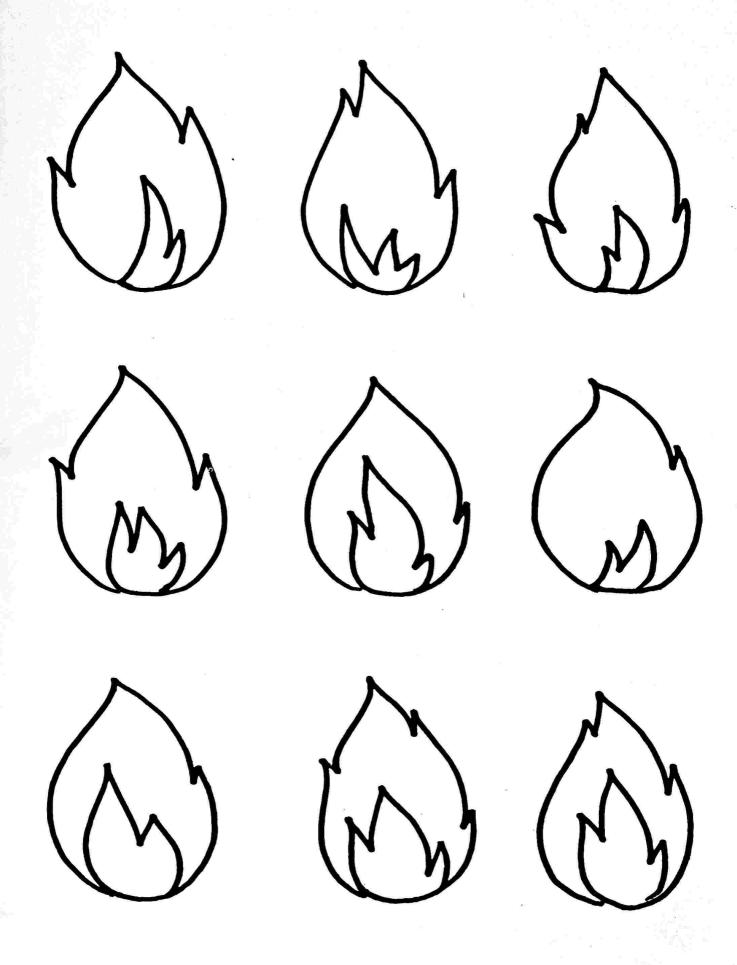
The people asked each other, "What does this mean?"

Some of them said, "These people must be drunk to talk and act so strangely!"



But Peter spoke up. "We are not drunk at nine o'clock in the morning," he told them. "We are filled with God's Holy Spirit." Then he told them the story of Jesus Christ.

Three thousand of the people who listened were baptized that day. And they stayed faithful to what Jesus' disciples taught them. They went every day to visit the others, to pray, to hear the apostles teach, and to have Communion. And every day more and more people became Christians.



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