

The Holy Spirit's presence enables the gathered Christians to proclaim God's truth in languages they do not know.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles: [2:1-21]

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: `In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see

visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

The Word of the Lord.

PSALM 104:25-35, 37 (sung)

- ²⁵ O LORD, how manifold are your works! *
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- ²⁶ Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.
- ²⁷ There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.
- ²⁸ All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.
- ²⁹ You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
- ³⁰ You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.
- ³¹ You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.
- ³² May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; *
may the LORD rejoice in all his works.
- ³³ He looks at the earth and it trembles; *
he touches the mountains and they smoke.
- ³⁴ I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; *
I will praise my God while I have my being.
- ³⁵ May these words of mine please him; *
I will rejoice in the LORD.
- ³⁷ Bless the LORD, O my soul. *
Hallelujah!

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS [8:22-27]

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The Word of the Lord.