

“Comforter, Counselor & Guide”

Mount of Olives | May 24, 2026 | Acts 2:1-13 Pentecost Sunday

Pastor John Steward

Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, it is our prayer today that You would pour Your Holy Spirit upon us just as You have done since the birth of Your Church. Help us to surrender ourselves to Your divine power and omniscient direction. The unknown may at times be unsettling, but we know that yielding to Your will, even when we don't understand, fulfills our purpose in life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Acts 2:1-13

When the day of Pentecost had come, they 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."

Message Notes

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16-17

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

John 14:25-26

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you."

Study Questions - Read Acts 2:1-13

(ICEBREAKER – getting started)

1. Have you ever traveled where you did not speak the language? How did this make you feel? Describe the place and situation.

2. Have you ever had “an encounter with the Holy Spirit”? If so, please describe the experience. Where were you? Who was there? What happened? How did this make you feel?
(OBSERVATION – What does the text say?)

1. As you read Acts 2:1-13, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?

2. How would you summarize this story? Describe what happened in your own words.

3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

(INTERPRETATION – What did it mean to them?)

1. What three miraculous phenomena occurred when the Holy Spirit was given (verses 2-4)?

2. Read Ezekiel 37:9-10. In this passage, what did the “wind” represent? What did it accomplish? Read Exodus 3:2-5 and Exodus 13: 21-22. Why do you think fire was used in these two instances? Do you see any similarities between these Old Testament passages and the “wind” and the “tongues of fire” recorded in Acts 2:2-3? Please explain.

3. Describe the reactions of those people who witnessed the supernatural events on the Day of Pentecost (verses 6-13). How do you think you would have reacted? Would you have responded more like those in verse 12, or those in verse 13? Explain your response.

4. In verse 13 some tried to suggest that it was not the Holy Spirit but rather, that people were drunk. Have you come across anyone who has tried to discount the work of the Holy Spirit or tried to give alternate explanations for supernatural, God-occurrences? If so, describe what happened. How did you respond?

5. In verses 2-13, we learn that thousands of people heard and saw the same thing—the coming of the Holy Spirit. Why do you think it is important that so many witnessed the same miracle? Why do you think some people heard words about God in their own language and others claimed the men were drunk (verses 8-13)?

6. Why do you think the Holy Spirit was given in such a public manner? Would the outcome have been the same if only the Apostles had been present?

7. A very international crowd was gathered to witness this event. Jews and Gentiles were both present (verses 5, 9-11). Traditionally, Jews came to the main temple from their native home to worship God in Hebrew. With the coming of the Holy Spirit and people hearing about God in their native language, how do you think barriers that existed previously were now affected? (Barriers such as language, nationality, race). What can we learn from this today?

8. Imagine you were visiting a foreign country, such as China, and you did not speak the language. How would you feel if someone spoke to you in your native language? How do you think those hearing about God from the Apostles in their own language made them feel?

(APPLICATION – What does this mean to you today?)

1. The gift of the Holy Spirit should bring glory to God. How did the Apostles do this in our text? How can you bring glory to God this week?

2. What is one thing you learned from this study that you can apply in your life?