

# From Pentecost to Today

Children's Chapel, St. Mark's Palo Alto | May 23, 2021  
Supplemental materials for <https://youtu.be/IRPse8vHOZU>

## **Lectionary Reading:**

**Acts 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?"

## **Theological Background**

Pentecost is often referred to as the "church's birthday." It marks the beginning of the amazing project of creating, and becoming, The Church. For the past two thousand years, followers of Jesus have had conversations, questions, and arguments. We have developed rituals and traditions and taught them to each other. We have said prayers, sung songs, laughed at each other's jokes, and puzzled over Scripture together. There is an unbroken chain that stretches from Jesus and his first disciples all the way to you!

## Go Deeper!

Help your child visualize the connections between them and the early church. Build a tower of blocks, make a paper chain, or draw a picture, identifying the first item as Jesus, the next item as someone he met and taught and prayed for, then add more, identifying the final one as your child! See how they're all connected?

How can we be a strong link in the chain? Ask your child if there is someone they'd like to pray for. Maybe it's someone they know, or maybe they want to pray for people in a certain situation. Lead them through this simple prayer:

*God, we thank you for blessing us with a world full of people to pray for and connect with. Thank you for all the people who have prayed for me and the people who prayed for them.*

*Please be with [person], showing them Your love. Please help us support [person] and pass on the love You have shown for us.*

Part of being Church is having conversations about big ideas. The people who gathered on Pentecost were trying to figure things out - and we're still trying! Does your child have any questions about faith or church? Feel free to send them to me at [lily@saint-marks.com](mailto:lily@saint-marks.com) or guide your child through seeking answers via prayer, asking clergy, or looking things up on trusted sources.

Do you or your child connect to worship experiences through music? Here are some songs about being part of a big community of fellow Christians:

- Newsboys - He Reigns <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8R9ZPT2T-I>
- Matt Maher - All The People Said Amen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9ifzzMD7zk>
- Zach Williams - Old Church Choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cRh8NqmXoE>