

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

Dearly beloved:

Next Sunday, June 4th is the Pentecost Day. The word Pentecost means “fiftieth day”. On the 7th Sunday after Easter, and the tenth day after the Ascension of Jesus Christ, our Church considers this day, when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles, as one of its greatest feast days. On this day, the action of the Holy Trinity was revealed to the world, and people glorified the three Persons of the one God: the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the church’s celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit – called the “fruit of the spirit”. It was originally an Old Testament festival beginning on the fiftieth day after the start of Passover; it is called “Shavuot” or Feast of Weeks.

Usually, when we celebrate a feast day, the primary reading will be from the Holy Gospel, in terms of the content of the feast, but the event of Pentecost is described in the Acts. Acts of the Apostles is the account of continuation of the history of salvation and hence it is included in the New Testament giving next importance to the gospel. The Ascension of our Lord and the dissension of the Holy Spirit in the heart of all believers and the early history of the church are described there. The event of the Pentecost is the link between Gospel and other parts of the New Testament.

Today’s Pentecost service begins during the middle of the Holy Qurbana (at the end of Busmalko). There are three kneel-down services included in the service. The first service addressing the Holy Father, the second that of the Son and the last one in glorification of the Holy Spirit. After each service, our Achen along with an acolyte, starts sprinkling the blessed water on the Thronos, Madhbaha, and then on the faithful. At the end of all the services, the faithful kneel down and say Kuriyelaison continuously. The Holy Qurbana continues after the third kneel-down service.

“Lord, may Your peace be always with us – May we always reside in that peace by believing Your word and by doing Your will”.

**Please read the following Bible verses, in preparation for this Sunday's commemoration.**

**Bible readings for Sunday, June 4th, 2006.**

**(Pentecost Sunday)**

**Before Holy Qurbana:**

**Numbers - 11: 16-35**  
**Isaiah - 42: 1-27**

**Holy Qurbana**

General Epistles: **Acts - 2: 1-13**  
Epistles of St. Paul: **Galatians - 5: 16-26**  
Holy Gospel: **St. John - 15: 1-14**

**Service of the First Kneeling**

**Genesis - 11: 1-9**  
**Acts - 19: 1-7**  
**I Corinthians - 14: 20-25**  
**St. John - 14: 1-17**

(over)

### Service of the Second Kneeling

Ezekiel - 37: 1-14  
Acts - 10: 34-48  
I Corinthians - 12: 12-27  
St. John - 14: 25-31

### Service of the Third Kneeling

Judges - 13: 24 – 14: 7  
Acts - 2: 1-21  
I Corinthians - 14: 20-33  
St. John - 16: 1-15

**Next Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> is “First Sunday After Pentecost”.**

With prayers,  
Thomas Alex