

Friends of the Chapel Weekly Scripture Study

The Day of Pentecost

May 24, 2026

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 11:24–30

English Standard Bible Scripture Text

24 So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. 25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

26 Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. 27 And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” 28 And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, “My lord Moses, stop them.” 29 But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!” 30 And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

Historical Context

Numbers 11 occurs during Israel’s wilderness journey after the exodus from Egypt. Moses bears the burden of leading the people and cries out to the LORD for help. God responds by distributing His Spirit upon seventy elders, empowering them for shared leadership.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verses 24–25 – The LORD places His Spirit upon the seventy elders, enabling them to prophesy.

Verse 26 – Eldad and Medad receive the Spirit despite remaining in the camp.

Verse 27 – A young man reports the unexpected prophesying within the camp.

Verse 28 – Joshua expresses concern over Eldad and Medad’s actions.

Verse 29 – Moses responds with humility, longing that all the LORD’s people would receive the Spirit.

Verse 30 – Moses and the elders return to the camp after this display of divine empowerment.

Theological Themes

- The empowering work of the Spirit
- Shared leadership among God’s people
- God’s sovereignty in distributing gifts
- The desire for universal participation in God’s mission

New Testament Reading

Acts 2:1–21

English Standard Version Scripture Text

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” ¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “And in the last days it shall be, God declares,

that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream

dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Historical Context

Acts 2 records the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, fifty days after Passover. Jewish pilgrims from many nations had gathered in Jerusalem. The coming of the Spirit marks the birth of the Church's public witness and fulfills Old Testament promises concerning God's Spirit.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verses 1–4 – The Holy Spirit descends with the sound of wind and tongues of fire, empowering the disciples.

Verses 5–11 – People from many nations hear the mighty works of God proclaimed in their own languages.

Verses 12–13 – The crowd responds with amazement and confusion, while some mock the disciples.

Verses 14–18 – Peter explains the event through the prophecy of Joel concerning the outpouring of the Spirit.

Verses 19–20 – Cosmic imagery points to the significance of God's redemptive work.

Verse 21 – Salvation is promised to all who call upon the name of the Lord.

Theological Themes

- The coming of the Holy Spirit
- The birth and mission of the Church
- Fulfillment of prophecy
- The universality of the gospel

Concluding Reflection

The Day of Pentecost celebrates God's empowering presence among His people. In Numbers, the Spirit equips leaders for service and points toward a future when God's Spirit would rest more broadly upon His people. In Acts, that promise is fulfilled as the Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples, enabling bold proclamation to the nations. Pentecost reminds the Church that its life and mission depend not on human strength, but on the power and presence of the Spirit.

Thoughts to Consider

1. Moses desired that all God's people would receive the Spirit. How does Pentecost fulfill that longing?
2. Why do you think the coming of the Spirit was accompanied by wind, fire, and many languages?
3. What does Pentecost teach us about the mission of the Church in the world?
4. Why is fulfillment of prophecy important in understanding God's plan?
5. How can believers remain dependent upon the Holy Spirit rather than relying only on human effort?