

First Scripture Reading: Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." ⁵ The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. ⁶ And the LORD said, "Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech." ⁸ So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Second Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-13

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² 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. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, 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, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Notes:

NOTES FOR INTERPRETATION: (*circle answer or fill in the blank*)

In Genesis 11, the people of earth had unity, without God. As a result they mistook themselves for _____. (Hint: We **all** worship something.)

The peace or reconciliation bought in Christ's blood, not only makes us right with God, but makes us right with all believers, regardless of race or nationality.

TRUE or FALSE.

God's plan for unity, was activated in Pentecost, when the church received the _____.

The early Christian Church was unique for it's diversity of people groups.

TRUE or FALSE

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT:

Jesus says "a house divided cannot stand," and James warns us not to be "double-minded" (James 1:7). Everyone wrestles with occasional doubt, but is your life given wholly to Jesus Christ?

How does unity in Christ make my relationships with other Christians different from my relationships with non-Christians?

Where have I set faith in God aside, for the sake of relationships?

How might I pursue peace in those relationships, without an inappropriate unity?

GOSPEL SUMMARY:

In God's destruction of the tower of Babel, he has made it clear that humanity united apart from him, is united only by sin & idolatry. Jesus came that we might be reconciled to God, and united with him. He gave us the Holy Spirit, that his people would experience that same unity. The Spirit unites across all races, nationalities, and human barriers. When Jesus returns, the world united in sin will be destroyed, and those united in him will share eternal life and glory with him.