

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

What is "Pentecost"?

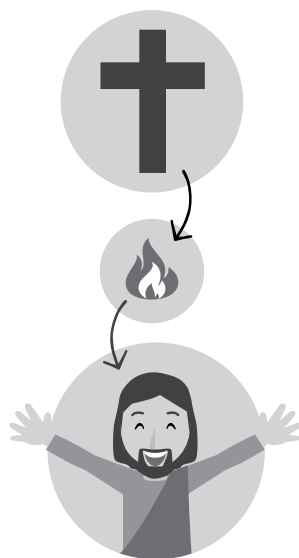
The word "Pentecost" (pronounced PEN-tuh-kost) comes from the Greek word *pentekostos* which means "fiftieth." Exactly 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in the form of flames of fire.

Why is Pentecost so important?

When Jesus died, the disciples were sad because they thought that their friend and Lord was gone forever. But Jesus rose again! Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus did finally ascend into heaven leaving the disciples below. However, before Jesus actually died, rose again and ascended into heaven, He made a promise to His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to them. He said that the Holy Spirit would come and guide them "into all the truth" (John 16:13). Jesus doesn't leave us alone to fend for ourselves. Jesus is here with us, and the Holy Spirit guides and leads the Church into the truth of the wonderful Gospel! We celebrate and remember this at Pentecost.

Parents:

At home, read the story of Pentecost in Acts 2 to your children. Remind them that the Holy Spirit comes to us through the Word and Sacraments just as our Lord has promised. Encourage them to thank God for the gift of His Holy Spirit in their lives.



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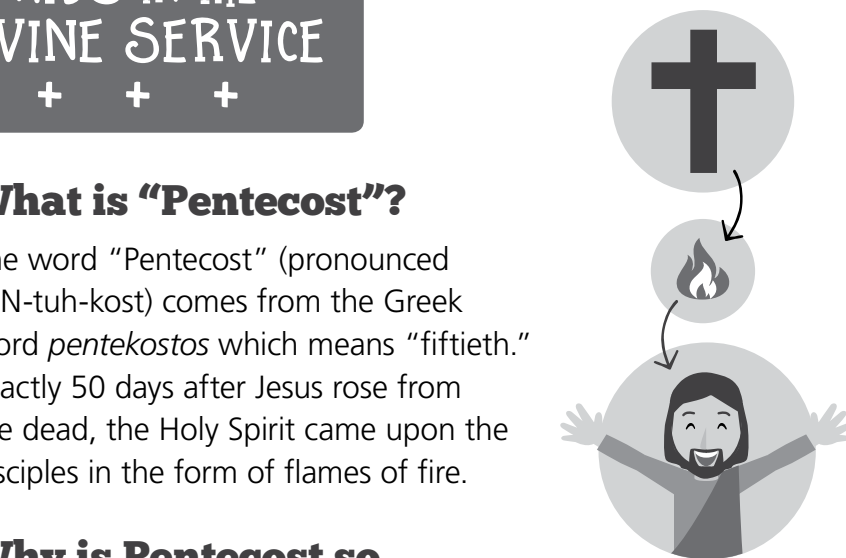
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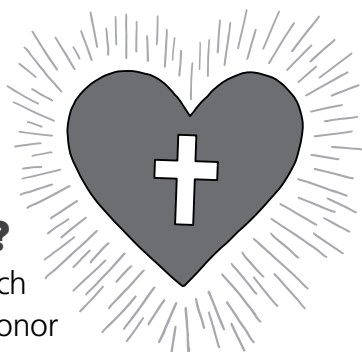
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What is “All Saints’ Day”?

All Saints’ Day is the day during the Church Year that we celebrate, remember and honor all of those who have died with faith in Jesus and are now with Him in heaven.

Why do we celebrate All Saints’ Day?

The word “saint” comes from the Latin word *sanctus* which means “holy” or “sacred.” Saints are God’s holy people. We thank God for the saints who have gone before us because of their great example of faith and God’s great mercy in their lives!

Do you have to die to be a saint?

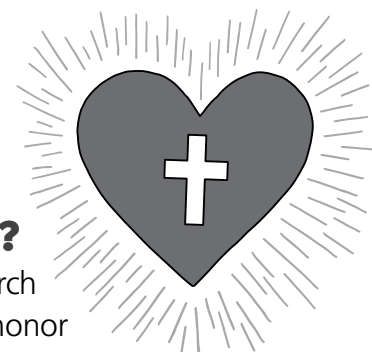
No way! All of God’s faithful people are His saints! We were washed clean of our sins at our Baptism and made holy before God. That’s what it means when we hear God’s Word say: “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev. 7:14). Isn’t it great to know that it is not what we have done that makes us a saint, but what Jesus has done for us through His death and resurrection? He gives all of this to us through Baptism. He is the one who makes us a saint!



Parents: Talk to your children about those in your own family who have died in the faith. Explain that they are now with Jesus in heaven. Remind them that this is a fulfillment of God’s promises at our Baptism.



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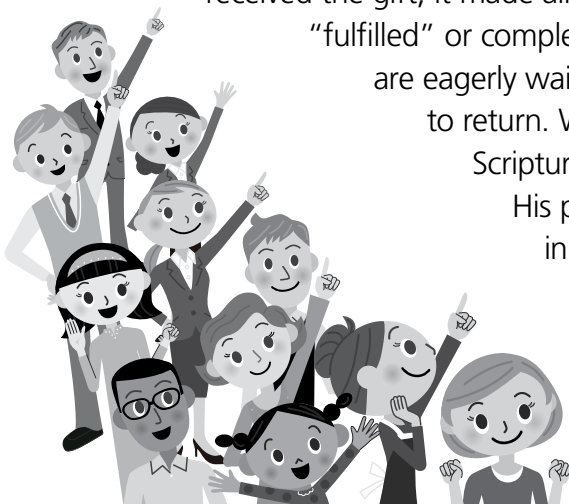


What is the “Sunday of the Fulfillment”?

The Sunday of the Fulfillment, which is the last Sunday in the Church Year, is the day we celebrate and look forward to the coming of our Lord Jesus on the Last Day in time.

Why do we celebrate it?

Have you ever had to wait for a really exciting gift that you’ve always wanted? What was it like when you finally received the gift? The waiting may have been difficult, but when you finally received the gift, it made all of the waiting seem “fulfilled” or complete. As Christians, we are eagerly waiting for our Lord Jesus to return. When he returns, as Scripture says, He will take His people to be with Him in His glorious Kingdom forever. Now that is something to celebrate and be excited about!



Parents: At home, discuss with your children what will happen when Jesus returns. Take time to read through portions of Matthew 24 and 25. Remind them that in Baptism Jesus makes us His people. Through faith in Him, we live as Christians patiently awaiting His return.



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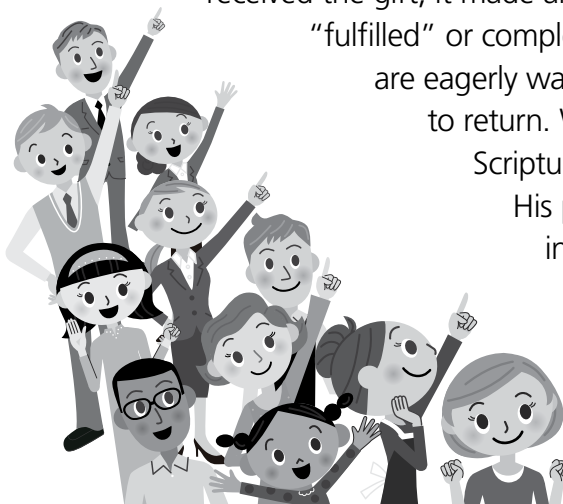


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