



### Acts 2:1-13 New Revised Standard Version

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."



The golden heads of grain tell us the harvest is near. In the fall of last year, farmers sowed their seed anticipating this moment. By the gracious hand of God, small kernels have

produced healthy stalks and full heads, which will supply the farmer with hopefully and prayerfully a successful crop. Those are the dreams not only for today's farmers, but they were also those of farmers in the first century. In fact, it was this very thing for which people had gathered in Jerusalem on the occasion of today's reading from Acts.

Pentecost occurred fifty days after Passover and was one of the important pilgrimage festivals for which Jews would return to the Holy City. While tradition had associated it with the giving of God's Law at Mount Sinai following the events of the Exodus, its primary purpose was to acknowledge God's role in the production of grain and to offer a portion of the crop as an expression of thanksgiving. As we can attest to, celebrations have a way of being "the same old some old" year after year. Things are predictable and nothing really changes. However, this Pentecost proved to be different.

Jesus' disciples were together. They had followed Jesus' instruction to wait for the "One whom would be sent by his Father." It was into the midst of this patient assembly that the power of heaven came upon those disciples and in that moment, people who were once timid about their association with Jesus, began to turn the world "upside-down." It was what we might call, "A new day filled with endless possibilities." That is what can happen when God's Spirit comes upon a people who long for and pray for God's power. This is true for men, women, and young people of all ages and backgrounds. It is especially needed by those taking new steps in this life (i.e., our graduates). What is the desire of your heart?

**Prayer Pebble:** Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me!