

Here's Your Sign

Acts 2:1–4, 14–21 • NRSV

Introduction

The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was anything but quiet. Wind, fire, and languages no one had studied — it was undeniably a sign from God. But signs demand a response. In his sermon to the crowd, Peter explains what they have just witnessed by pointing back to a prophecy from Joel and forward to the resurrection of Jesus. Pentecost is the moment the Church is born and empowered. As we explore this passage, we ask: What does this sign mean for us today?

Discussion

- Have you ever experienced a moment you couldn't explain — something that felt beyond coincidence? How did you respond?
- When you hear the word "Pentecost," what comes to mind? Is it familiar to you or does it feel new?

Going Deeper¹

- Read Acts 2:1–4, 14–21. What stands out to you in this passage?
- The disciples were gathered together in one place when the Spirit came (v. 1). Do you think community and unity matter when it comes to experiencing the work of God? Why?
- Peter quotes the prophet Joel to explain what is happening (vv. 17–21). What does this tell us about how God can work across time? What does it mean that God pours out his Spirit on "all flesh"?
- Peter boldly steps forward to interpret the sign for the crowd. What gave him the courage to do so, and what does that say about the Spirit's role in our own witness?
- Joel's prophecy speaks of visions, dreams, and signs (vv. 17–19). Do you think the Church today still expects and looks for the Holy Spirit's movement in these ways? Why or why not?

Application

- What is your big takeaway from this passage?
- The Pentecost story is marked by boldness and clarity in the face of confusion. Where in your life do you sense the Spirit calling you to greater boldness?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to be more attentive to the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance in your daily life?

¹ Scripture references are from the NRSV.