

Pentecost 2026:-

The traditional reading for the Day of Pentecost in the Book of Acts, chapter 2 is familiar to us all. One of the Gospel Readings set for Pentecost is the Gospel of John chapter 7, verses 37 – 39.

Let's begin with Psalm 42 :-

Dryness of heart and mind- a search for the 'Living God'. Even the psalmist got depressed! There is a longing for renewed fellowship. Memories of the way things were! And now? A feeling of abandonment. A need for a new, deeper experience of the presence of the Lord.

And the promise?

Look afresh at John chapter 7, verses 37 – 39. Note that the Lord Jesus says - "*Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water*". To be and bring a blessing to others we may need to receive a fresh infilling of the Spirit ourselves! This Pentecost may we look afresh to the Lord for power to proclaim His Salvation to those around us.

And the outcome?

Remember that "*No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.*" (See 1 Corinthians chapter 12, verse 3b). The work of the Holy Spirit is to "*convince (convict) the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment*". Read the Gospel of John, chapter 16, verses 7–11. These are uncomfortable words but how the world needs to hear them!

With these verses in mind we can then profitably re-read the events of that first Pentecost. Acts chapter 2, verses 1 – 21.

The hymn written by William Booth and now set to a modern tune (see Mission Praise) is well known. It says it all!

1) *Thou Christ of burning, cleansing, flame,
Send the fire!
Thy Blood-bought gift today we claim,
Send the fire!
Look down and see this waiting host,
Give us the promised Holy Ghost,
We want another Pentecost,
Send the fire!*

2) *God of Elijah, hear our cry;
Send the fire!
To make us fit to live or die,
Send the fire!
To burn up every trace of sin,
To bring the light and glory in,
The revolution now begin,
Send the fire!*

3) *'Tis fire we want for fire we plead,
Send the fire!
The fire will meet our every need,
Send the fire!
For strength to ever do the right,
For grace to conquer in the fight
For power to walk the world in white,
Send the fire!*

4) *To make our weak hearts strong and brave,
Send the fire!
To live a dying world to save,
Send the fire!
O see us on Thy altar lay
Our lives our all, this very day,
To crown the offering now we pray,
Send the fire!*

Original words by William Booth, Salvation Army 1894