

**CHILDREN'S HOMILY**  
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**Stanford Memorial Church**  
**May 19, 2002**

1. Today is Pentecost Sunday (What is Pentecost?)
  - a. Is Fiftieth Day after Easter
  - b. Is Greek translation of Shavuot (Jewish holiday celebrating first harvest of wheat in Israel, fifty days after Passover)<sup>i</sup>
  - c. Is Day when Book of Acts says Holy Spirit came down to earth, and Christian Church began to grow
  
2. What is the Holy Spirit?
  - a. Is in words of baptism today: "I baptize you in the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit"
  - b. Is three ["persons"] aspects of the one God:
    1. "Our Father who art in heaven"
    2. Jesus is God's Son who came down to earth
    3. Holy Spirit was left behind when Jesus ascended to heaven
  - c. Is like wind: All around us like air and inside our lungs like breath
    1. John 20:22: "Jesus breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'"
    2. Acts 2: 1-11: "Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting."
  - d. Holy Spirit brings us together in one body as Christians
    1. I Cor. 12:13: "For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."
    2. (Rev. Maurice Charles:) Many different languages spoken in Acts 2, but all together as one body of Christians (Miracle of understanding)
  
3. Connection between Holy Spirit and Baptism:
  - a. Acts 2:28: "Be baptized...and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
  - b. Luke 3:21-22: "When Jesus had been baptized...the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him..."
  
4. What is Baptism?
  - a. In Greek it means: "Dipping in water"<sup>iii</sup>
  - b. Is way people brought into Christian Church -- into one body of all Christians
  - c. In conclusion: When hear "I baptize you in the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit," will know something about meaning of Holy Spirit  
--Especially important on this Sunday when we remember Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to earth like a great wind among first Christian community

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<sup>i</sup> Adrian Hastings (ed.), The Oxford Companion to Christian Thought (Oxford: University Press, 2000), p. 529.

<sup>ii</sup> Jonathan Z. Smith, The HarperCollins Dictionary of Religion (HarperSanFrancisco, 1995), p. 102.