

## Announcements

- **Welcome guests and visitors!** We are very glad that you joined us this morning and hope you have enjoyed the beauty of today's service. Please approach Fr. Philip at the end and introduce yourself to him. You are invited to our fellowship meal downstairs.
- **Our church roof needs repair**, as do the ceiling and walls inside the church which are damaged. The total cost will be approximately \$22,000. Here is a link to a donation page using the Zeffy platform, which takes no percentage, so 100% of your donation goes to the church. Thank you and God bless you in advance for your generosity!  
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/christ-the-saviour-church-roof-repair>



### This week at Christ the Saviour:

**Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>** 7 pm Zoom Bible Study

**Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>** 9:30 am Liturgy Feast of Sts. Constantine and Helen.

12 pm Saint Silouan Zoom Book Club.

8 pm Russian Study Group on Zoom

**Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup>** 7 pm Jesus Prayer. Tea.

**Friday June 5<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 pm Panikhida for Marina Ilyinn

**Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 pm Matins Service

**Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>** All Saints and Third Finding of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist 10 am Liturgy.

# Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church



**Sunday, May 31st 2026**

Archpriest Philip Halliwell, Rector

*Pentecost – The Holy Trinity*

2040, Anza St.

San Francisco

[www.sobor.org](http://www.sobor.org)

Orthodox Church in America

Diocese of the West

*Welcome to Christ the Saviour!*

## A Sermon on Pentecost by Archbishop Dimitri (Royster)

"And there appeared to them cloven tongues as it were of fire, and it sat upon every one of them: and they began to speak with divers tongues, according as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:3-4)

Following His Ascension, when the Savior fulfilled His promise and sent the Holy Spirit, the Comforter appeared to Christ's followers as tongues of fire. As a result of the Spirit's operation the disciples spoke in languages foreign to them and were guided as to what to say.

It is extremely significant that on the day of Pentecost the manifestation of the Holy Spirit should take the form of tongues, and that the first results of the disciples' baptism of the Holy Spirit should be the ability to speak in languages other than their own.

First, it affirms the universal character of Christ's mission, one which was wrought for all nations, resulting in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Furthermore, the Divine Services sing of Pentecost in terms of being a reversal of that which took place at the Tower of Babel (Genesis, chapter 11). "Of old the tongues were confounded because of the audacity in the building of the tower, but now the tongues are made wise because of the glory of Divine knowledge. There God condemned the impious because of their offence, and here Christ hath enlightened the fishermen by the Spirit. At that time the confusion of tongues was wrought for punishment, but now the concord of tongues hath been inaugurated for the salvation of our souls." ("Glory ... now and ever," verse for the Aposticha at Pentecost Vigil) "Once, when He descended and confounded the tongues, the Most High divided the nations; and when He divided the tongues of fire, He called all men

into unity; and with one accord we glorify the All-holy Spirit." (Kontakion for the Feast)

At Babel a false unity established out of pride led to a scattering of all men, confusion among the citizens of the earth. Diverse "tongues," in this case, became indicative of divisions, man's inability to understand God, his fellow man and environment. On Pentecost, however, the many "tongues" of the Divine Spirit became a sign and source for unity, a profound unity established through love for Christ that can only be granted by God Himself.

Of great significance as well is the fact that the fruits of the disciples' labors on Pentecost was the addition to the Church of about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:41) Here we begin to understand what our Lord meant when He told His chosen ones that they would henceforth be fishers of men. Hearing about such a large number of individuals brought into the Church by Peter and the eleven, we recall that during Christ's earthly ministry it was only when the disciples obeyed His will that they caught such an enormous catch of fish that their "net brake." (Luke 5:4) "Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast shown forth the fishermen as supremely wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them didst draw the world into Thy net. O Befriender of man, glory be to Thee." (Troparion for the Feast).

What happened on that fiftieth day after our Lord's resurrection was the filling of the disciples with the Holy Spirit, their transformation into the Church. Pentecost is the day of the Church's founding. From this point in time the disciples were empowered to do what our Lord told them: "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." (John 20:21)

(Cont. <https://orthochristian.com/62291.html>)