

According to Acts, the church was born on Pentecost. In today's Gospel, part of Jesus' after-dinner conversation with his disciples the night before he died, he talks about sending the Spirit. Here it is: John 14:8-17.

Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

"Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you."

#### Questions for Discussion

- ➔ Once you have seen Jesus, you have seen God the Father. Not literally, of course, but practically and existentially. Would you agree?
- ➔ "I will do whatever you ask in my name," says Jesus. Hmm. That sounds like a carte blanche invitation to pray for anything you want, doesn't it? Or not?
- ➔ If the "Spirit of truth" is another Advocate, who is the other one? Jesus himself?