

Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit

After Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, the disciples went back to Jerusalem. They stayed there all together, and some of the women and Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, were with them. They were all waiting for the Comforter that Jesus had promised them.

One day Peter stood up and said: "Let us choose someone who was with us from the day that Jesus Christ was baptized until His death. Let us make him one of the Twelve to replace Judas, who betrayed our Lord." The other disciples agreed. They chose two names among those of Jesus' friends who had always been with Him. They prayed and asked God to show which one of the two He wanted to be chosen. Then they drew lots, and the good lot was drawn by a man called Matthias. From that day on Matthias became one of the twelve apostles in the place of Judas. "Apostle" is the name given to Jesus' twelve closest friends and disciples.

A great holiday was approaching. The city of Jerusalem was crowded with people who had come there for the holiday. The twelve apostles and Mary, the mother of Jesus, were all together in the upper room of their house. Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as if a mighty wind were rushing through the entire house. A flame of fire appeared over the head of each one of the apostles. And through these flames of fire a great and mysterious strength came down on them. This was the Comforter, God the Holy Spirit, entering into the disciples.

Suddenly the apostles felt that they had become quite different from what they had been before. They knew now what they had to say to people about the things Jesus had taught them. They knew how to say these things so that people would believe them. Many people who were in Jerusalem for the holiday, heard the rushing noise made by the wind. They gathered before the house. They had come from many different countries and spoke many different

languages. Then they heard the apostles speaking to them in their own languages and telling them the story of Jesus Christ, who was the Savior promised from olden days. The Apostle Peter told the people how He was crucified and arose from the dead and ascended into heaven and how He had promised that a special Comforter, God the Holy Spirit, would come down to His disciples and give them special strength and wisdom.

The people who listened to Peter believed him and said: "What shall we do then?" Peter said: "Be sorry for all the bad things you have done. Come and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."