

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros  
to the Parish of St. Ambelain  
on Sunday, May 15, 2016*

YEAR C - PENTECOST SUNDAY

Greetings and welcome everyone. Today we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, one of the most important days of our liturgical year. The coming of the promised Spirit upon the disciples of Christ, upon his "male servants and...female servants" is recognized as the beginning of the Church, in the sense that it empowered the disciples to perform the Sacraments of the Church. That very Spirit has dwelt with us ever since then, empowering each successive generation through the very real and tangible powers transmitted by the Apostolic Succession. The Feast of Pentecost also marks for us the institution of the Apostolic Church of the Pleroma, formed by Apostolic Decree at the celebration of Holy Pentecost in 2009.

Over the past couple of weeks we've been talking a lot about the Spirit, in anticipation of this day, and how it forms and directs the Church. Two Sundays ago we mentioned the dual function of the Holy Spirit in the Church as both Conservator of Tradition and Inspirer of the Living Gospel. We went on to elaborate a little on the nature and purpose of Tradition in our Ascension homily. Let us today consider for a moment the concept of the Living Church, and the Living Word.

Historians sometimes refer to the "Living Church" as the early period of the Christian Church when there was very little, if any, dogma, and no canonized texts. This was an era of a Church guided by the traditions passed down by word of mouth from the students of the Apostles, of sacrament, and of direct guidance by the Holy Spirit. This is the era in which Gnosticism thrived, enlivened by the Holy Spirit. But while the Gnostics remained open to continued revelation from the Spirit, there were others, a proto-orthodoxy, who desired the very opposite, that is to close the gates on revelation, and to codify a new Law in stone. These actions of the proto-orthodoxy would indeed guarantee that the worldly Church would survive and thrive, in a sense; but at the expense of the Living Gospel.

We have already stated the importance of Tradition, as a structure and framework for the Church. But when the Spirit is not allowed to flow freely through that edifice, the structure has ceased to fulfill its function. That is why the Roman Church (and other branches, if to a lesser degree) became not only spiritually stagnant, but even the agents of the very Evil that Christ came to abolish. And we know that the source and fundamental nature of this Evil is ignorance.

But the Spirit that Christ promised, which was sent to guide and instruct us, cannot be banished from the world, only temporarily obscured. As Gnostics, we utilize the Sacraments as they were intended: to initiate ourselves into new and higher levels of awareness; to bring ourselves closer to the Source; and to bring back new revelations from the spiritual realms in order to help guide our fellow brothers and sister of the human race toward the fulfillment of our ultimate goal of reintegration.