

254 The Son of God will submit himself to the Father together with all creation: "When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all" (1 Cor 15:28). In his teaching on the presence of God in all things, Saint Gregory of Nyssa notes the following:

For while our present life is lived among a variety of conditions, and the things we have relations with are numerous—for instance, time, air, locality, food and drink, clothing, sunlight, lamplight, and other necessities of life, none of which, many though they be, are God—that blessed state which we hope for is in need of none of these things, but the Divine Being will become all, and instead of all, to us, distributing himself proportionately for every need of that existence.²¹¹

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life,
who ... has spoken through the Prophets.
(Symbol of Faith)*

*We beg and implore you, O Holy of Holies,
that by the good pleasure of your goodness,
your Holy Spirit may come upon us.
(Anaphora of the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great)*

5. Pentecost

255 On the fiftieth day after Christ's Resurrection, the Church celebrates the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles (see Acts 2:1-4). This sending of the Holy Spirit signals the fulfilment of God's condescension to creation, a condescension that began at the creation of the world. In the Holy Spirit, God offers himself to the human race. This gift of God's life is always a blessing for us, and thus we refer to it as grace. The gift of the Holy Spirit gives us the opportunity to become partakers of God's nature, to be divinized, to enter into the communion of the Persons of the Most Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit fills creation with his grace and perfects it in accordance with God's plan: "God's Spirit was to spiritualize the darkness of matter, to illuminate it, and to draw it into the sphere of God's life."²¹²

256 The Holy Spirit bestows upon us a wealth of gifts. And though there is one Spirit, there are many gifts (see 1 Cor 12:4). "There is not a single

²¹¹ GREGORY OF NYSSA, *On the Soul and Resurrection*, 7: PG 46, 104.

²¹² METROPOLITAN ANDREY SHEPTYT\$KY, *Дар П'ятдесятниці*, [The Gift of Pentecost] (May-June 1937).

gift that creation possesses that has not come from the Holy Spirit.”²¹³ The Holy Spirit brings meaning and purpose to the history of humankind, directing it toward Christ, the Divine Logos. The Holy Spirit is the Source and Giver of every human life. It is the Holy Spirit who creates humankind *in the image* of Christ, making it a *living soul, his temple* and the dwelling place of the Most Holy Trinity.

a. The Promise to Send the Holy Spirit

- 257 The Incarnation of the Son of God and the Descent of the Holy Spirit comprise one salvific event. In the Old Testament, the Descent of Holy Spirit is prefigured in several ways: the cloud that covered the tabernacle (see Ex 40:34-38); the fire that came down upon the sacrifice offered by the prophet Elijah (see 1 Kgs 18:30-40); and the "moist wind" (Dn 3:50) that prefigured the "breath" of the life-giving Spirit. In the description of Pentecost in the New Testament, the signs indicating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles were "fiery tongues and "the sound like the rush of a violent wind" (Acts 2:2).
- 258 Christ himself foretold the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles: "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify my behalf" (Jn 15:26). The Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father will come at the request of the Son: "And I will ask the Father, he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth" (Jn 14:16-17). The Risen Christ begins this Pentecost by granting his apostles the power to forgive sins: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (Jn 20:22-23).
- 259 The Holy Spirit descends in order to witness to Christ: "He will testify on my behalf" (Jn 15:26). In the words of the apostle Paul, no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit (see 1 Cor 12:3). The Holy Spirit teaches the apostles everything that Christ had taught "The Holy Spirit ... will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you" (Jn 14:26). "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come" (Jn 16:13). "Any truth spoken by anyone is spoken by Holy Spirit."²¹⁴

²¹³ BASIL THE GREAT, *On the Holy Spirit*, 19,49:PG 32, 158

²¹⁴ AMBROSE OF MILAN, *commentary of 1 Corinthians*, 12, 3:PL 17, 245.