

# **HIS BEATITUDE THE PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM CELEBRATES THE D. LITURGY AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY OF MISSIA IN NEW JERUSALEM ON THE MONDAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Patriarchate celebrated Monday, May 23/June 5, 2023, according to the divinely inspired book of Pentecost, as Monday of the Holy Spirit. It was honoured as a day of dedication especially to the Holy Spirit, because of His great work enlightening the Holy Glorious Apostles. The Holy Spirit, “God and deifying”, “fire divided into different gifts”, came from the Father through the Son to the apostles and sat in a kind of fiery tongues on their heads and strengthened and enlightened them “so that they could speak in different languages the greatness of God”.

For the worship and honour of the Holy Spirit, especially on this day, a Divine Liturgy was celebrated in the Church of the Holy Trinity of the Moscow Patriarchate of the Spiritual Mission to Jerusalem (MISSIA), presided over by our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos, with the co-celebration of their Eminences, Metropolitan Isychios of Kapitolias, Archbishop Aristarchos of Constantina, Metropolitan Joachim of Helenoupolis, the Head of MISSIA Archimandrite Alexander, Archimandrite Dometianos, the Elder Kamarasis Archimandrite Nektarios and the representative of the Church of Moldavia of Russia His Eminence Archbishop Ungheni & Nisporen Petros, Arabic-speaking Priests and Priests from of the Gornesky Mountain Monastery, chanting in the choir of the monks of MISSIA and of the Gornesky Mountain Monastery, with the

participation in the prayer of many Russian-speaking mainly believers.

Before the Holy Communion, His Beatitude spoke through the following speech from Greek translated into Russian as follows:

“Come receive the fire-breathing dew of the Spirit as the reason cleansing from faults and offences, O all ye that are the Church’s light-formed children; for now is the Law come forth from holy Sion: tongues formed of beacon-fire, even the Spirit’s grace” (Matins, 2<sup>nd</sup> canon, ode 5, heirmos) Saint John Damascene, the hymnographer of the Church proclaims.

Reverend Archimandrite Father Alexander, Superior and representative of His Holy Beatitude the Patriarch of Moscow, Cyril in the Russian Spiritual and Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem,

Beloved brothers in Christ,

Reverend Christians and pilgrims,

The grace of the Holy Spirit that has shone upon us today, brings us all together in this Church of the Holy Trinity, to celebrate Pentecost, the epidemic of the Holy Spirit, the participating in the Eucharistic divine mystery of the Body and Blood of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit emanating from the Father and being worshipped and glorified together with the Father and the Son is the one who, as the hymnographer says: “the Holy Spirit provideth all things; He gusheth forth prophecy; He perfecteth the priesthood; he hath taught wisdom to the illiterate. He hath shown forth fishermen as theologians. He holdeth together the whole institution of the Church” (Vespers, Troparion 3).

An essential component of the institution of the Church, but also of Orthodoxy, are the Apostles, who on the one hand “were

filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4) on the day of Pentecost; on the other hand, the Lord Himself "breathed upon them saying: receive Holy Spirit, if you forgive their sins, they are forgiven; if you keep them, they are kept" (John 20:23). Go ahead, he said to them, to the Apostles, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world", (Matthew 28,19-20).

From the order of the Lord "teaching them to observe all that I commanded you" (28,20) it is shown that this must form the basis of the teaching of the Apostles. Because even Basil the Great, in his interpretation of these words, says: "Teaching them, not keep some of them, while leaving aside others, but keep everything I have commanded you", and Saint Cyril of Alexandria, commenting on the Lord's words: even if [Jesus] goes to the Father, presenting Himself in the flesh on our behalf ... but receives as co-habitants the righteous through the Spirit [the Holy One] and co-exists with the saints for all things"; and Saint Chrysostom interprets more analytically saying: "he did not only say he will be with them but also after all those who believe in them. The Apostles were not going to remain on earth until the end of time, but they would converse with the faithful as if they were one body", and for those then and those after this such and such promised grace, Zigavinos notes.

Through all this it becomes clear that the Communion of the Holy Spirit acts through the unity of the Church according to the word of the Lord: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). The Church, being the body of Christ is the abode of the Holy Spirit: "You are the body of Christ and members in part", (1 Cor. 12, 27), "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be

bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:13), Saint Paul preaches.

This unity of the faith and the communion of the Holy Spirit is pervaded today by the participation of the brotherly Churches of Jerusalem and Russia and not only in the common cup of the "mystical blessing", of the divine thanksgiving of the Body and Blood of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. "Love unity, shun divisions; imitate Jesus Christ, as also He of His Father", orders Saint Ignatius the God-bearer. " Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1, 10), the wise Paul preaches.

However, the disturbed order and unity in the body of our One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Orthodox Church causes us agony and sorrow. And this is because, as Saint Paul preaches, "And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it" (1 Cor. 12, 26).

Therefore, we too, my beloved brothers, as members on behalf of the body of Christ, who "gives us the ministry of redemption" (2 Cor. 5:18), and who "receive not the Spirit of the world, but the Spirit emanating from God the Father and resting in the Son", (Cf. 1 Cor. 2:12), let us pray to the Lord and after the psalmist, say: "Create in me a clean heart, God, and put a right spirit within me", (Psalm 50,12) Amen. Many happy returns, blessed and peaceful."

**From Secretariat-General**