



■ † **Mid-Pentecost**

“He Will Resolve All Our Uncertainties”*

Epistle

(Acts 14:6-18)

In those days, the Apostles fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about. And there they preached the Gospel. And there sat at Lystra a certain man, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother’s womb, who never had walked. This same one heard Paul speak who, steadfastly beholding him and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, “Stand upright on thy feet!” And he leaped and walked. And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the language of Lycaonia, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men.” And they called Barnabas, Jupiter, and Paul, Mercury, because he was the chief speaker. Then the priest of Jupiter, who was in front of the city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates and would have done sacrifice along with the people. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they rent their clothes and ran in among the people, crying out and saying, “Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions as you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all things that are therein, and who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless, He left not Himself without witness, in that He did good, and gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.” But even

with these sayings they scarcely restrained the people from doing sacrifice unto them.

Gospel

(St. John 7:14-30)

About the midst of the feast, Jesus went up into the temple and taught. And the Jews marvelled, saying, "How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?" Jesus answered them, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His that sent Me. If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine whether it be from God, or whether I speak from Myself. He that speaketh from himself seeketh his own glory; but He that seeketh the glory of Him that sent Him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill Me?" The people answered and said, "Thou hast a devil. Who goeth about to kill thee?" Jesus answered and said unto them, "I have done one work, and ye all marvel. Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers), and ye on the Sabbath day circumcise a man. If a man receive circumcision on the Sabbath day, that the Law of Moses should not be broken, are ye angry at Me because I have made a man every whit whole on the Sabbath day? Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." Then said some of them from Jerusalem, "Is not this he whom they seek to kill? But lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ? Yet we know from whence this man comes; but when Christ cometh, no man will know from whence He comes." Then Jesus cried out in the temple as He taught, saying, "Ye both know Me, and ye know from whence I am. And I am not come of Myself, but He that sent Me is true, whom ye know not. But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He hath sent Me." Then they sought to take Him; but no man laid hands on Him, because His hour had not yet come.



On Mid-Pentecost a cry is heard from the Lord: "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink" (St John 7:37).

Let us all, then, go to Him. Whoever thirsts for anything, as long as it is not contrary to the Spirit of the Lord, will without fail find satisfaction.

You who thirst for knowledge, go to the Lord, for He is the only Light that truly enlightens every person.

You who thirst for cleansing from sins and the soothing of the burning of your conscience, go to the Lord, for He lifted the sins of the whole world upon the tree (cf. I St. Peter 2:24) and tore up their handwriting (cf. Col. 2:14).

You who thirst for peace of heart, go to the Lord, for He is the Treasure, the possession of which will make you forget all deprivations and despise all goods so as to possess Him alone.

If you wish to acquire strength, learn from Him Who is All-Mighty.

If you lack glory, know that He possesses glory on high.

If it is freedom for which you thirst, know that He is the source of true freedom.

He will resolve all of our uncertainties, break the bonds of the passions, disperse all sorrows and grieving, enable us to overcome all the impediments, temptations, and snares of the enemy, and will smooth out the path of our spiritual life. Let us all go to the Lord!



(*) St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God*.