

This reading from the Acts of the Apostles describes what happened:

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong and powerful wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages. In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, "These people who are talking like this are Galileans! How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages? We are from many different countries yet all of us hear them speaking in our own languages about the great things that God has done!" Amazed and confused, they kept asking one another, "What does this mean?" But others made fun of the believers, saying, "These people are drunk!"

Then Peter stood up with the apostles and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd. "Fellow-Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, listen to me and let me tell you what this means. These people are not drunk, they are filled with God's Holy Spirit."

This is what the prophet Joel spoke about: God says: "I will pour out my Spirit on everyone and they will proclaim my message." Awe and wonder came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

Acts 2: 1-18, 43