**Pentecost Sunday 2025**

OK, friends, play along with me here this morning. When were you born? The date of your birth. I’ll start and we’ll go around the altar, up the epistle side and around the gospel side back here to the lectern. I was born November 12th, 1957…

 Wonderful!! We pretty much heard four generations of birthdays from every month of the year! We were all born into this world and have been living our lives, as best we can, through the joys and sorrows of the human condition. I thank God that you were born and that we’re here together as part of the Trinity family in 2025.

 Speaking of birthdays, we celebrate a very special birthday today: The birthday of the Church! Pentecost. In our Gospel reading, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to guide, protect and inspire us. The Acts lesson is a fulfilment of that promise, and fires up the disciples to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to the whole world. And the Romans lesson, speaks of the life we live in the world as God’s children in the Spirit.

 Entrance into the beautiful mystery of the Body of Christ is through the waters of baptism. We are born again and born from above. We all were born on a certain day, and we were all born again in baptism on a certain day. In a few moments Teagan Gloria will join us as the newest baptized child of God. She can’t speak for herself yet, so her parents, godparents, and all of us will speak for her and promise to help her to grow in the love of God.

 Teagan is a unisex name with Gaelic roots that comes from ancient Ireland. It is a variant of the Irish name which means “little poet.” Teagan is also derived from a Welsh name which means “pretty” or “fair”. Teagan is a name that is steeped in Irish history and culture. It is often associated with the beauty and mystery of the Emerald Isle, and it has a rich and fascinating history. In modern context, Teagan is associated with strength and resilience. It is a name that conveys a sense of power and confidence. Combine that with Gloria, Teagan’s middle name, the anglicized form of the Latin word meaning immortal glory, fame, renown, praise, and honor, and this little lady is going to be a powerhouse in the Holy Spirit!

 We all have a birth date, and we all will have a death date, with a dash in between. As born again Christians, what we do with that “dash” in between those two dates is our Christian witness. We’re all ministers and missionaries of Jesus, lay people, bishops, priests and deacons. From this day forward, Teagan will belong to God. The promises we make today on Teagan’s behalf are important, but the promises God makes to her today are of utmost and eternal importance. In Christ, death is not the final word, but an entrance into a new and everlasting life that begins now. In the end love wins.

 And so, Happy birthday, Church! Happy birthday, Teagan! And may the joy of this occasion be always remembered and celebrated.

**May it be so.**