

Feo Belcari

**Play of the Descent of the Holy Ghost on the
Day of Pentecost**

Translation of *Rappresentazione dello avvenimento dello Spirito Santo il dì della Pentecoste*.

For a full discussion of this play, and for the Italian text, see Nerida Newbigin, *Feste d'Oltrarno: Plays in Churches in Fifteenth-Century Florence*, 2 vols. (Florence: Olschki, 1996).

Translation and paratextual material © Nerida Newbigin 2011, 2020

Play of the Descent of the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost

An ANGEL announces the play and says the following stanza:

1. The greater our devotion and our faith
when we behold or hear of things divine,
the greater is the consolation God
bestows on noble and most excellent souls.
Seek therefore all perfection possible,
keeping your hearts in close nearness to God,
in silence still and everyone in peace,
so that his holy rays descend on you.

When all the Apostles have gathered together, ST PETER stands up in their midst and says to them:

2. Now we'll see fulfilled, beloved brothers,
the prophecy of David in his song
concerning Judas, who for his grave sin
was divested of his apostolate.
Therefore in now behoves us, gathered here,
to cast our lots and pass the holy mantle
to clothe the one who's chosen now by God:
righteous Barnabas, or fervent Matthias.

And then they all pray, and ST PETER says to God:

3. O sweetest fire, o truest charity,
who always see the secrets of our hearts,
send down your lot on whomever you please,
according to your will, which never errs,
and then fill us with all the fire of love
that is contained within those shafts of love,
so that with wisdom and the strength to bear
all burdens, we can preach throughout the world.