

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. "Surely" they said "all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 103

Response:

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

or
Alleluia!

- Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are.
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. (R.)
- You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)
- May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:3-7.12-13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

No one can say, "Jesus is Lord" unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The sequence Veni Sancte Spiritus (Holy Spirit, Lord of Light) may be said or sung.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 20:19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you," and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, "Peace be with you.

"As the Father sent me, so am I sending you."

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

"Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain, they are retained."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as promised by your Son, the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly the hidden mystery of this sacrifice and graciously lead us into all truth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

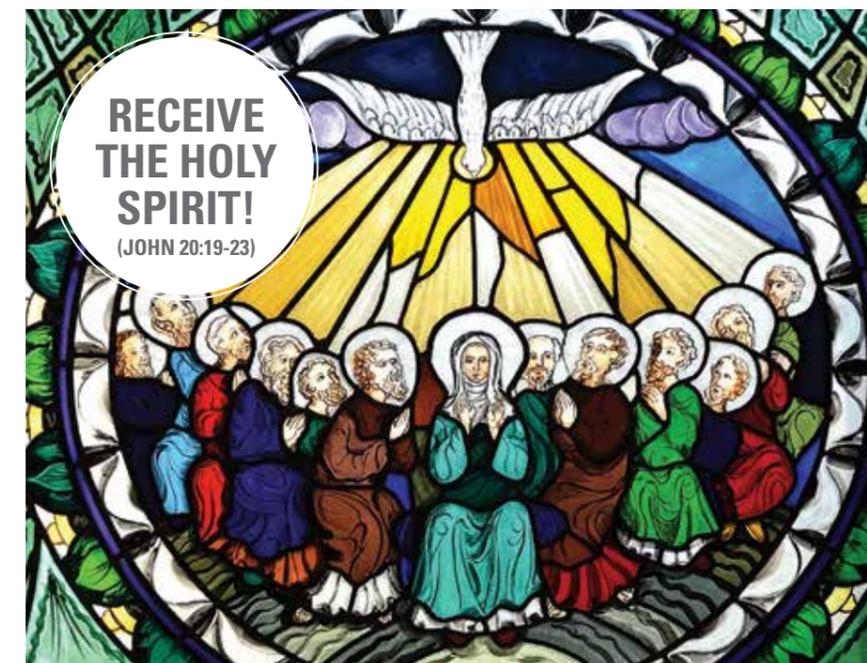
O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church, safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her may retain all its force and that this spiritual food may gain her abundance of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

31 MAY 2020 Sunday Message

PENTECOST SUNDAY

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 1



We hear today of the appearance of the risen Jesus to his disciples who are locked away in fear of the Jewish authorities. Although they have heard from Mary Magdalene about her experiencing the risen Lord, their faith is not yet complete: it is still tempered by anxiety and apprehension about their future.

Thomas, as we discover later, is not present at this event. Jesus' word to them is "Peace be with you." This is more than a simple greeting: it is the fulfilment of his promise about bestowing on them the gift of a peace the world cannot give and that they will have peace in him. The disciples are filled with joy, a sign that their faith is now complete: they have experienced the risen Jesus for themselves, an essential element in the narratives which establish authentic witnesses to the resurrection, which no one saw occur.

However, this peace and joy is not something to be kept within the circle of present disciples. Up to this point, they have had no share or part in the mission of Jesus. In the Fourth Gospel, Jesus does not give them any role in preaching or healing: for example, at the feeding of the crowds, it is Jesus who performs all the action, distributing the bread to those present. Now the disciples become apostles: they are to continue Jesus' presence and mission now that he is no longer with them physically, and for that task he breathes on them the Holy Spirit. ■

LEARN

Pentecost was one of the Jewish pilgrimage feasts celebrated in Jerusalem. It was originally a harvest festival, offering the first-fruits of the barley crop.

In Jewish practice, it became associated with God's self-revealing at Sinai during the Exodus and the giving of the Law.

The bishop's liturgical greeting "Peace be with you" comes from our Gospel extract today.

SAY

Come, Holy Spirit: transform me and the face of the earth.

REFLECT

With the feast of Pentecost, the Easter mystery reaches its fulfilment in Jesus' giving of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. We might remember that the Holy Spirit is at work in guiding the Church, the people of God today. One of the gifts of the Spirit is fortitude, perhaps better rendered as courage. Although we may pray that the leaders of the Church and we ourselves may be open to the promptings of the Spirit, it is not always evident that we are willing to listen when the Spirit seems to be nudging the Church in a direction away from the tried and familiar practices which we are used to.

The biblical Spirit is often portrayed as a power, as energy which drives and strengthens God's agents. It is not something safe or tame, which is why we may be afraid of where the Spirit may be leading us. The answers and practices of yesterday may have suited the questions and situation of the Church then; but the Church is the people of God: it is not the hierarchy; nor is it simply a human institution. It is, rather, a living organism, the body of Christ and its (or rather our) life-principle is the Holy Spirit. On this feast of Pentecost, we think how a small, frightened group of disciples was transformed into a courageous band of apostles who believed that they had a message for anyone who would accept it. We are that group today: we have been given the Holy Spirit. ■

DO

When you turn on a light, notice how the bulb or strip is transformed from something quite mundane into a source of light and heat. If you really allowed the Holy Spirit to influence you, you also could be transformed: would you be prepared to let that happen?

