

Pentecost A



Entrance Antiphon: **The love of God has been poured into our hearts
through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.**

Today we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is a mistake to see this coming as something that only happened long ago. Through the prayer of the Church, the Holy Spirit comes to us also today.

Lord, you send the Spirit to lead us to the truth. Lord, have mercy.
You send the Spirit to help us to love one another. Christ, have mercy.
You send the Spirit to strengthen and sustain us. Lord, have mercy.

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.

Let us pray:

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

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 2: 1-11

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103

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

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.

Response

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.

Response

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.

Response

SECOND READING:

A reading from St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

1 Cor 12:3-7.12-13

No one can say, 'Jesus is the 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 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.

SEQUENCE

**Holy Spirit, Lord of Light,
From the clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give.**

**If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay
All his good is turned to ill.**

**Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure
Come, thou light of all that live!**

**Heal our wounds, our strength renew
On our dryness pour thy dew
Wash the stains of guilt away:**

**Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow**

**Bend the stubborn heart and will
Melt the frozen, warm the chill
Guide the steps that go astray.**

**Thou in toil art comfort sweet
Pleasant coolness in the heat
Solace in the midst of woe.**

**Thou, on us who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:**

**Light immortal, light divine,
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:**

**Give us comfort when we die
Give us life with thee on high
Give us joys that never end.**

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

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

John 20:19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

And with your spirit.

Glory to you, Lord.

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.

The Apostles' Creed

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

Offertory:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

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.**

Preface:

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For, bringing your Paschal Mystery to completion,
you bestowed the Holy Spirit today
on those you made your adopted children
by uniting them to your Only Begotten Son.
This same Spirit, as the Church came to birth,
opened to all peoples the knowledge of God
and brought together the many languages of the earth
in profession of the one faith.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy;
every land, every people exults in your praise
and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts,
sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as we acclaim:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith.

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

Communion Antiphon:

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

REFLECTION

On Pentecost day the apostles spoke a new language. This new language was the language of peace rather than of war; of cooperation rather than competition; of forgiveness rather than of vengeance; of hope rather than of despair; the language of tolerance rather than of bigotry; of friendship rather than of hostility; the language of unity rather than of division; the language of love rather than of hate. Through the gift of the Spirit, different people learned to profess one faith, to the praise and glory of God. That is the real miracle of Pentecost, and it is a miracle which, still happens.

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.**

Final Blessing:

The Lord be with you:

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.

And with your spirit.

Amen.

Thanks be to God alleluia, alleluia.