

## Pentecost Sunday

May 20, 2018

### First Reading - Acts 2:1-11

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."



### Sequence - Veni, Sanctae Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, come!  
And from your celestial home  
Shed a ray of light divine!  
Come, Father of the poor!  
Come, source of all our store!  
Come, within our bosoms shine.  
You, of comforters the best;  
You, the soul's most welcome guest;  
Sweet refreshment here below;  
In our labor, rest most sweet;  
Grateful coolness in the heat;  
Solace in the midst of woe.  
O most blessed Light divine,  
Shine within these hearts of yours,  
And our inmost being fill!  
Where you are not, we have naught,  
Nothing good in deed or thought,  
Nothing free from taint of ill.  
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;  
On our dryness pour your dew;  
Wash the stains of guilt away:  
Bend the stubborn heart and will;  
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;  
Guide the steps that go astray.  
On the faithful, who adore  
And confess you, evermore  
In your sevenfold gift descend;  
Give them virtue's sure reward;  
Give them your salvation, Lord;  
Give them joys that never end. Amen.  
Alleluia.

### Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12: 3B-7, 12-13

Brothers and sisters:  
No one can say, "Jesus is Lord,"  
except by the Holy Spirit.  
There are different kinds of spiritual gifts  
but the same Spirit;  
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;  
there are different workings but the same God  
who produces all of them in everyone.  
To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit  
is given for some benefit.  
As a body is one though it has many parts,  
and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body,  
so also Christ.  
For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,  
whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons,  
and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

### Gospel - John 20: 19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week,  
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,  
for fear of the Jews,  
Jesus came and stood in their midst  
and said to them, "Peace be with you."  
When he had said this,  
he showed them his hands and his side.  
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.  
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.  
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."  
And when he had said this,  
he breathed on them and said to them,  
"Receive the Holy Spirit.  
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,  
and whose sins you retain are retained."

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**Come Holy Ghost**

Come Holy Ghost, Creator blest,  
And in our hearts take up thy rest;  
Come with thy grace and heav'nly aid  
To fill the hearts which thou hast made,  
To fill the hearts which thou hast made.

O Comforter, to thee we cry,  
Thou heav'nly gift of God most high;  
Thou font of life, and fire of love,  
And sweet anointing from above,  
And sweet anointing from above.

**Psalm 104**

*Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.*

**Send Down the Fire**

*Send down the fire of your justice,  
Send down the rains of your love;  
Come send down the Spirit, breathe life in your people,  
And we shall be people of God.*

Call us to be your compassion.  
Teach us the song of your love;  
Give us hearts that sing, Give us deeds that ring,  
Make us ring with the song of your love.

Call us to learn of your mercy,  
Teach us the way of your peace;  
Give us hearts that feel, Give us hands that heal,  
Make us walk in the way of your peace.

**“Ground Rules” for Small Group Faith Sharing**

- Maintain confidentiality – “Whatever happens in small group stays in small group.”
- Judgment-free zone – You don’t have to agree with everyone, but you have to have respect for everyone.
- No “shut downs” or “put downs” – See Christ in one another, BE Christ to one another.
- Don’t be a “discussion hog” – Be sure that everyone that wants to gets a chance to share.
- Leave room for the Spirit – Silence is OK! Not everyone has to share.
- Practice active listening – Avoid interrupting, fidgeting, criticizing, lecturing, or thinking of what you’re going to say while another person is speaking.
- Questions are a guide - You do not have to answer all of them or go in order.
- Be open – God is doing amazing things!

**Petitions**

Our response: “Come, Holy Spirit.”

**Closing Prayer**

Holy Spirit, although we know not how to pray, we know you intercede for us with your inexpressible groanings.



Although fear locks our doors, true love bursts in anyway, bringing peace within its wounds. We cry out, *Veni Sanctae Spiritus!* Come, Holy Spirit, come with your life and love and peace. As you blaze within all of creation, you are not just in the upper room in one time and place, but everywhere, through all time and space. Set a fire in our hearts and make us fierce with your love. Hurl us to all corners of creation. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Questions for Reflection on the Gospel**

1. What word, image, or phrase stands out to you from the Gospel?
2. In the first reading, every nation was confused and amazed, because everyone understood in his or her language what the apostles were saying. If you were completely open to the Holy Spirit, would you have a deeper understanding of all that you hear? Was the miracle in the speaking or the hearing? How does the Holy Spirit use the miracle of hearing with you?
3. In the second reading, we hear, “To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.” Were Vivaldi and Michelangelo given gifts solely for their own pleasure? For whose benefit were they given? What are your gifts and for what benefit were they given to you and those around you?
4. Read the Sequence on the reverse of this page. Which image of the Spirit most resonates with you? Why? With which do you most struggle?
5. In the Gospel, Jesus “breathed” on them. How does this relate to Genesis 2:7, “God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life?” What is the significance for you?
6. “... When the doors were locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, ... ” How were the disciples different after the Spirit’s arrival? Was there a time in your life when you felt the Spirit’s presence and you were different?
7. As Pope Francis asks in his quote below, are you open to God’s surprises or are you closed and fearful? Why?

**Words from our Holy Father**

Let us ask ourselves today: Are we open to “God’s surprises”? Or are we closed and fearful before the newness of the Holy Spirit? Do we have the courage to strike out along the new paths which God’s newness sets before us, or do we resist, barricaded in transient structures which have lost their capacity for openness to what is new? We would do well to ask ourselves these questions all through the day.

*-Pope Francis at Pentecost, May 19, 2013, Vatican Radio*