

The Day of Pentecost - Whitsunday June 4, 2017

VIGIL OF PENTECOST - June 3, 2017

Exodus 19:1-9 or Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 33:12-22 (20) or Psalm 130 (4)
Romans 8:14-17, 22-27
John 7:37-39

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you fulfilled the promise of Easter by sending the gift of your Holy Spirit. Look upon your people gathered in prayer, open to receive the Spirit's flame. May it come to rest in our hearts and heal the divisions of word and tongue, that with one voice and one song we may praise your name in joy and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gospel Acclamation

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

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BACKGROUND

For use in Order of Service or Parish Magazine

Like Easter, the Christian festival of Pentecost or Whitsun (which takes place 50 days later), has its origins in a Jewish celebration.

The Apostles were gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost (a day of thanksgiving for the first fruits of the harvest) and to commemorate the receiving of the Ten Commandments by Moses on Mount Sinai (Acts 2:1-4).

And when the feast of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the houses where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance.

Fired with evangelical zeal, the Apostles sought to spread the 'good news' throughout the world, and the birth of the Christian Church is often said to date from that first Whitsun.

READINGS AND PSALM

Acts 2 : 1-21

In Jerusalem, many pilgrims had come for the great Pentecost Harvest Festival. As Jesus had promised, the Holy Spirit of God came upon the gathered company of disciples with great power. They found themselves impelled to proclaim the resurrection Gospel to everyone who would listen.

OR Numbers 11:24-30

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Moses appoints 70 leaders and God fills them with “some of the spirit that was on Moses”. As this happens they prophesy including two in the camp. When Joshua hears about this he asks Moses to stop it, but Moses expresses his wish that all of God’s people would be filled with God’s Spirit and would prophesy.

The Psalm - Psalm 104: 26-36, 37b

The world and all its creatures depend on God for provision and breath – which leads the Psalmist to commit to praise God.

1 Corinthians 12 : 3b-13

Paul explains something of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives: he is active everywhere, inspiring different gifts in different people. All should work together in the unity of the church which is now Christ’s body on earth.

John 20 : 19-23

John’s Gospel is unique in speaking of the gift of the Holy Spirit before the events of Pentecost. Here, Jesus appears to his friend in a locked upper room on the evening of the first Easter; he gives them his peace, a breath of the Spirit and a commission to pronounce forgiveness of sins.

Or John 7:37-39

Jesus invites the people to come to him and receive living water – God’s Spirit that would well up inside of them – from him.

Text of readings

http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=%0AActs%202:%201-21%0A%2BOR%0ANumbers%2011:%2024-30%0Acw%20Psalm%20104:%2026-36,%2037b%0A1%20Corinthians%2012:%203b-13%0A%2BOR%0AActs%202:%201-21%0AJohn%2020:%2019-23%0A%2BOR%0AJohn%207:%2037-39

COLLECTS

Collect One

God,
who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people,
by the sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit;
Grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgment in all things,
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end.

Collect Two

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:

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By the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal:
Open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

INTERCESSION

Holy Spirit, fill us

“The harvest the Spirit gives is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” *Galatians 5:22*

Loving Lord,
when we consider the stressful needs of today
in an aggressive and competing world;
when we must stand firm and resolute
awaken in us a loving and gentle spirit;
when we seek to resist the powers of evil
walk with us and direct our paths
to the way of justice and peace.

“Now, the Lord is Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” *2 Corinthians 3:17*

Come, Holy Spirit of God,
turn our faltering words into steps of mercy,
our heartfelt yearnings into touches of care,
and our wandering thoughts into steeled resolve.
Turn our prayers into the actions of your loving purpose.
from Women's World Day of Prayer 'TOGETHER IN PRAYER' Lebanon 2003

We pray that this may be a time of renewal in the life of the church, in the lives of parishes
and individuals...

PRAYERS

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Almighty God, renew us day by day by thy Holy Spirit, in whom you have sealed us for your own: Let all bitterness be put away from us, all anger and evil-speaking and malice; may we be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as you, our Father, has forgiven us for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named: Grant that, according to the riches of your glory, we may be strengthened with power through your Spirit in our inner being; that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith; that we, being rooted and grounded in your love, may be strong to apprehend with all the saints what is its length and breadth and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that we may be filled with all the fullness of God.

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Almighty God, who on this day
didst open the way of eternal life
to every race and nation
by the promised gift of thy Holy Spirit:
Shed abroad this gift throughout the world
by the preaching of the Gospel,
that it may reach to the ends of the earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth
with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
Book of Divine Worship (and the Book of Common Prayer)

Let us pray
[that the Holy Spirit
may bring peace and unity to all mankind]
Almighty and ever-living God,
you fulfilled the Easter promise
by sending us your Holy Spirit.
May that Spirit unite the races and nations on earth
to proclaim your glory.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
New Saint Joseph Sunday Missal Litany of confession

Let us pray
[that the flame of the Spirit
will descend upon us]
Father in heaven,
fifty days have celebrated
the fullness of the mystery of your revealed love.
See your people gathered in prayer,
open to receive the Spirit's flame.
May it come to rest in our hearts
and disperse the divisions of word and tongue.

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With one voice and one song
may we praise your name in joy and thanksgiving.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen *New Saint Joseph Sunday Missal*

A Prayer to the Holy Spirit

O God the Holy Ghost
Who art light unto thine elect
Evermore enlighten us.
Thou who art fire of love
Evermore enkindle us.
Thou who art Lord and Giver of Life,
Evermore live in us.
Thou who bestowest sevenfold grace,
Evermore replenish us.
As the wind is thy symbol,
So forward our goings.
As the dove, so launch us heavenwards.
As water, so purify our spirits.
As a cloud, so abate our temptations.
As dew, so revive our languor.
As fire, so purge our dross
Christina Rossetti (AD 1830-1894)

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Christ Jesus,
before ascending into heaven,
You promised to send the Holy Spirit
to Your apostles and disciples.
Grant that the same Spirit
may perfect in our lives the work of Your grace and love.

Grant us the Spirit of Fear Of The Lord
that we may be filled with a loving reverence toward You.

The Spirit of Piety
that we may find peace and fulfillment
in the service of God while serving others;

The Spirit of Fortitude
that we may bear our cross with You
and, with courage, overcome the obstacles
that interfere with our salvation;

The Spirit of Knowledge
that we may know You and know ourselves
and grow in holiness;

The Spirit of Understanding
to enlighten our minds
with the light of Your truth;

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The Spirit of Counsel
that we may choose the surest way of doing Your will,
seeking first the Kingdom;

Grant us the Spirit of Wisdom
that we may aspire to the things that last forever;

Teach us to be Your faithful disciples
and animate us in every way with Your Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of St. Bonaventure to the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus, as God's Spirit came down and rested upon you,
May the same Spirit rest on us,
Bestowing his sevenfold gifts.
First, grant us the gift of understanding,
By which your precepts may enlighten our minds.
Second, grant us counsel, by which we may follow
in your footsteps on the path of righteousness.
Third, grant us courage,
by which we may ward off the enemy's attacks.
Fourth, grant us knowledge,
by which we can distinguish good from evil.
Fifth, grant us piety,
by which we may acquire compassionate hearts.
Sixth, grant us fear,
by which we may draw back from evil
and submit to what is good.
Seventh, grant us wisdom,
that we may taste fully the life-giving sweetness of your love.
A Manual of Anglo-Catholic Devotion

LITANY

God of power, You have sent the Spirit of love,
forgive us all the times we put conditions on our love.

You have sent the Spirit of joy
forgive us all the times we are disagreeable and unwelcome witnesses.

You have sent the Spirit of peace
forgive us all the times our words and actions contribute towards conflict and division.

You have sent the Spirit of patience
forgive us all the times we worry because we do not see instant results to prayer.

You have sent the Spirit of kindness
forgive us all the times we have neglected people's needs.

You have sent the Spirit of goodness

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forgive us all the times we have wilfully or thoughtlessly caused pain by our words or actions.

You have sent the Spirit of faithfulness

forgive us all the times our discipleship has lacked credibility.

You have sent the Spirit of gentleness

forgive us all the times we have been aggressive in our attitude towards others

You have sent the Spirit of self-control

forgive us all the times we have hurt others by our careless manner.

Gracious and merciful God, grant us your forgiveness and your love that we may truly care for one another.

Refresh and renew us with your Spirit so that we can be fruitful and vital disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all.

Open your hand to us, O God, giver of good things. Do not hide your face from us.

Should you remove your Spirit from us, we shall surely return to the dust.

Send forth your Spirit in this worship service today and let us be re-created.

Renew us, O God, with your spirit.

Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

The earth is full of your creatures.

Pray a short prayer for humankind and the people of God.

End with: Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

Living things both great and small look to you for provisions.

Pray a short prayer for the earth and all creation.

End with: Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

Yonder is the sea great and wide.

Pray a short prayer for the witness of the church in the world.

End with: Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have being.

Pray a short prayer for the music ministry.

End with: Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

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May our meditations be pleasing to you.

Pray a short prayer for the ministry of Word.

End with: Let us rejoice in the Lord. Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.

**Renew us, O God, with your Spirit.
In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!**

Pentecost Benediction

May God
cause the wind to blow again.
And may tongues of fire
Inspire
Your talking,
Your walking, and your doing,
Today
And forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit!

We go, giving thanks to God, Alleluia!

The blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be with you this day and for ever.

Amen! Alleluia!

REFLECTIONS ON THEME

The Day of Pentecost is a celebration that is rich and challenging for followers of Christ, but it is easy to miss the transformative call that it offers. The readings for this year bring together a number of different themes, that all combine to beckon us into a deeper encounter with God and God's reign and into a life of Christ-like service. In Acts God's Spirit is given as the empowerment for God's people (sons and daughters) to become prophetic proclaimers of God's goodness – as Peter indicates through the connection with the Joel prophecy.

The Pentecost narrative also contains echoes of the experience of Moses and the leaders he appoints to serve God's people, and Moses' longing that all of God's people should be filled with God's Spirit and proclaim God's message. The Psalmist recognises that it is God's breath that sustains all creation and that the only appropriate response is to offer his life in praise of God. In his letter to the Corinthians Paul teaches that God's Spirit is given to all and empowers all so that all of God's people may serve one another. In John's Gospel this calling is opened even further as Jesus, in his gift of the Spirit to the disciples, informs them that they are now sent as he was sent – and he was sent to bring living water to all who would come to him.

Here, then, is the call of this Day – to open ourselves to God's Spirit, to be empowered and gifted, in order that we may be sent to bring God's life, God's grace and forgiveness and God's empowering Spirit to all others. Pentecost, then, is not a moment of personal

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bliss, or simply an experience that can be enjoyed in some sort of euphoria. Rather, it is a moment which changes everything, in which our lives are equipped and marked for God's reign, and in which our quest to follow Christ is made possible through the gift of the Spirit. The evidence of a Pentecost Church, then, is not so much particular gifts or experiences, but the life, grace and service that the Church brings to the world. We are filled with the Spirit not for our own sakes, but for the sake of the world that God loves so dearly.

CONNECTING WITH LIFE:

GLOBAL APPLICATION: It is deeply disturbing that people who call themselves by Christ's name across the world have all too often embraced the divisions of the world, and have been known for their retreat from the world, their escapism from the world and its struggles, and their failure to serve sacrificially as Christ did. It is hard to understand what we mean by being "filled with God's Spirit" when this remains the case. Rather, in every place where people are divided, Christ-followers, who are filled with the Spirit, are called to be at work bringing peace and reconciliation. In every place where there is grief, pain, hatred and conflict, God's people are called to bring forgiveness, comfort, healing and compassion. In every place where people are weak and vulnerable God's people are called to strengthen and empower.

The gift of Pentecost is the inspiration and empowerment we need to become those who, like Christ, seek to empower others. It is the strength to stand against injustice, oppression and exploitation, and it is the strength to embrace the sacrifices we must make in order to serve the weakest and most vulnerable among us. The Pentecost Spirit drives us back into the world to engage it and serve it. As we are filled with the Spirit we may find ourselves called to work with government agencies, or to challenge them. We may be called to help big business serve and give to impoverished communities, or we may be called to oppose unfair business practices. We may be called to work with individuals and communities at "grass roots" levels, or we may be called to work for systemic change. But, in every call, we will find ourselves being empowered by God's Spirit, we will find ourselves working to bring diverse people together and to reconcile and unify those who are separated, and we will find our selves drawn into communities of care, engagement and compassion. Thanks to the internet, this work can be more connected and more globally influential than ever. All it needs now is people who, by God's Spirit, have the divine will to make it happen.

LOCAL APPLICATION: Pentecost has, all too often, been seen simply as a personal experience that moves the recipient into some sort of spiritual elite. The marks of Pentecost have all too often been seen as personal, supernatural experiences and the benefits of Pentecost have been understood as personal edification, personal euphoria and personal strengthening.

Sometimes, the Pentecost experience has even been used as the basis for separation and division of one group from another, and as the justification for withdrawal from the world into a kind of spiritual wagon-circling. But, in every community, every neighbourhood and every church God's Spirit seeks to enable people to "speak one another's languages", to welcome and serve one another, and to work together to serve and empower those who most need help and compassion.

This is the opposite of what we have often understood as being "filled with the Spirit". When God's Spirit fills us we find ourselves being "sent" to serve others. We find ourselves seeking to bring peace and reconciliation between people – whether it's a married couple in conflict, parents and children who cannot find each other, or church groups that are unable to break free of competitiveness and suspicion. We find ourselves seeking to

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understand those who are different from us, and we find ourselves reaching out in compassion and service to those who are marginalised, excluded, poor, diseased and rejected.

Rather than “lifting us up” above others into a group that is somehow favoured by God, Pentecost “pulls us down” to connect with those that we would never naturally have the strength or inclination to relate to. Rather than leading us out of the world, Pentecost drives us back into it to proclaim and live the prophetic message of God’s reign, as Christ did. In what ways is your church community tempted to separate itself from the world around it? In what ways do you sense the Spirit driving you out to proclaim God’s grace and glory to those who are different from you? In what ways are you being equipped and called by the Spirit to bring people together and to serve those who need to experience God’s presence and activity through human hands?

SERMON OUTLINE

Jn 20:19-23 Receive the Holy Spirit

Everything had happened so fast - difficult to make sense of it all... *Early on the 1st day of the week MM had gone to the tomb & saw that the stone had been removed (20.1).* Then Peter & John had run to the tomb- empty; & then Jesus appeared to Mary in the garden & she *went to the disciples...*

1. The Fear of the Jews:- The disciples had witnessed the hatred & hostility of the authorities - so for security *the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for the fear of the Jews.* The future seemed bleak - disciples hiding behind locked doors - fearful frightened men... Would the authorities come for them? Would they suffer the same fate as Jesus?

2. The Figure of Jesus:- *Jesus came with & stood in their midst..* He had risen indeed - further reassured them with

a) his Presence - proof of the Resurrection - **1 Cor 15:5,6** - *he appeared to Peter & then to the 12. After that he appeared to more than 500 of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living* - story could be verified!

b) his Peace - v21 *Peace be with you.* Their troubled hearts/minds needed this peace - so too do ours/our world!

3. The Forgiveness of Sins: *he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit...In addition to this wonderful gift Jesus brought pardon, joy, peace, calm & reassurance... He gave them authority to pronounce the forgiveness of sins - if you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.* No mere man can forgive sins - but it is the church’s privilege to convey he message of forgiveness > **BCP Absolution:-** *He pardoneth & absolveth all them that truly repent & unfeignedly believe his holy gospel.*
By Norman Porteous

WORSHIP

All age worship

A two part service on ‘Remembering’ and ‘Hoping’

http://www.thischurch.com/christian_teaching/lectionary_bible_notes/lectionarybiblenotesyeara/ordinary11yeara.htm

SERMONS

Things like that don't happen anymore, right?

The Rev. Ben E. Helmer, Sermons that Work, Episcopal Digital Network
<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2014/05/21/day-of-pentecost-a-2014/>

When Pentecost Ends Too Soon

The Rev. Barbara K. Lundblad, Day 1
http://day1.org/938-whe_pentecost_ends_too_soon

The Spirit within and amongst us

There are several sermons in this one!
www.beswick.info/rcresources/PDA9699Ser.htm

Sermons from Seattle

There are ten sermons offered for Pentecost - three of them on the passage in Acts.
<http://www.sermonsfromseattle.com/pentecost.htm>

CHILDREN

Worshipping with Children, Pentecost,

Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown
<http://worshippingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2014/05/year-pentecost-june-8-2014.html>

Welcome!

Fran Woodruff, On the Chancel Steps
<https://onthechancelsteps.wordpress.com/2014/06/01/welcome/>

Sermon of the Week

Sermons 4 Kids, Charles Kirkpatrick, Object Lessons & Children's
SermonsSermons4Kids.com.

Happy Birthday, Church!

Children's Lesson for Pentecost Sunday
Anna's Hosannas.
<http://annashosannas.net/Pentecost-A.php>

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

1st Reading Acts 2: 1–21 [PBC]

296* Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
318 Father, Lord of all creation
298 Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord
312* Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost
301 Let every Christian pray
302 Lord God the Holy Ghost
303* Lord of the Church, we pray for our renewing
305* O Breath of life, come sweeping through us
306* O Spirit of the living God
639* O thou who camest from above
307* Our great Redeemer, as he breathed

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308 Revive your Church, O Lord
341* Spirit divine, attend our prayers
386* Spirit of God, unseen as the wind
310* Spirit of the living God
313* The Spirit came, as promised
491* We have a gospel to proclaim
309* When God the Spirit came
204* When Jesus came to Jordan
395* When Jesus taught by Galilee

Alternative Numbers 11: 24–30

1st Reading 381* God has spoken – by his prophets
304 Loving Spirit, loving Spirit
386* Spirit of God, unseen as the wind

Psalm Psalm 104: 26–36, 37b

346* Angel voices ever singing
42* Good is the Lord, our heavenly King
356 I will sing, I will sing a song unto the Lord
357 I'll praise my maker while I've breath
6* Immortal, invisible, God only wise
305* O Breath of life, come sweeping through us
34* O worship the King all-glorious above

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 12: 3b–13

294* Come down, O Love divine
408* Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest
297* Come, thou Holy Spirit, come
318* Father, Lord of all creation
298 Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord
520 God is love, and where true love is, God himself is there
312* Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost
91* He is Lord, he is Lord
299* Holy Spirit, come, confirm us
521 I am the Church! You are the Church!
421* I come with joy, a child of God
96* Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it
303* Lord of the Church, we pray for our renewing
102* Name of all majesty
306* O Spirit of the living God
438* O thou who at thy eucharist didst pray
440 One bread, one body, one Lord of all
313* The Spirit came, as promised
530 Ubi caritas et amor
491* We have a gospel to proclaim
531 Where love and loving-kindness dwell

Alternative Acts 2: 1–21 (Selection of hymns as printed above)

2nd Reading

The Gospel John 20: 19–23

293* Breathe on me, Breath of God

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263* Crown him with many crowns (vv. 1, 3, 4, 5)

338* Jesus, stand among us

424* Jesus, stand among us at the meeting of our lives

652* Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

307* Our great Redeemer, as he breathed

505 Peace be to this congregation

675 Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?

Alternative Gospel John 7: 37–39

646* Glorious things of thee are spoken

576* I heard the voice of Jesus say

553* Jesu, lover of my soul

303* Lord of the Church, we pray for our renewing