

5 JUNE 2022

# Sunday Message

PENTECOST SUNDAY

THE WORD

Year C • Psalter Week 2



## LEARN

In John's Gospel, the disciples play no active part in the ministry of Jesus.

The word "apostle" means "one who is sent".

The appearance of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection is the occasion when they become apostles.

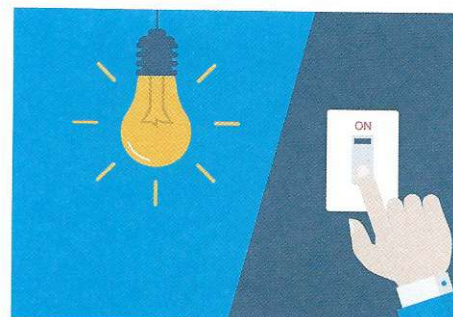
The forgiving of sins in the Fourth Gospel is connected with baptism: the sacrament of reconciliation is a later development in the church community.

## SAY

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.**

## DO

Switch on the light or lamp: consider how the bulb is transformed by the electrical current. How might the Holy Spirit transform your life if you truly connect with the Spirit?



Our reading from Romans and John's Gospel offer a wonderful description of how the Holy Spirit can directly impact on our lives if we allow this to happen.

St Paul is very clear that the Spirit lives in us and this is not to be questioned. We are after all "heirs of God and coheirs with Christ" and therefore the implication is that the people of God are considered an inextricable part of this unity. The demand for us believers is to live by the Spirit, to live within the Spirit that has been given to us freely. Arising out of our witness to the Spirit, the Spirit will in turn give us life as it gave life to Jesus in raising him from the dead.

Then John's Gospel presents us with the great promise of Jesus. We no longer should let our hearts be troubled by fear or anxiety for the Spirit has been sent to us by a loving God. The context for Jesus' promise of course is the recognition that there are testing times ahead for this group of followers. But the idea of an interactive relationship between God and God's people is a new one. Up to this point, the faith of the people was very much hierarchical in nature. Staring up into the heavens, prayers were spoken and offerings were made. This Spirit of John's Gospel encourages a reciprocal relationship between God and all believers: "love our Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father will love you in return". ■

## REFLECT

**W**e are very dependent upon electricity, an invisible power which we usually detect by its effects, for example, light, heat and domestic appliances such as washing machines. If our supply of electricity is interrupted, then a sense of crisis or panic can result, especially for people who live in high-rise buildings and depend on lifts for moving around.

We can perhaps use this example when we consider the Holy Spirit on this feast of Pentecost. A light bulb is a somewhat

unimpressive object, made of metal and glass, which can be easily and safely handled. But when it is connected to a source of electricity, it becomes a source of light and heat, which we cannot look at directly or hold in our hand. The Acts of the Apostles shows the disciples going out and preaching directly, full of confidence in their message.

The scriptures are not simply historical records of what happened a long time ago. They have a lesson for us today. We are being invited today to consider

how the Holy Spirit may be present and active in our own lives. If we decide to live as disciples of Jesus, we are not left on our own to live up to the values of the Gospel, but Jesus promises us the help and strength of the Holy Spirit. However, we have our part to play in this, it is not something simply automatic: like any electric appliance, we have to plug in to the source of power if we are to function at our full potential. Thus, prayer and the sacraments keep us connected to the Holy Spirit. ■



**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,  
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!

1. 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.)
2. 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.)
3. 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**

Romans 8:8-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**SEQUENCE**

*The Sequence 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 14:15-16, 23-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If you love me you will keep my commandments.  
I shall ask the Father

and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever.

"If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words.

And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you."

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.