

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

PENTECOST SUNDAY / A

28 MAY 2023

I AM SENDING YOU. The disciples of Jesus were transformed when they received the Holy Spirit. They burst open the doors of the upper room, which they had locked in fear, and boldly proclaimed the Good News. May the Holy Spirit fill our hearts this Pentecost giving us the courage to break down the walls we have built around ourselves. May the Spirit free us to proclaim the peace, joy and forgiveness of God to everyone.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Wis 1:7  
**The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.**

## GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**R. And with your spirit.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.  
P. Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You come in word and in sacrament to strengthen us and make us holy: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You will come again in glory with salvation for your people: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

## 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.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

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

**R. Amen.**

P. Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia!

**R. Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### FOSTERING COMMUNITY

The great feast of Pentecost is traditionally understood as a celebration of the birth of the Church. The outpouring of the Spirit empowered the first disciples to engage in their ministry of preaching the word of Jesus and continue the work of building a community of faith. The presence of devout Jews from throughout the known world is a signal to Luke's Christians that the message that has been entrusted to them is to be shared with the wider world.

Paul was at the forefront of preaching the word and establishing new communities throughout the Eastern Mediterranean world. He knew that the gifts of the Spirit had been abundantly poured upon the community of Corinth but there were some in the community who started to look down on those who had received gifts different from their own. Imagine his consternation when the gifts which were meant to build up the unity of the community had become a sign of its division! Paul's response is to use the image of the parts of the body as a means of overcoming division, competition, arrogance, and envy.

John knew that the gift of the Spirit is one that both builds up the community and commissions it for mission. It is a gift that encourages and strengthens us for the road ahead. Two elements necessary to foster community are stressed in today's Gospel: firstly, that of building up the community through forgiveness and secondly, protecting it by retaining sins when necessary, and indicating to members of the community when their behaviour is destructive of the community.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Come with treasures which endure;  
Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,

Thou, the soul's delightful guest,  
Dost refreshing peace bestow.

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;

Pleasant coolness in the heat;

Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,

Visit thou these hearts of thine,

And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,

Nothing pure in man will stay;

All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;

On our dryness pour thy 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.

Thou, on us who evermore

Thee confess and thee adore,

With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die;

Give us life with thee on high;

Give us joys that never end.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

## GOSPEL

Jn 20:19-23

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.*

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.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## HOMILY

### PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

**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.**

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**

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

**R. 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

P. 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.

**R. Amen.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.**

## PREFACE OF PENTECOST

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: 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 MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

## COMMUNION RITE

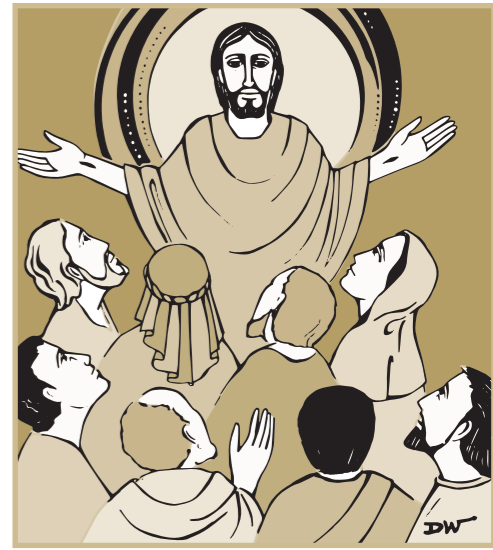
**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** Acts 2:4, 11

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. 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.

**R. Amen.**



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** 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
*In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.*

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.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## SEQUENCE

*The sequence may be said or sung.*

Holy Spirit, Lord of light,

From the clear celestial height

Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,

**RESP PSALM** Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34. R. v. 30

**R. Lord, send out your Spirit, 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