

Sunday Message

PENTECOST SUNDAY

THE WORD

Year B • 19 May 2024 • Psalter Week 3



'RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT'

JOHN 20:19-23

Today, we enter into a Gospel story framed by fear and unknowing. Not only has word reached the disciples surrounding the empty tomb and the disappearance of the body of Jesus, but Mary Magdalene has brought to them news of a risen Jesus.

They sit in a room wondering what kind of future lies ahead of them and without warning, Jesus appears to them with the tenderness of a loving parent. 'Peace be with you', he says, words that are familiar to us during our mass. Turning to our neighbour and offering a sign of peace is a tender moment in our celebration of the Eucharist. But the tenderness of Jesus in this gospel is borne out of consideration for his disciples. They need him now more than ever. They are alone in the world without their spiritual father to lead them. So Jesus does something that will become one of the most powerful images in our Gospels. He breathes on them. It's a hugely symbolic act. Remember, he breathed his last when he died on the cross. But John's Gospel tells us that his breath continues to live on even after his death. This breath is in fact the power of Jesus being handed over to the disciples so that they may find courage in times of despair, healing in times of sickness and compassion in times of weakness. This is the work of the Holy Spirit and the disciples will go forward from this encounter to proclaim the life and power of the Holy Spirit to the people of God. ■

DO

This week, let us renew our commitment to the gifts of the Holy Spirit by becoming aware of how we live out these gifts in our home, our workplace and our community. Practice these gifts with the same tenderness shown by Jesus in today's gospel.

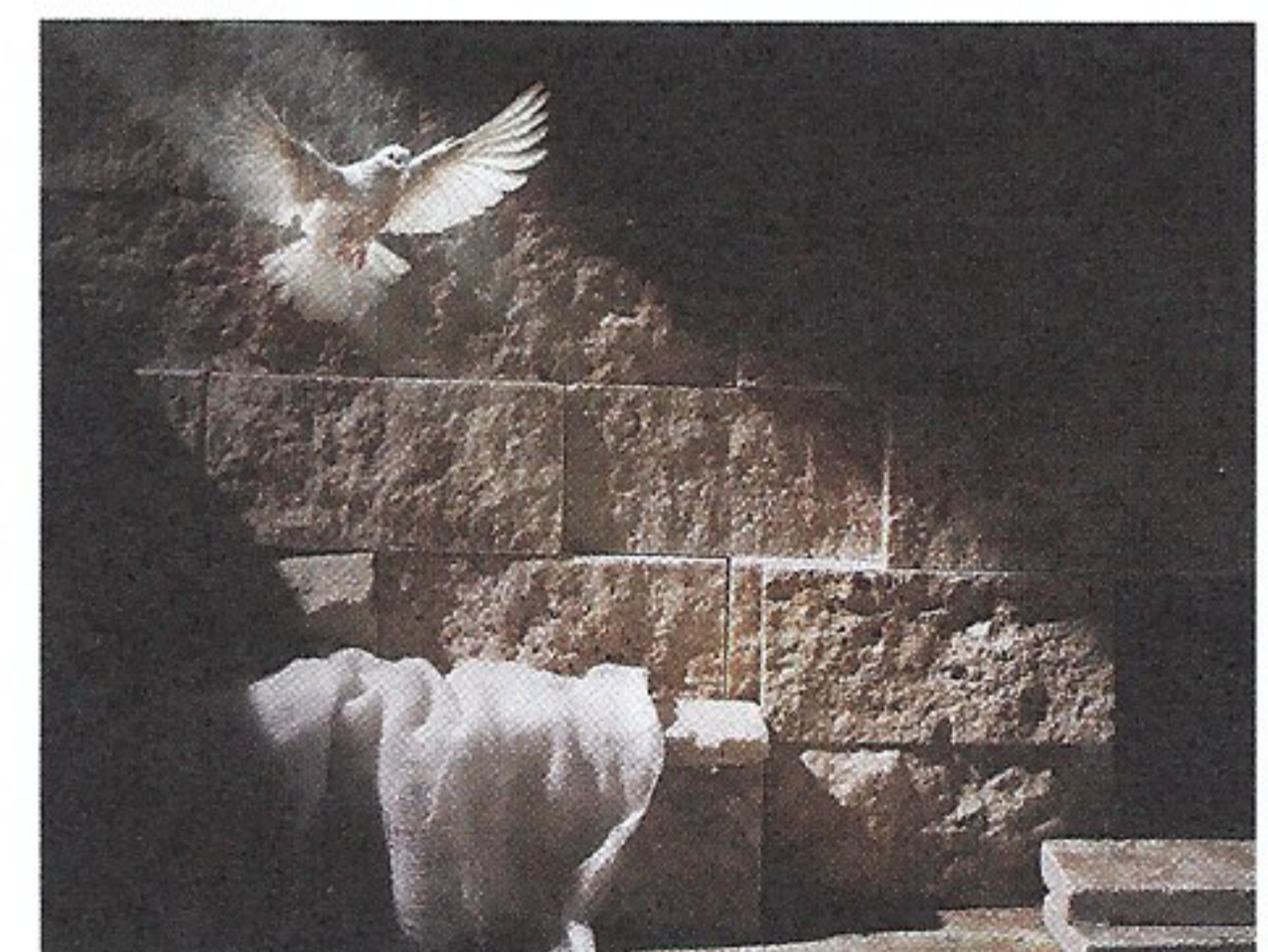
LEARN

As children making our confirmation, we read about the gifts of the Holy Spirit as part of our sacramental preparation. The gifts are: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of the Lord (Is 11: 2-3).

REFLECT

Today's readings from the Acts of the Apostles and John's Gospel offer a startling contrast in how the coming of the Holy Spirit was experienced by two writers. Firstly, Luke's account presents us with the power of the Spirit with the house shaking and a violent wind coming in to fill the whole space. Not only this, but the disciples experience the gift of tongues, and a crowd gather in bewilderment as they hear their own languages being spoken. John's account however is gentler and more restrained with Jesus recognising the frightened disciples and comforting them with demonstrations of his hands and side. The Spirit of Pentecost then is portrayed as powerful and gentle, the one we call to our aid when times are difficult and the Spirit who comes into our lives to transform and even heal.

Pope Benedict XVI offers this explanation: "This Solemnity makes us remember and relive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and the other disciples gathered in prayer with the Virgin Mary in the Upper Room. Jesus, risen and ascended into Heaven, sent his Spirit to the Church so that every Christian might participate in his own divine life and become his valid witness in the world. The Holy Spirit ... opens hearts to hope and stimulates and fosters in us an interior maturity in our relationship with God and with our neighbour." ■



SAY

"Lord you have made us for yourself, therefore our hearts are restless until they rest in you."
(Saint Augustine)

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,
one 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 (104):1, 24, 29-31, 34

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 1 Corinthians 12:3-7 12-13

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

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.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE

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

Come, thou Father of the poor,
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

John 20:19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

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.

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.