



## Introduction

*Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.*

*You are invited to turn on a fan or light a candle as you begin worship today, as a reminder of the continued presence of the Holy Spirit in your life.*

## First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

*Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community bears witness to God's activity in multiple languages.*

*Read the complete text [here](#).*

## Gathering Hymn ELW # 400

## *God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind*

*Listen and sing along [here](#).*

## Prayer of the Day

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

- <sup>24</sup>How manifold are your works, O LORD!  
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
- <sup>25</sup>**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,  
living things both small and great.**
- <sup>26</sup>There go the ships to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.
- <sup>27</sup>**All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.**
- <sup>28</sup>You give it to them; they gather it;  
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
- <sup>29</sup>**When you hide your face, they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**
- <sup>30</sup>You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;  
and so you renew the face of the earth.
- <sup>31</sup>**May the glory of the LORD endure forever; O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**
- <sup>32</sup>You look at the earth and it trembles; you touch the mountains and they smoke.
- <sup>33</sup>**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
I will praise my God while I have my being.**
- <sup>34</sup>May these words of mine please God. I will rejoice in the LORD.
- <sup>35b</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah!**

## **Second Reading: Romans 8:22-27**

*By pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts, God gives us the promised first fruit of eternal life so that we await God's future in hope. In the meantime, the Spirit also intercedes for us by carrying the prayers of our weak human hearts to God.*

*Read the complete text [here](#).*

## **Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15**

*While speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as "the Helper" and describes the difference the Spirit will make in their lives and in the world.*

*Read the complete text [here](#).*

## **Reflection on the Text**

Today is the festival day of Pentecost. That wonderful day that brings a sea of red throughout the congregation in honor of the Holy Spirit. We celebrate God's gifts to us.

Pentecost takes place 50 days after Easter and 10 days after the Ascension of Our Lord. These are important 50 days for humanity and all of creation. Christ died, rose from the dead, and ascended to heaven to take His place in heaven. All of this was for the salvation and restoration of creation.

On that first Pentecost day, God the Holy Spirit came down to Earth to be with us continuously. The Holy Spirit is also known as the Comforter, the Advocate, the Counselor, the Spirit of Truth. These are just a few names that the Holy Spirit is known by and only a few of the Spirit's traits.

Why did the Holy Spirit come to the apostles and to us?

There are several reasons. For one thing, the Holy Spirit serves as a witness for Jesus and God the Father to all of creation. That includes the Apostles, the people of Medieval times, and people now - Christians and non-Christians. The Holy Spirit proclaims the love and salvation that flows through Christ from the God the Father to everyone.

The Holy Spirit also serves as a guide for all of us, for all of the world. The Holy Spirit guides us towards Christ and God the Father. In Acts, the Holy Spirit called the crowd to the area in to listen to the Apostles. The Spirit always calls people to learn and grow in Jesus. The Spirit continues to urge everyone to worship God. Guidance from the Holy Spirit helps us to realize the gifts of love and salvation that Christ offers. The Spirit reminds and shows us just how much we are loved by God.

From this love for us and creation, the Holy Spirit provides a source of encouragement for us. Through the Bible, others in the world around us and in worship, the Spirit (along with Christ and the Father) strengthens us to have faith in God and to love God in return. The Spirit's encouragement gives us the ability to live into being the person that God has called us to be. Our growth in faith, love, and forgiveness are gifts from God, and are strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now we may not see the same reactions to the Spirit in today's church that the Apostles did in Acts. We may not have the strong winds or the flames like the early people experienced. We can only imagine their fear and disorientation before the Holy Spirit descended upon them. But we can really imagine the calm and peace that followed.

For more than a year we have experienced our own fear and disorientation. Yet the Holy Spirit is still in action. Throughout the pandemic, the Spirit has kept these congregations together. It has not always been easy; yet the Spirit has guided us and created ways for us stay in contact.

Even through this pandemic, the Spirit has provided the guidance for us to be witnesses of Christ to the whole world. Some of our witness has been through video services or paper services mailed out. The Holy Spirit has also guided our witness of Christ through taking care of our neighbors by supporting local charities or the charity services through the larger church, operating a play school, or calling someone.

We will still have days of pain and sorrow. Yet, the Holy Spirit is still there for us. When we have so much pain that we cannot express what we need to say or want to say, the Spirit speaks for us. The Triune God knows our sorrows, our prayers, and our hearts. Trust that God hears us and in God's own way comforts us.

In closing, remember that the Holy Spirit will guide us to Christ who has saved us. The Holy Spirit will declare to us and all of creation what Christ has done and what God wants done. In our down times, the Spirit will be with us and strengthen us. In the good times, God will celebrate with us.

May God always bless and watch over you. Amen.

## **Hymn of the Day ELW # 404 / LBW # 475**

*Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove*

*Listen and sing along [here](#).*

## **Nicene Creed**

*We profess our faith with the whole church in all times and places:*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you give the Holy Spirit to your church, filling it with many and varied gifts. In the church throughout the world, strengthen us in our visioning and dreaming, that it may discover anew the Spirit's creative work.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, your mighty works are too numerous to count. The earth is full of your creatures, living things both great and small. Open your hand and give them the necessities of this life. Send your fresh Spirit over the face of the earth.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, at the sound of the rushing wind, people speaking different languages proclaimed and heard together your deeds of power. Fill the leaders of nations with your Holy Spirit, so that they exercise your gracious will in the lives of people.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of faithfulness, you tend to the needs of your people, even the sighs of our hearts. Hear those who cry out to you in distress. Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day, especially those we name now. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, fill this congregation with gratitude for the gifts we have received from you. Renew our ministries, heal our divisions, and open us to the needs of our neighbors.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of hope, those who have died in you raise their eternal song of praise. We give you thanks for the many gifts of your people and rejoice in the witness of your saints.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn ELW # 551**

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

*Listen and sing along [here](#).*

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Today's reflection was written by Vicar Mike Lang.