

Today in Focus

MAY 31 » PENTECOST SUNDAY

Mighty and mysterious



Our God is a God of contradiction. In today's readings we hear two accounts of the Holy Spirit that are radically opposed. In Acts, the Spirit comes to the apostles like a mighty wind and a shower of flame. It is unexpected and frightening. It is incomprehensible to bystanders. In the gospel,

Jesus comes to the disciples and breathes the Spirit onto them in person. Jesus is flesh and blood and familiar to them. He wishes them peace.

These two narratives illustrate the Holy Spirit as being at once frightening and comforting, mysterious and familiar, transcendent and immanent. This is just as it should be, because the Spirit of peace is all of these things despite apparent contradiction.

Peace, a grace given and a virtue pursued, flows from knowing the Spirit of God, who is the creator of all things, whether our experience interprets them as good and helpful or evil and dangerous.

To be at peace is to rest in this, which we cannot understand and which might even frighten us. It is to trust in the Lord who is mighty and mysterious, but who is good. ● **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

Sunday, May 31

MASS DURING THE DAY

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *(Wisdom 1:7)*

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

OR *(Romans 5:5; cf. 8:11)*

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.

INTRODUCTORY RITES *(page 27)*

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)*

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in

one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, “Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabi-

tants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34)

R *Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. OR Alleluia.*

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!

How manifold are

your works, O LORD!

The earth is full

of your creatures. **R**

If you take away their breath,

they perish

and return to their dust.

When you send forth your
 spirit, they are created,
 and you renew
 the face of the earth. **R**
 May the glory of the Lord
 endure forever;
 may the LORD be glad
 in his works!
 Pleasing to him be my theme;
 I will be glad in the LORD. **R**

SECOND READING

(1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13)

Brothers and sisters: No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the

parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE *(Veni, Sancte Spiritus)*

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
 And from your celestial home
 Shed a ray of light divine!
 Come, Father of the poor!
 Come, source of all our store!
 Come, within our
 bosoms shine.
 You, of comforters the best;
 You, the soul's most
 welcome guest;
 Sweet refreshment
 here below.

In our labor, rest most sweet;
 Grateful coolness in the heat;
 Solace in the midst of woe.
 O most blessed Light divine,

Shine within these hearts
of yours,
And our inmost being fill!
Where you are not,
we have naught,
Nothing good in deed
or thought,
Nothing free from taint
of ill.
Heal our wounds,
our strength renew;
On our dryness pour
your 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.
On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold
gift descend;
Give them virtue's sure
reward;
Give them your salvation,

Lord;
Give them joys that
never end. Amen.
Alleluia.

ALLELUIA

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

GOSPEL (*John 20:19-23*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the

Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (page 30)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

PREPARATION OF GIFTS (page 32)

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.

PREFACE (Pentecost, page 35)

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

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.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL (page 58)



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The Holy Spirit bestows gifts of service on us to build up the community.

● **How am I using my spiritual gifts for the benefit of others?**

Spirit of God, help me to...

SAYING AMEN

In the Collect, we pray that the gifts of the Holy Spirit may be poured out into our hearts.

● **What gifts of the Holy Spirit am I most in need of today?**

Come, Holy Spirit...

Living with Christ **This Week**

NINTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

In this week's first readings, Peter encourages growth in knowledge of Christ, and Paul advises Timothy that we are called to a holy life that is grounded in the message of the Scriptures. In the gospels, Jesus describes some characteristic Christian attitudes—loyalty to God not Caesar, loving both God and neighbor, and being generous not just with our material wealth but with our gifts of the Holy Spirit. ●

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Use these intercessions with your prayers this week.

- To us who yearn to be transformed by God's presence and love:
R Come, Holy Spirit, come!
- To all those who serve as leaders in our Church: **R**
- To those who give their lives for peace and justice: **R**
- To those who inspire other through their faith: **R**