

Pentecost Sunday

June 5, 2022

Everyone, welcome to our Virtual Children's Liturgy of the Word.

I hope these readings about Pentecost Sunday will help you understand that:

1. *Pentecost is the last day of the Easter Season and the birthday of the Church.*
2. *This is the day the Apostles received the power of the Holy Spirit and the gift of courage in order to share the Good News of Jesus with the world.*

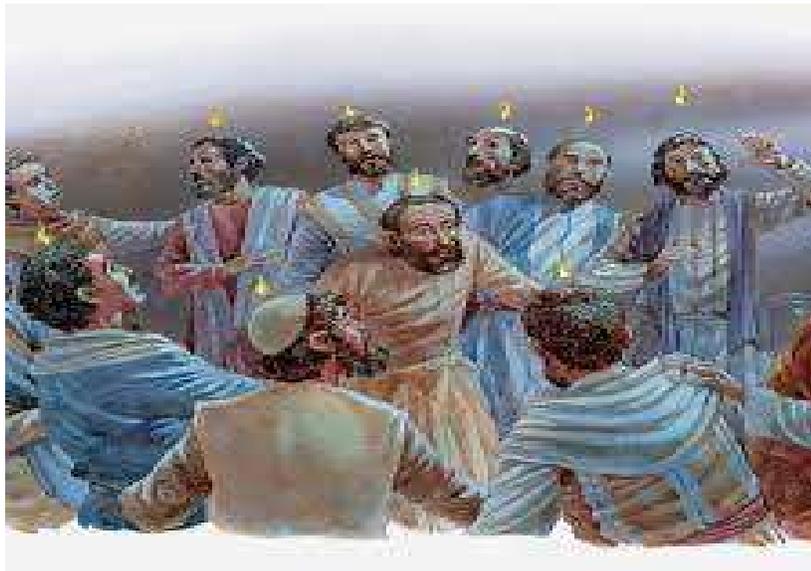
The word Pentecost comes from the (Greek) "pentekostē" meaning fifty. It takes place 50 days after Easter and is the end of the Easter season. The Bible describes two important events that occurred before Pentecost which lead to the final events of the Easter season:

1. The Resurrection: when Jesus rose from the dead on Easter and through God he lived again.
2. The Ascension: after the Resurrection Jesus spent time with his disciples, helping to guide them in their difficult journey of passing on Jesus' teachings, then he **ascended** into heaven to be with God.

The readings for today all come from the *New Testament and take place after Jesus' death and resurrection. The 1st Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles (2:1-11, excerpt).* There were many people from different lands in Jerusalem at this time, and they spoke different languages.

On the day of Pentecost all the Lord's followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there. The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking.

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They were excited and amazed, and said:
“Don’t all these who are speaking come from Galilee?
Then why do we each hear them speaking our very own languages?
Some of us were born Jews,
and others of us have chosen to be Jews.
Yet we all hear them using our own languages
to tell the wonderful things God has done.”
The word of the Lord!

The Disciples could not believe that they had been given the ability to understand foreign languages and speak in foreign tongues. **The fiery tongues** of the Holy Spirit **that appeared to the men were** the actions of the Holy Spirit bringing the help Jesus promised to send his disciples. This allowed the Holy Spirit to give them the ability to understand the Word of God no matter what language was spoken. It also filled the disciples with peace when they were so scared not having Jesus at their side.

In this week’s **Psalm (104.1abc and 24, 30-31excerpt)** the person saying this prayer is describing the Holy Spirit.

R/: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

...

I praise you, Lord God,
with all my heart

...

you made so many things;
the whole earth is covered
with your living creatures.

R/: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

You created all of them
by your Spirit,
and you gave new life
to the earth.
Our LORD, we pray
that your glory will last for ever
And that that you will be pleased
with what you have done.

R/: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

...

This Psalm reminds us that the Holy Spirit breathes life into all. As a result the earth is covered with living creatures. It is filled with life.

The second reading is from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1) (12:4-7, 12-13).

Brothers and sisters:
There are different kinds of spiritual gifts,
but they all come from the same Spirit.
There are different ways to serve the same Lord,
and we can each do different things.
Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.

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**The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others.
The body of Christ has many different parts,
just as any other body does.**

**Some of us are Jews,
and others are Gentiles.**

**Some of us are slaves,
and others are free.**

**But God's Spirit baptized each of us
and made us part of the body of Christ**

Now we each drink from that same Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

The Body of Christ is the Holy Church. In Baptism the Holy Spirit made each of us a part of the body of Christ giving us the ability to do different things and thus serve the Lord in different ways. The body has many parts, but it is still one body. The Church is that body and each of us has a special part to play within the Church. ***How can we serve the LORD with our different Gifts received from the Holy Spirit? Is there anything you do especially well? How can you use that to serve the Lord? Talk to your family and see how many ways you can think of to serve the Lord.***

In the Gospel according to John (20:19-23), Jesus comes back after his Resurrection to talk to his disciples

**The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders,
and on the evening of that same Sunday
they locked themselves in a room.
Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group.
He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side.
When the disciples saw the Lord,
they became very happy.**

**After Jesus had greeted them again, he said,
"I am sending you, just as the Father sent me."
Then he breathed on them and said,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
If you forgive anyone's sins,
they will be forgiven.
But if you don't forgive their sins,
they will not be forgiven."
The gospel of the Lord.**

Why did the Disciples lock themselves in a room? *They were afraid of the Hebrews (Jews) because they knew they could be crucified like Jesus. Why did Jesus suddenly appear and show his hands and side? He wanted the disciples to know that he was here and recognize who he was.* Before Jesus died he promised his disciples that he would send them help, and that was the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would help them remember what Jesus had said and done. It would also give them strength to tell others about him. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus also gave the apostles the ability to forgive people's sins just as our Priests today can forgive our sins and they will be forgiven. Today we should also pray that world leaders develop the gifts that they have received from the Spirit, and act with love, kindness, and peace, and work together for the good of all.

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Here is a Prayer to conclude our Liturgy of the Word and give you help with your prayers.

Almighty Father,
may the Holy Spirit continue to inspire us and fill us with your grace.
We humbly ask you to hear our prayers
through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord.
Amen.

Let us look to the future and hope that we will be able to gather together at Our Lady of Lourdes to share our prayers and work together.

See how many of these Questions you can answer:

1. **What were the fiery tongues of the Holy Spirit that appeared to the Apostles?**
2. **What did the Holy Spirit bring to the disciples?**
3. **Why was this important?**
4. **How can WE serve the LORD with our different Gifts received from the Holy Spirit? Is there anything you do especially well? How can you use that to serve the Lord? Talk to your family and see how many ways you can think of to serve the Lord.**
5. **Why did the Disciples lock themselves in a room?**
6. **Why did Jesus suddenly appear and show his hands and side?**
7. **What help did Jesus send?**
8. **Why can today's Priests forgive our sins?**

Answers

1. What were the fiery tongues of the Holy Spirit that appeared to the apostles?
They are the actions of the Holy Spirit bringing the help Jesus promised to send his disciples.

2. What kind of help did the Holy Spirit bring to the disciples?
They brought the ability to understand the Word of God. It also filled the disciples with peace when they were so scared not having Jesus at their side.

3. Why was this important? This allowed the Holy Spirit to give them the ability to understand the Word of God no matter what language was spoken

4. How can WE serve the LORD with our different Gifts received from the Holy Spirit? Is there anything you do especially well? How can you use that to serve the Lord? Talk to your family and see how many ways you can think of to serve the Lord.

5. Why did the Disciples lock themselves in a room?
They were afraid of the Hebrews (Jews) because they knew they could be crucified like Jesus.

6. Why did Jesus suddenly appear and show his hands and side?
He wanted the disciples to know that he was here and recognize who he was.

7. What help did Jesus send?
He sent the Holy Spirit who would help the apostles remember what Jesus has said and done so they could teach everyone else. It was the beginning of the Church, its Birthday.

8. Why can today's Priests forgive our sins?
Through the Holy Spirit Jesus also gave the apostles the ability to forgive people's sins just as our Priests today can forgive our sins and they will be forgiven