

Pentecost Sunday of Easter, Year B May 23, 2021
INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

There is no fear the Holy Spirit cannot overcome. There
is no door the Spirit of grace cannot breach. This is good
news indeed.

***SCRIPTURE READING Romans 8:22-27**

*** OPENING HYMN: # 420..... Breathe on Me, Breath of God**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The church is a spiritual fellowship through which the risen
Christ communicates his saving grace.

**People: We are born of the Spirit, not by our own doing, but by
the power and love of God.**

Leader: His Spirit is the source of our being, and the means by which
we are able to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**People: We pray that we may be receptive to the guidance of
the Holy Spirit, that our witness may communicate the
Savior's love to our world.**

*** Let us pray (Congregation):**

Almighty God, who has inspired your church in each generation
through the gift of your Holy Spirit: Grant us the power to share
the good news of Christ effectively; that those who hear may know
what you have done through Jesus our Lord, in whose name we
pray. Amen.

*** LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:**

500.....Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart (vs 1, 3 & 5)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Congregation)**

We are your church, O God, but we fear we have made it more an
organization than a spiritual force to bring our world into
reconciliation with you. Forgive us when we open our lives to your
love and close our hearts to the ministry for which your Holy Spirit
would equip us. Break through the barriers our human nature
creates in your church, and fill us with power and love to share the
salvation our Lord has provided. In his name we pray. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Can a locked door keep the Holy Spirit from releasing us from our
fears? Can a quaking spirit keep us from receiving the Spirit's gifts
today? Can the Church be born again after two thousand years of
inertia and indifference? Does the story of Pentecost have anything to
say to us today? Listen for the word of God.

***SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 2:1-21**

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: **“God’s Life-giving Spirit”**

*** RESPONSE TO THE WORD: # 393 Spirit of the Living God**

CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns

*** PRAYER HYMN: # 2200 O Lord, Hear My Prayer**

*** CLOSING HYMN: # 389..... Freely, Freely**

*** DISMISSAL BLESSING**

1st Scripture Reading: Romans 8:22-27 (NKJV)

²²For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³Not only *that*, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession ^[a]for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

2nd Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-21 (NKJV)

2 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all ^[a]with one accord in one place. **2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** Then there appeared to them ^[b]divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. **6** And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. **7** Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?" **8** And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own ^[c]language in which we were born? **9** Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and ^[d]Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." **12** So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. **15** For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* ^[e]the third hour of the day. **16** But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.

18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

21 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.'



May 23, 2021
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