

VIGIL MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 103)

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

Or Alleluia!

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) On the last day of the festival, Jesus stood and cried out: If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink, alleluia.

VIGIL READINGS Genesis 11:1-9; Romans 8:22-27; John 7:37-39

MASS DURING THE DAY

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 103)

RESPONSE: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. **Or** Alleluia.

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!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

TODAYS READINGS Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23

NEXT WEEK (Trinity Sunday, Year A): Ex 34:4-6, 8-9; Psalm Daniel 3:52-56; 2 Cor 13:11-13; John 3:16-18

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Every day is a
Pentecost



24 May 2026 Pentecost Year A

At Pentecost, Jesus' confused disciples were gathered and locked in a room. Fear and suspicion filled the air. There was more perspiration than inspiration! The disciples were afraid that they would suffer the same fate as their Master. They listened and waited for the mob to arrive. Yet, they hoped that no one would discover their hiding place.

In contrast, there's the powerful image of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is not halted by locked doors or locked hearts. The Spirit is not excluded from the vulnerable parts of people's lives. When the Spirit came upon the disciples, it wasn't like a gentle breeze, but more like a cyclonic wind that lays flat everything in its path.

The Spirit fires the disheartened disciples with new energy, enthusiasm and authority. The divine wind swept them off their feet, and drove them out of hiding. The divine fire set them ablaze with zeal for God's Kingdom and empowered them for their mission. They go out into the world, open their lives to people, and fearlessly proclaim the gospel with its message of peace and forgiveness.

At first the crowd is confused, "because each one heard the disciples speaking in his own language". Something had happened to change the disciples' outlook and behaviour. The crowd's second reaction is amazement: "are not all these people who are speaking Galileans", yet everyone understood the disciples.

When that happened, there was communion, whereas before there had been misunderstanding and division. The disciples' 'broke through' to people, and spoke a deeper and more personal language that's in all of us, and which so rarely gets spoken. It's a language in search of meaning and understanding. It's music in search of a melody. It's words in search of a story. It's a blank canvas in search of beauty and creativity. It's the language of the Holy Spirit.

The blaze that began at Pentecost has continued across the centuries; growing, spreading, scorching. At times, humanity has tried to avoid or escape it; tried to ignore the beauty and disturbance of the Spirit's power and energy. We've tried to tame or dilute it into a cosy, domesticated faith, rather than subject ourselves to the Spirit's transforming and purifying fire.

But, try as we might, the Spirit blows where it will. The Spirit cannot be captured or contained; it's not conservative or liberal, it's not 'us or them'. The Spirit is free. The Spirit is everywhere, and especially alive in us; sending us out into the world like the disciples and empowering us to bring peace and forgiveness wherever life takes us. Every day is a Pentecost.

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