

MAY 31, 2020

PENTECOST SUNDAY

taking⁺ faith home

Jesus sends out his disciples with the Holy Spirit.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 20:19-23	Jesus appears to his disciples
Monday	Acts 2:1-21	The coming of the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	Spiritual gifts
Wednesday	Titus 3:1-8	Doing helpful deeds
Thursday	Genesis 2:4b-9	God creates a living being
Friday	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
Saturday	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	God the creator
Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20	Sending of the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” **John 20:21-22 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Creator God, through the Holy Spirit you create a new people chosen to speak, forgive, and give peace in the name of Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit, help us to bless the world with your love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Gracious God, thank you for giving food to all you have created; open your hand and fill us with good things. Amen. (Psalm 104:27-28)

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with gifts of the Spirit for the benefit of all. (1 Corinthians 12:7)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Like the Murmur of the
Dove's Song*

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something that worries you and gets in the way of enjoying life?
- What would help you get over your worries?
- How does the Holy Spirit strengthen you to overcome your fears and doubts so you can be a servant of God's love to others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 20:19-23.

The disciples were fearful and huddled in a locked room. We all have our reasons to be fearful and want to hide away. Jesus knows this. He is about to send his followers out to change the world with the power to forgive sins so that people will believe in Jesus and “have life in his name” (20:31). It will take a God moment for this to happen by Jesus giving them peace and breathing on them so that his disciples will receive the Holy Spirit (v. 22). This moment is reminiscent of the creation story in Genesis 2 when God breathed into the dust to create a human being. Jesus breathing on his disciples is an act of God to create not just a new human being but a new people, those who will believe in Jesus and have life in his name. Life can be scary. We can be afraid to act. On the Day of Pentecost we remember the giving of the Holy Spirit and are reminded that we have been created into a new people who can act with mercy, peace, love, and faith. How has the Holy Spirit moved you to act?

Pray: Dear Jesus, breathe on us your holy breath that we may go forth into the world to share your peace and the power of forgiveness. Amen.

SERVICE

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord” (1 Corinthians 12:4-5). God blesses us with the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, faith, and healing through the Spirit. Through our God-given gifts, we are called to serve others. What are your gifts? How do you use them to serve others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When we recite the Apostle’s Creed, we say, “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church...”. With the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the holy catholic church with a small “c”—meaning the whole Christian church on earth—we are reminded of the gifts of faith we are given through the Spirit. We celebrate this day as the day the church received the Holy Spirit. Read or recite the Apostle’s Creed and talk about what it means to you.

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