We complete the fifty-day celebration of Easter with the feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. As the world was transformed when Christ was born, making God incarnate in our world, the world is transformed once more with God’s gift of the Holy Spirit to all who are baptized, making God present continuously and forever in our world. Indeed, the Holy Spirit has gathered us together today to praise and worship our everlastingly generous God.

Profession of Faith p. 104
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow as we say) and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Introductory Rite:
Greeting:
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God forever. Blessed be God forever.

Penitential Rite: p.6
My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen

Opening Prayer:
O God, who by the mystery of today’s great feast sanctify your whole Church is 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.

Liturgy of the Word:
First Reading p. 60

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, inhabitants 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.  

Responsorial Psalm:  

Psalm 67:2-3,5,6

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

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

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:  

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans  

Romans 8: 8-17

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you. Consequently, brothers and sisters, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry, “Abba, Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The word of the Lord.  

Gospel:  

John 20:19-23

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.

Reflection on the Word:

• “You are witnesses of these things,” we just heard on the feast of the Ascension (Luke 24:48). Yes, the apostles were witnesses of the risen Lord and his ascension to glory, not to mention all his preaching and teaching and healing. But what good is it to witness something if you do not testify to it? And what good is it to testify to something if no one understands you? The very first thing that the Holy Spirit enables the disciples to do is to proclaim the “mighty acts of God” (Acts 2:11) in ways that everyone—no matter their background, no matter their language, no matter their native country or region—can understand.

• The first sign of the Holy Spirit was a strong driving wind, which entered and filled the entire house. The wind cannot be seen, but it can be felt and we can see its effects, whether it’s the gentle breeze fluttering the leaves of the trees or the destructive swirling gust of a tornado. Similarly, we cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we can feel effects: a gentle nudge to reach out to someone in need when we’re reluctant to do so or an overpowering urge to turn our lives around.

• Today our Jewish sisters and brothers celebrate Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks, commemorating the day when God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai and the Jewish community became a nation dedicated to serving God. They recall how their ancestors, having been freed from enslavement in Egypt, entered into a covenant with God. They promised their obedience to the Law and God promised an enduring presence in their lives. God’s enduring presence in the lives of humanity is valued highly by people of all faiths. We too celebrate God’s enduring presence, in the person of the Holy Spirit, who guides us, comforts us, advocates for us, and gives us peace.

Question of the Week
Can I change the words I use or the language I use to effectively communicate God’s “mighty acts,” God’s good news, and God’s love and forgiveness to others?

Prayer of the Faithful:
God sent the Holy Spirit to be an Advocate for us always. Relying on the Holy Spirit, we confidently turn to God with our needs and the needs of our brothers and sisters.

• For all who minister in the Church, that they may be enlightened and energized by the Spirit as they serve the body of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.

• For world leaders, that they may work to bring a true and lasting peace to their nations and their regions, a peace to be shared and enjoyed by all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.

• For all those who were welcomed into the Church this Easter season, who received the Holy Spirit in baptism and confirmation, that they may grow in realization and appreciation for the Spirit’s gifts, let us pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.

• That we may break down the walls that divide us, as the Holy Spirit broke down the divisions in language and ethnicity on that first Pentecost, let us pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.

• For those in need of healing, reconciliation, and peace, that they may know the Holy Spirit dwelling in their hearts, who brings these gifts to all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.
• For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

• For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

God of all goodness, you sent the Holy Spirit as a lasting gift to us, your children. May the Holy Spirit guide us and empower us to carry out the mission of your Son. Grant this and all the prayers we make to you today through your Son, our Risen Lord and Savior.

**Communion Rite**

**The Lord’s Prayer: p. 136**

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.***

**Rite of Peace:**

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ’s presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

**Communion:**

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

**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.**

**Concluding Rite:**

**Final Blessing:**

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ! **Thanks be to God.**