

Today we bring to a close this joyous fifty-day season that follows Easter Sunday. We praise God, who having raised Jesus from the dead, now sends the Holy Spirit to enliven our hearts and remain with us forever. We seek to make the Spirit manifest in today's world through our energy and creativity, our attitudes and actions.

As we gather together let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith: Page 102

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 for ever.

Blessed be God for ever.

Penitential Rite:

My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

Lord Jesus, you suffered on the cross, stretching out your arms in an everlasting sign of reconciliation:

Lord, have mercy **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you rose from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the Father, interceding on our behalf:

Christ, have mercy **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you send us the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of healing and peace: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive 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 in 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 Page 58

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 2:1-11

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.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Page 60

Psalm 104: 1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

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/.**

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/.**

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/.**

Second Reading Page 60

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

Brothers and sisters: No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Page 62

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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:

We hear two accounts of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles today and they are markedly different. In one, the Holy Spirit comes only after Jesus had ascended to the Father, but in the other Jesus is still present. In the first, the Holy Spirit arrives as tongues of fire with the noise of a strong driving wind. In the second, the Holy Spirit comes with a gentle breath and no visible manifestation. In Acts, the apostles speak at once in foreign languages. In John, the apostles fall silent. The coming of the Holy Spirit may be more like a process than an event. At times the Holy Spirit comes upon someone powerfully with visible consequences; at other times the Spirit comes gently and quietly. The same Spirit produces different workings in different people and at different times.

In the Pentecost Sequence, we implore the Holy Spirit to “Bend the stubborn heart and will.” Easier said than done! Our feelings are usually quite ingrained in us, as is our behavior. It is easier to change one’s mind than to change one’s heart, let alone one’s habits. Those opinions that we cling to most intensely tend to be ones formed in the heart, not the brain. That explains how reasonable arguments often fail against ingrained opinion. Yet we ask the Spirit today to overcome our stubbornness. Approximately three months ago, on Ash Wednesday, we heard the prophet Joel tell us to rend our hearts and return to the LORD. May the Holy Spirit bend and rend our stubborn hearts whenever they lead us astray!

Before Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit upon the apostles he offered them one other thing: peace. “Peace be with you,” he said twice, the second time after they realized that it was the Lord in their midst. In the next sentence he commissioned them to go out into the world as his Father had sent him into the world: to bring peace throughout the world. The Holy Spirit enables them to do so. And us. We too have received the Holy Spirit. May we bring peace wherever we go—into anxious hearts, difficult relationships, stubborn conflicts.

Question - Do I rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance? When I search my heart, what stubbornness do I find that could use honest examination?

Prayer of the Faithful:

Emboldened by the Spirit, we cry out to God with our needs and the needs of the many around the world, and ask God to hear us and renew the face of the earth.

- That Church leaders, filled with the Holy Spirit, may bring justice to the oppressed, food to the hungry, plenty to the poor, and compassion to the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For elected officials, that they may act in accordance with God’s will in their commitment to justice and mercy, especially for those on the margins of society, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those who were baptized or confirmed during this Easter season, that they may learn to recognize the Spirit’s movement in their lives, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That we may continue to break down walls between members of the human race, particularly divisions of race, ethnicity, language, or heritage, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all of us, that we may use the spiritual gifts we have been given by the Holy Spirit for the benefit of 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.**

Glorious God, you sent the Holy Spirit to sanctify us, your holy Church, your faithful people. May the gifts of the Holy Spirit enable us to fulfill the mission you call on us to complete. Grant this and all our prayers through your Son, our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: Page 134

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 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.**