

*Suggested Opening Song: We Are Many Parts, #223*

Today we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus promised to his disciples when he assured them that he would not leave them orphans. We are not left orphans either, as the Holy Spirit descends upon us in baptism and remains with us forever. Throughout our lives, the Holy Spirit guides us along the path Jesus left for us and flows through us to bear fruit in the world. May the Holy Spirit bend our stubborn wills when we resist God's will and guide us when we go astray, in order to bring us joy that never ends. Amen. Alleluia!

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

Profession of Faith p. 22

**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. 8

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to participate in this sacred celebration.

**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 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, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading p. 226

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

*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

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

*John 20:19-23*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**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:

- Just over three months ago, on Ash Wednesday, we began a journey from darkness to light, from sin to salvation, from death to new life. Lent began in winter, when days were short and darkness exceeded light. We celebrate the entire season of Easter during spring, when days grow longer and light dominates the day. The readings from Ash Wednesday called us to repentance; when imparting the Holy Spirit, Jesus gives his disciples the power to forgive. On Ash Wednesday we were reminded that we will return to dust, but on Easter morning we beheld the promise of the Resurrection. In a sense, our journey is now complete. We are now called to witness to the Risen Lord and the Holy Spirit as we accompany others on their journeys from darkness, sin, and death, to light, salvation, and new life.
- The accounts of the coming of the Holy Spirit given by Luke in Acts and by John in his Gospel are markedly different. In John's Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples the Holy Spirit himself the first time he appears to them after the Resurrection. In Acts, the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples after Jesus has ascended to heaven. In John, the Holy Spirit arrives on the soft breath of Jesus. In Luke, it's on a strong driving wind. In John, the disciples are silent. In Acts, the disciples immediately begin to speak in tongues loud enough to be heard outside. Why the contradictions? It might help to think of the coming of the Holy Spirit as a process, in stages, with the disciples slowly realizing the power they'd been given. Indeed, the Holy Spirit descended upon most of us in infancy, when we could not know what was happening, but appears again and again in different ways, with different gifts and different workings, throughout our whole life.
- In between wishing his disciples peace and bestowing on them the Holy Spirit, Jesus did one other thing: he showed them his wounds. The disciples may have thought that this was only to prove to them that it was him, but it may have also been to show them that even with his glorified body the wounds remain. The wounds are a part of him now. The risen Lord is wounded, as are we all.

**Question of the Week**

Have I felt the Holy Spirit's movement in my life in both powerful and gentle ways?

Prayer of the Faithful:

Eager to experience the renewal of our spirits and the spirits of those most in need, we call upon the one who sent the Holy Spirit with our prayers and petitions.

- For the Church, that we may proclaim a message of love, mercy, and redemption in every tongue in every land, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That the peace the Holy Spirit brings may reign in the heart of every man, woman, and child, breaking down the barriers that divide us, resolving the differences that lead to enmity among us, and making hate and prejudice inconceivable, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all those who celebrated sacraments of initiation this Easter season—the newly baptized, first communicants, and confirmandi—that they may be ever renewed in the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That those graduating this spring may take pride in their accomplishments while never losing their joy of learning, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- That we may listen closely for the Holy Spirit calling us to use our gifts to minister to the people of God, 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.**

Loving God, you bless us with the Holy Spirit, enabling us to fulfill the mission your Son left us. Give us the courage to accept our role in building up the body of Christ each and every day. Grant this and all our prayers through the one who promised us the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Communion Rite

##### The Lord's Prayer: p. 54

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.

##### 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 lead us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Go in peace! **Thanks be to God.**

*Suggested Closing Song: Let There Be Peace On Earth, #244*