

Here's a text if you've only a minute

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak ..as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

(First Reading: Acts 2)

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth. (Resp. Psalm 103)

The Disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord and he said 'Peace be with you' . (Gospel)

'As the Father sent me , so I am sending you.
Receive the Holy Spirit.' (Gospel)

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven
(Gospel Jn.20)



Looking towards next week

*What does next week hold for me and how do I
feel God may be calling me?*

*And so, what do I want to ask of God
for myself and for others?*



Pentecost Sunday
Yr A, 12th June
2011



At Pentecost the Disciples were filled with the power of the Spirit and sent out into the world to bring the peace, joy and forgiveness of Christ to the whole world.

Opening Prayer (2nd Version)

Let us pray in the Spirit who dwells within us:

Father of light, from whom every good gift comes,
send your Spirit into our lives with the power of a mighty wind,
and by the flame of your wisdom open the horizons of our minds.

Loosen our tongues to sing your praise in words beyond the power
of speech, for without your Spirit we could never raise our voices
in words of peace or announce the truth that Jesus is Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

I reflect for a few moments on the significance of Pentecost and of the wonder of the presence and power of God's Holy Spirit within me, then I pray the Opening Prayer slowly and reverently, entering deeply into the desires and truths it expresses and making them my own.

I recall any moments in the past week when I have been conscious of God's Spirit guiding and strengthening me in the ups and downs of daily life as I try to follow in Jesus' footsteps. I thank the Spirit within me and ask to grow in light, strength, love and gratitude.

I remain quietly in God's loving and forgiving presence.

1st Reading—Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-11

When Pentecost day came round, the Apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? ... We hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

Today's first reading is the story of the beginning of the Church - the story of the powerful yet hidden work of the Holy Spirit acting in and through the Apostles and in those who listened to them.

It is a wonderful story. The Apostles were ordinary men yet they made an impact on the world which is still being felt. When the Holy Spirit came down on them in tongues of fire they were transformed, filled with the gifts they needed to carry out the task Jesus had given them: the gift of 'languages' and the deeper gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and reverential fear.

These gifts are ours too, given us in Baptism and strengthened in Confirmation. Let us pray today that we may more deeply appreciate and live the reality of God's Holy Spirit working in us in the depth of our being, filling us with peace and inviting us to grow in holiness and wholeness. Come, Holy Spirit.

The Gospel - John 20: 19-23

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive they are forgiven;

For those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

I read the Gospel slowly and prayerfully, allowing its message to penetrate deeply into my mind and heart and to open me to the Easter gifts Jesus offers me.

I read the passage again, placing myself with the disciples in that locked room and asking Jesus to come into the 'locked' places in my life. I wait trustingly to experience the presence of Jesus bringing me deep peace.

I ponder in what ways he is 'sending' me to reveal him to others in my daily life and I ask him to breathe anew on me, filling me with his Holy Spirit and his forgiving love.

With faith I wait to be gifted by the Spirit with joy, with the inner peace of forgiveness, with the capacity to forgive others, and with a grateful and loving heart.