



20 May 2018

Solemnity of Pentecost

Year B

Holy Spirit, Strengthen Us!

We live in a world torn by conflicting interests, jealousy, aggressiveness, and so many forms of enslavement. All this is the consequence of SIN, from the first to the latest sin that has darkened the horizon of mankind. Left to ourselves, we would have been unable to overcome such destructive forces. That is why God promised and sent the Holy Spirit, as the divine healing Power that can undo the tragedies of division, mistrust, hatred, and death brought about by human sinfulness.

As we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit over the disciples gathered in the Upper Room, let us open our hearts to Him so that we, too, may share in their wonderful experience. May the Holy Spirit fashion us to the likeness of Jesus and into a community characterized by mutual acceptance, appreciation, solidarity, and love.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said. Alleluia!

Greeting

P –May the love, grace, and peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

All –**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P –My brothers and sisters, let us realize how much we need the Holy Spirit in our life and in how many ways we have become unworthy of His presence in us.
(Pause)

P –Lord Jesus, you gave the Holy Spirit to your disciples to be their Teacher and Advocate. Lord, have mercy!

All –**Lord, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you gave your Church the Holy Spirit to lead her into the whole truth. Christ, have mercy!

All –**Christ, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you gave your Church the Holy Spirit to be the source of forgiveness and sanctification. Lord, have mercy!

All –**Lord, have mercy!**

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

All –**Amen!**

Gloria

All – Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb

of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –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.

All –**Amen!**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading *Acts 2:1-11*

The descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Day fulfilled the promise made by Jesus at the Last Supper and before he ascended into heaven. From that moment on, mankind started becoming the new people of God, characterized by harmony, solidarity, and brotherly love.

R – A proclamation from the Acts of the Apostles

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, the disciples 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 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!
All – Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 104*

R – Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!

R. M. Velez

Lord, send out your Spi-rit,
and re-new 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.**

2nd Reading *1 Cor 12:3-7*
12-13

The community of Corinth was plagued by divisions and rivalries. With fatherly concern, Paul exhorts them to be united in the Holy Spirit, the one source of all gifts.

R – A proclamation from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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!
All – Thanks be to God!

Sequence

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!

Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine!

You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul's most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;

In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts
of yours,
And our inmost being fill!

Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
Nothing free from taint of ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness, pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away.

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gift descend.

Give them virtue's sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end.
Amen! Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation

All – Alleluia! Alleluia!
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel *Jn 20:19-23*

St. John tells us that the Holy Spirit was the first gift that the Risen Christ gave to his

disciples on the very day of his resurrection.

P –The Lord be with you!

All –**And with your spirit!**

P –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to John

All –**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!

All –**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)

All –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*)* and by the Holy Spirit 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!

Prayer of the Faithful

P –Aware that we need the Holy Spirit’s help to live up to the challenges of our Christian commitment, we pray:

All –**Come, Holy Spirit, we need you!**

C –That the whole Catholic Church may be, at all times, an instrument of reconciliation and a promoter of unity among all peoples, let us pray! **R.**

C –That the Holy Father and all the other leaders of the Church may constantly provide the faithful with an inspiring leadership, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all those engaged in the teaching profession may instill authentic values in their students, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all the civil leaders throughout the world, especially in our country, may be guided solely by concern for the common good, let us pray! **R.**

C –That those among us who are burdened with trials of whatever kind may experience the healing and strengthening presence of the Holy Spirit, let us pray! **R.**

C –Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (*Pause*)

Let us pray! **R.**

P –Spirit of life and holiness, guide our hearts into the way of love and service. May we be valid instruments in the building of the Kingdom where you live and reign with the Father and the Lord Jesus, one God, for ever and ever.

All –**Amen!**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Preparation of the Gifts

P –Pray, brethren . . .

All –**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

P –Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as promised by your Son, the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly the hidden mystery of this sacrifice and graciously lead us into all truth.

Through Christ our Lord.

All –**Amen!**

Preface of Pentecost

P –The Lord be with you!

All –**And with your spirit!**

P –Lift up your hearts!

All –**We lift them up to the Lord!**

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All –**It is right and just!**

P –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For, bringing your Paschal Mystery to completion, you bestowed the Holy Spirit today on those you made your adopted children by uniting them to your Only Begotten Son. This same Spirit, as the Church came to birth, opened to all peoples the knowledge of God and brought together the many languages of the earth in profession of the one faith.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

All –**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!
All–We proclaim your Death,
O Lord, and profess your
Resurrection until you
come again!



All–Our Father . . .
P –Deliver us, Lord . . .
All–For the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are
yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All– Lamb of God . . .

Communion

P –This is the Lord Jesus who
bestowed the Holy Spirit on his
disciples on the day he rose from
death. He is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the
world. Blessed are those called
to the Supper of the Lamb.

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

Communion Antiphon

*(To be recited only when no Com-
munion Hymn is sung.)*

They were all filled with the
Holy Spirit and spoke of the
marvels of God. Alleluia!

Prayer after Communion

P –O God, who bestow heav-
enly 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 redemp-
tion.

Through Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!



P –The Lord be with you.
All–And with your spirit!

P –Bow your heads and pray
for God’s blessing. *(Pause)*
Today, the Holy Spirit has
enriched you with the abun-
dance of His gift. May He
continue to guide and sanc-
tify you all the days of your
life.

All–Amen!

P –May that fire, which hovered
over the disciples as tongues
of flame, burn out all evil
from your hearts and make
them glow with pure light.

All–Amen!

P –May God strengthen your
faith in moments of doubt
and fulfill your hope of at-
taining eternal life with all
His saints.

All–Amen!

P –May almighty God bless
you: the Father, and the
Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All–Amen!

P –Led by the Holy Spirit, go in
the peace of Christ.

All–Thanks be to God!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Spirit That Unites and Strengthens Us

Jesus freed us from sin through his passion, death and resurrection. Thanks to him, salvation is made available and offered to all men. But this does not mean that we are all herded into heaven. Christ destroyed sin, but not our freedom. It is still possible that we say once again “No!” to God.

As long as we live on earth, sin remains a “possible accident” caused by a number of reasons. The main ones of which are the devil’s temptations, the negative influence of the environment in which we live, and especially the moral weakness of our wounded nature. Experience shows that sin remains a sad reality to this very day, both in ourselves and around us.

Jesus knew it would be so. That is why he repeatedly promised and eventually gave the Holy Spirit to the Church that she might continue his healing mission in the power of the Source of all unity, solidarity and holiness.

Thus, Jesus completed his redemptive work by commissioning the Church to carry on with the struggle against all that divides mankind, all that makes us selfish, proud, aggressive and oppressive.

And this is what the Church has been doing in her

2,000 years of existence, in spite of all the limitations and weaknesses that come to her from her “human component.” The Holy Spirit, present in her as her “soul,” is the divine Power that keeps the Church alive, constantly renews her, guides her into an ever greater appreciation of the truths of revelation, sanctifies and strengthens her against all dangers and oppositions.

And so the *mystery of the Incarnation continues – God saving men through men*, not just through the all-holy Jesus, but also through the ministry of frail and sinful people, sanctified and strengthened by the Spirit of love, unity, and holiness.

We will never be able to fully appreciate the importance of the role of the Holy Spirit in the Church and in each of us. Without him, the Church would be just a human institution, destined to perish like all other institutions, empires and civilizations. But the Church will last until the end of time only because the Lord of Life animates her.

Thanks to the presence of the Spirit, the gift of salvation and all other gifts of the Risen Christ are channelled to men especially through those sacred acts that we call “sacraments.” In particular, the forgiving love of God becomes a reality for us, today, through the sacrament of Reconciliation which enables us to rise after every fall, purified and strengthened by God’s forgiving love.



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