

## PENTECOST VIGIL ~ TUESDAY

*Come Holy Spirit and fill the Hearts of your Faithful!*



O God, who in fire and lightning gave the ancient Law to Moses on Mount Sinai and on Pentecost manifested the new covenant in the fire of the Spirit, grant, we pray, that we may always be aflame with that same Spirit whom you wondrously poured out on the Apostles, and that the new Israel, gathered from every people, may receive with rejoicing the eternal commandment of love.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Come down, O love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*

**Exodus 19: 3-8, 16-20**

**Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.” So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the Lord had commanded him to speak. The people all responded together, “We will do everything the Lord has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord.**

**On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him. The Lord descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up.**

As I settle to pray, I ask that the Holy Spirit may open me to God's Word.

In today's passage from the Book of Exodus, we find ourselves standing at Mount Sinai with God's chosen people, who just three months earlier, had been freed from Egyptian slavery. Now God is inviting them to enter into covenant with himself. He begins by asking the people to recall his great love; how he had saved them and he calls upon them to respond to his love by keeping his commandments. With one voice, the people all respond, “We will do everything the Lord has said.” The Lord then ratifies the covenant. He descends on the mountain in the form of fire.

By entering into covenant with God, the people of Israel become God's 'treasured possession' and they take on a new destiny. With their election comes responsibility. They must now seek to live as God's children, to become a 'kingdom of priests' - God's representative on earth. They must become a 'holy nation' consecrated to God's service, displaying his holiness to all.

At Pentecost, the Spirit of God descended upon the Church in tongues of fire. The New Covenant, offered on the altar of the Cross and sealed in the blood of Christ, is ratified. We too, are called, not simply to remember God's love, but to savour, to receive the fruits of the Father's love. We too are called to be, “*a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God*” (1 Peter 2:9) Let us ask for the grace to live the full implications of Pentecost.

**All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ send your Holy Spirit upon us to be our helper and guide. Give us the spirit of wisdom, and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill us with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. Amen.**

**St Basil the Great - On the Holy Spirit**

*Who is there who can hear the names of the Holy Spirit and not feel the exaltation in his soul, nor lift up his thoughts to that supreme nature? For he is called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father...*

*To the Spirit all creatures turn for their sanctification; all who live virtuously seek him, and are, by his influence, refreshed and helped towards their natural end...*

*Though by nature, he is inaccessible, yet through his generosity men can receive him in themselves. He fills all creatures with his power... Through him hearts are raised on high, the weak are led by hand, those who are advanced gain perfection. He it is who shines on those whose hearts are purified and stainless and makes them truly spiritual through the common union they have with him.*

*Even as bright and shining bodies, once touched by a ray of light falling on them, become even more glorious and themselves cast another light, so too souls that carry the Spirit, and are enlightened by the Spirit, become spiritual themselves and send forth grace upon others.*

*This grace enables them to foresee the future, to understand mysteries, to grasp hidden things, to receive spiritual blessings, to have their thoughts fixed on heavenly things, and to dance with the angels. So is their joy unending, so is their perseverance in God unending, so do they acquire likeness to God, so - most sublime of all - do they themselves become divine.*

