

### **GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-23**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'

### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

Unlike the Acts of the Apostles, St John reports that it was in the 'evening of the first day of the week', the day of resurrection, that the Risen Lord appeared to his disciples and 'breathed his Spirit' on them (Jn 20). We call to mind the story of creation, how the Creator breathed life into the first man (Gen 2:7). So now the Risen Christ, breathes on his disciples, giving them the Spirit of new life. The Spirit doesn't just reveal and teach us about God's love, but it actually draws us into the cycle of the Father's love for the Son, and the Son's love for the Father. The Spirit enables the Father and the Son to come and live in us, and for us to live in God. Let us welcome the Holy Spirit and rejoice in our new life in God.

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

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.

### **Communion Antiphon**

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

### **Prayer after Communion**

O God, who bestow heavenly 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 redemption.

# **PENTECOST**

*Year C*

**8<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Pentecost, as its very name suggests takes place 50 days after Easter and it is the crowning finale of the celebration of the Lord's resurrection. On Easter Sunday and throughout the season of Easter we have been continually proclaiming new life – resurrection! But on Pentecost, with the out pouring of God's Spirit, we can truly say that we now share in the Lord's resurrection. For at Pentecost the Spirit of the Living God comes down on us and just like a spark, sets us alight. The Spirit enables us not only to know God, but to enter into his life! St. Basil the Great, the 4<sup>th</sup> Century bishop & theologian, puts this beautifully when he says that *the Spirit enables us to dance with the angels... Not only do we acquire likeness to God, but most sublime of all, we ourselves, become divine.*

### **Entrance Antiphon**

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

### **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.

### **FIRST READING: ACTS 2:1-11**

When the day of Pentecost arrived, the Apostles were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy

Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.'

#### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

As the name indicates, Pentecost is the feast that takes place 50 days after Easter. But Pentecost was also celebrated in the Old Testament among the Jewish people. It was called the feast of Harvest or the feast of Week's, and it celebrated the beginning of harvest, but it later came to signify the commemoration of all the covenants, beginning with Noah, to the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. By emphasizing Pentecost, Luke clearly wants to show, that the out pouring of the Holy Spirit is the solemn promulgation of the New Covenant, the birth of the Church.

**PSALM:-104(103):1ab, 24ac. 29b-30. 31, 34.cf. 30**

**Response:** Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, how great you are!  
How many are your works, O LORD! The earth is full of your creatures.

You take away their breath, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, and they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD last for ever! May the LORD rejoice in his works! May my thoughts be pleasing to him. I will rejoice in the LORD.

#### **SECOND READING: ROMANS 8: 8-17**

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

#### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

Our Christian joy is that God has made us his children. The Spirit of God bears witness to our spirit that this is so. In prayer, we can use the intimate expression 'Abba – Father' in addressing God. Wow!

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.***

***Alleluia!***