

CELEBRATING and LIVING the GIFTS of the HOLY SPIRIT

**“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit,
and they spoke of the great things God had done, Alleluia.” Acts 2, 4**

PRESENCE OF GOD

The words "wind", "spirit", "soul" and "breath" are closely associated in Hebrew speech and thought. Indeed, to speak of God as Spirit is to use a figure of speech likening God to the wind, with its power and independent and unpredictable activity, and to the breath which makes the difference between life and death to our human bodies. We remember that our God lives in, around and among us. We are part of God's beautiful creation. All praise and thanks to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

HYMN: Pentecost Hymn

**You've poured out Your Spirit, Great Father of Life,
Your presence, Your power, the Spirit of Christ,
The fruit of His triumph, the breath of His love,
The proof He has risen and reigns now above.**

**Your promise is given in wind and in flame,
With lives now ignited to burn in Your name.
Now loving, now holy, now bold in the truth,
Your body, Your people are one, Lord, in You.**

**We praise You, our Father, the Fountain of Life,
For comfort and challenge, for purpose and light.
In love we will share all the gifts You provide
That all may be blessed and our Lord glorified.**

**Your challenge is sounding. Our calling is clear:
To live out a gospel the needy can hear.
Lord, help us to go till all people have heard
And touch every life with the love of the Lord.**



Gifts of the Holy Spirit enable us to live a holy Christian life. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are:

- 1. Wisdom – desire for the things of God, and to direct our whole life and all our actions to His honor and glory**
- 2. Understanding – enable us to know more clearly the mysteries of faith**
- 3. Counsel – warns us of the deceits of the devil, and of the dangers to our salvation**
- 4. Fortitude – strengthens us to do the will of God in all things**
- 5. Knowledge – enables us to discover the will of God in all things**
- 6. Piety – love God as a Father, and obey Him because we love Him**
- 7. Fear of the Lord – have a dread of sin and fear of offending God**

HYMN: SPIRIT, COME

**Holy God,
Holy One
Holy God One in Three**

**Spirit, come,
Promised One,
Plant the Son in me.
Holy fire,
Holy love,
Holy God in me--
Spirit, come.**

**I am empty.
I am thirsty.
Lord, I ask what only You can give.**

**Spirit, come,
Promised One,
Plant the Son in me.
Holy fire,
Holy love,
Holy God in me--
Spirit, come.**

PRAYER BEFORE THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

Loving God, quicken our hearts again, that we may receive Your Word afresh and anew. Send the refreshing wind of your Spirit upon us Lord that Your voice may be heard in our hearts and Your loving presence seen in all that we say and do once we leave this place to walk by faith in the world that You send us out into. We ask in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

ACTS 2: 1 – 11

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting 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 heard them speaking in their own language.

And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in our own native language of the mighty works of God?"

1 CORINTHIANS 12: 3 – 7, 12 – 13

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of ever says, "Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free -- and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

REFLECTION

There is quite a bit of serious sitting around in the First Reading and Gospel for today's celebration of Pentecost. We hear of the gathering in Jerusalem for the feast of Weeks or the celebration of the first cuttings of the grain harvest. It was a communal celebration of God's abundant fidelity to the Jews in the giving of the land and its fertility. They were gathered to give thanks and have a share in the crops.

What we hear from the Acts of the Apostles is the account of the same fidelity of God to bring about a new crop and a new sense of the whole earth's being a blessing place.

With the coming of the Holy Spirit there was to be no more serious sitting around. There was a kind of interior fire lit which had to be spread. People from various distant regions came, heard and were invited to listen and then return with that fire and that Spirit.

For the Jewish believers Pentecost was a harvest celebration. For the Christian community it is the celebration of God's planting the Holy Spirit to bring about a harvest of planters. The more difficult aspect of our Pentecost is that there is no more serious sitting around. The Gospel of John presents a different picture of Jesus' sending the Spirit and the results are the same. Instead of serious sitting, there is an even more serious sending. Paul writes it in our Second Reading more specifically. There is One Spirit which is to be made visible or manifested in different works and this Spirit is to produce all of them in everyone.

When God came looking for Adam and Eve in the Book of Genesis, they were hiding, because they had denied who they were and lusted to be like God.

When Jesus came looking for His disciples who had denied who they were, He found them hiding as well. It is Resurrection time and Jesus greets them with “peace” twice and then does quite two amazing things. He passes on to them the very mission He had received. Then He breathes upon them and offers them the same breath or Spirit that brought about order from the chaos as recounted in the same book of Genesis. He is telling them that as He was sent into the world to bring order into the lives of all, so they were as well, the incarnations of the Spirit who themselves are sent to bring order out of chaos. Whose chaos you order there will be order and those who retain their chaos as a way of living, their chaos is retained.

The visited-disciples were in personal and collective disorder. They had run away from the Light, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus came, not with condemnation, nor to convict them, but convince them that their lives were blest and could be a blessing if they allowed the Spirit to breathe within them and through them.

In the creation narrative of Genesis the creating God Who was breathing a spirit of order, was quoted as saying such things as, “let there be light”, and “let there be life”. Jesus is the incarnation of that same on-going love. He breathes the same Spirit upon the disciples to get up and get out into the light and bring about new life.

We all enjoy a pat on the back and little encouraging words. Jesus is giving His early Church more than a pat, but a boot in the backside. The same Spirit is doing the same kicking to the same area of our Church and our individual selves. No more serious sitting around and worrying or wondering who we are and what are we to do. Jesus did not give them any further instruction except to “Go”. Where shall we go? Where is the chaos? Where do others not want to go? Where are we likely to bring light and life? Where is the darkness and death in our families, communities, and cultures?

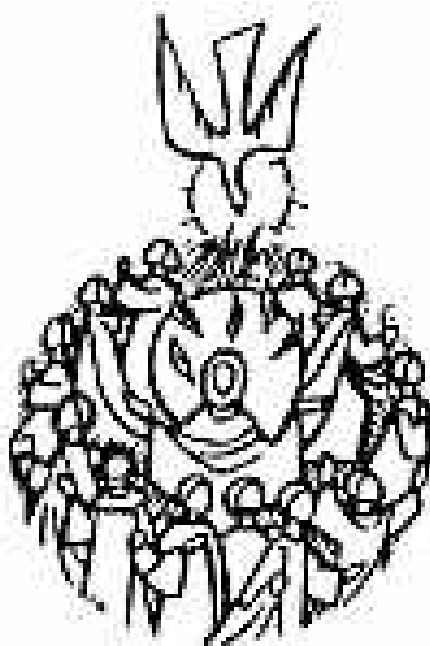
This is not exactly a comforting feast. This celebration has serious, going out, implications. The Spirit is not a warm and fuzzy cosler like a fluffy blanket. It says to each of us. “Take your life as seriously as I do!” Hiding is not allowed any



The Spirit of God bids us to go forth
to proclaim God's love and His joy.

PRAYER

**Come, O Spirit of God
And make within us your dwelling place and home.
May our darkness be dispelled by your light,
And our troubles calmed by your peace;
May all evils be redeemed by your love,
All pain transformed through the suffering of Christ,
And all dying glorified by his risen life. Amen.**



**Go in peace and joy.
We are enlivened by the Spirit
to proclaim the Good News.
May the Holy Spirit's sustaining presence
give us wholeness , creativity and love.
May the Holy Spirit of God
give us healing, and healing to those around us.
May we be like the early follower of Jesus
and boldly proclaim Him wherever we go.**

**Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
intercede with the Lord for us.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!