



THE LIVING
WORD
OF
PENTECOST

A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

June 11 - June 17



SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

As you meditate on Matthew 9:35-10:23, the Gospel text for Sunday, let your attention be drawn to the way that Jesus operated in a cosmos-changing and hope-restoring way. He “went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness” (Mt 9:35). Unlike an election campaign where a candidate goes through the towns to sell himself to the crowds in the hope to be chosen on election day, this was a revelation campaign where the King of the universe went through the towns to reveal that he had chosen them for redemption.

What is wonderfully wild is that Jesus not only operated out of compassion (Mt 9:36) on his mission, he recruited a motley crew to co-operate with him in his compassionate revelation campaign (Mt 10:1-8). This revelation team was sent out to prepare the towns for the arrival of Jesus by doing and saying the things Jesus himself was doing and saying. These disciples were called to a world-transforming mission bigger than they could imagine for themselves and more difficult than they could handle on their own. But before the mission, the disciples were called into a relationship.

Notice Matthew 10:1 says that “Jesus called his twelve disciples to him.” Before giving them authority and sending them out, he called them to himself. Yes, they were being sent out “like sheep among wolves” (Mt 10:16) into a work that would be misunderstood and opposed, but they were being sent as ones who had been called by Jesus himself.

The complementary Old Testament readings leading up to and away from Sunday explore how God has always operated in this way, calling the individual and community to himself and then to his mission, always giving them what is needed for the calling. The semi-continuous Old Testament readings invite us to consider a lifetime of trusting God’s call by tracing the story of Abraham from the promise of the birth of his son Isaac to the provision of his son’s wife, Rebekah, all the way to the death and burial of his wife Sarah.

These stories all serve to show that each and every one of us was made for a world-transforming mission bigger than we can imagine for ourselves and more difficult than we can handle on our own, and even more importantly, called into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.



What Abraham, Moses, Aaron, the people of Israel, Joshua, Samuel, and the twelve disciples experienced is not fiction written to entertain us but truth written to engage us with the God who “demonstrates his own love for us” (Rom 5:8). Like us, none of those who were invited into relationship and mission had it all figured out. Like us, each of them needed God to make the first move. And Paul beautifully describes the first-move God: “at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly” (Rom 5:6). Expand that thought a little: When the disciples were still directionless, Jesus gave them direction; when Abraham and Sarah were barren, God gave them a son; when Moses was wandering in the wild, God gave him a call; when Joshua faced new territory, God gave him courage. All at just the right time.

The connective tissue within all of these stories and ours is trust. When Jesus gave his disciples authority, he not only entrusted them with his compassion and care for the lost sheep, but invited them to trust him with their lives. He does the same with you and me. He calls us to himself, inviting us to trust him with everything and has trusted us with the lives we find ourselves in. He has called us into a revelation campaign, to prepare hearts for his arrival through acts of service and words of encouragement. Isn't it a wonder to think that the God of the universe has come to each of us to invite us into this?

FOR reflection

Do a “trust review” in your life. First, write down five significant relationships you have been given. Second, evaluate whether or not you are trusting God with those relationships. Third, ask God to show you where you can deepen your trust in him.





SCRIPTURE

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Genesis 21:1-7; Hebrews 3:1-6
Friday	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Genesis 24:1-9; Acts 7:35-43
Saturday	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Genesis 24:10-52; Mark 7:1-13
Sunday	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Psalm 100; Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7; Exodus 19:2-8a; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:23
Monday	Psalm 126; Genesis 23:1-19; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5
Tuesday	Psalm 126; Genesis 25:7-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
Wednesday	Psalm 126; Nehemiah 9:1-8; Luke 6:12-19

Why do the daily readings begin on Thursday?

The daily readings for each week begin on Thursday and end on the following Wednesday. The Thursday through Saturday readings prepare the reader for the Sunday ahead. The Monday through Wednesday readings reflect on what was presented on Sunday.

The Morning Liturgy

Opening Scripture

O send out thy light and thy truth, that they may lead me, and bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy dwelling.

Psalm 43:3

Opening Prayer (based on Psalm 51)

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. *Amen.*

Scripture Reading (read Psalm and Gospel text here)

Period of Silence

Confessing Our Faith (Apostles' Creed)

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect (Proper 6)

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

A Midday Prayer

Blessed Savior, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms. Grant that all the peoples of the earth may look to you and be saved; for your mercies' sake. *Amen.*

An Early Evening Prayer

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

A Bedtime Confession and Prayer

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. *Amen.*

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.





Image: The Baptism of The Holy Spirit | Artist: Rebecca Brogan | www.jtbarts.com