

THE LIVING
WORD
OF
PENTECOST

A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

May 21 - May 27



DAY OF PENTECOST

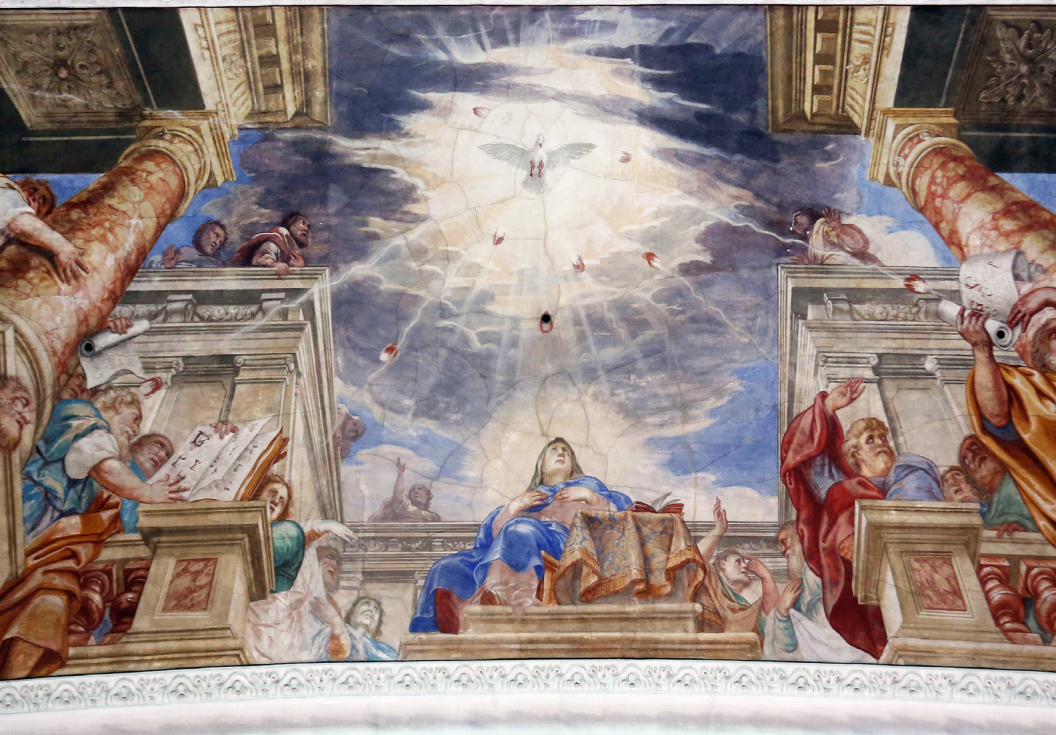
Happy Pentecost Sunday! This feast day is celebrated 50 days after Easter Sunday and marks the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples.

The Holy Spirit is often thought of as the least understood member of the Trinity. Christian denominations debate his works, confusingly describe him as a ghost, and picture him as more of a face than a person. ***But Christian theology tells us that the Holy Spirit is God: He is defined, he's eternal, he's omnipresent (everywhere), he's omniscient (all knowing), he's omnipotent (all powerful), he's every bit as much God as God the Father and God the Son, even though we don't always think of him that way.***

Our central gospel text is John 20:19-23. Here, the disciples are visited by the risen Jesus, who breathes on them so they receive the Holy Spirit. A similar passage, Acts 2:1-21, shows that on the day of Pentecost the believers hear the sound of a rushing wind and tongues of fire descend from above. They receive the Holy Spirit and are able to speak in many languages. As a result, visitors to the city hear the message of Jesus in their own native tongues and many people come to Christ.

On this Pentecost Sunday, we are reminded of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Another of our passages, 1 Corinthians 12:3-13, is a list of the varieties of gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to the Church. This is such a beautiful picture of the diversity of gifts we can receive. The Holy Spirit has uniquely gifted all of those who are Christ followers. This passage also emphasizes how the gifting of the Holy Spirit leads to the unity of the body.

Other passages this week also touch on the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:14-17 reminds us that we who are led by the Spirit are God's children. The Spirit himself bears witness that we are adopted into God's family and no longer led by fear. What a beautiful promise to lean into today.



FOR reflection

Do you know how the Holy Spirit has gifted you?

How do you think the Holy Spirit guides you into the purposes God has for you?

What could be different in your life if you rested in your knowledge that you are a child of God?

What fear could you release?





SCRIPTURE

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday

Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 19:1-9a; Acts 2:1-11

Friday

Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 19:16-25; Romans 8:14-17

Saturday

Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 20:1-21; Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30;
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Monday

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Joel 2:18-29; Romans 8:18-24

Tuesday

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29; Romans 8:26-27

Wednesday

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Numbers 11:24-30; John 7:37-39

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

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57

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 (The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday)

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

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