

A dramatic painting depicting the Pentecost Vigil. The scene is filled with a group of people, including men and women, all shown in various poses of prayer and devotion. In the center, a woman, likely the Virgin Mary, is depicted in a blue and red robe, with her hands clasped in prayer. She is surrounded by other figures, some with their hands raised, some looking upwards, and some with their heads bowed. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, creating a sense of intensity and spiritual fervor. The overall composition is dense and dynamic, capturing the collective prayer of the community.

Dear brothers and sisters, we have now begun our Pentecost Vigil, after the example of the Apostles and disciples, who with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, persevered in prayer, awaiting the Spirit promised by the Lord; like them, let us, too, listen with quiet hearts to the word of God. Let us meditate on how many great deeds God, in times past, did for his people and let us pray that the Holy Spirit, whom the Father sent as the first fruits for those who believe, may bring to perfection his work in the world.

First Reading: A reading from the Book of Exodus:

Moses went up the mountain to God. Then the LORD called to him and said, "Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob; tell the Israelites: You have seen for yourselves how I treated the Egyptians and how I bore you up on eagle wings and brought you here to myself. Therefore, if you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine. You shall be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation. That is what you must tell the Israelites." So Moses went and summoned the elders of the people. When he set before them all that the LORD had ordered him to tell them, the people all answered together, "Everything the LORD has said, we will do."

On the morning of the third day there were peals of thunder and lightning, and a heavy cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. But Moses led the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stationed themselves at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was all wrapped in smoke, for the LORD came down upon it in fire. The smoke rose from it as though from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. The trumpet blast grew louder and louder, while Moses was speaking, and God answering him with thunder. When the LORD came down to the top of Mount Sinai, he summoned Moses to the top of the mountain.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

R. (cf. 30) **Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD, my God, you are great indeed! You are clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with a cloak.

R. **Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

How manifold are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have wrought them all; the earth is full of your creatures; bless the LORD, O my soul! Alleluia.

R. **Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Creatures all look to you to give them food in due time. When you give it to them, they gather it; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

R. **Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

R. **Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Second reading: Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters:

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance. In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.

The Word of the Lord.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, "Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. As Scripture says: *Rivers of living water will flow from within him who believes in me.*"

He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive. There was, of course, no Spirit yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Order for Liturgy of the Word

Solemnity of Pentecost—Mass during the Day

Entrance Antiphon: Leader

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia. Rom 5:5; cf. 8:11

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Sisters and Brothers, God desires to converse with us through his Word. Let us bless him for his goodness. Blessed be God forever.

Response: Blessed be God forever.

Introduction: Leader

We gather today to celebrate the Lord's Day. One with our sisters and brothers and with the entire Church, we will listen to God's Word and join in prayer. So, as we prepare to hear of God's love poured out through Christ, let us acknowledge that He is the source of pardon and strength.

All: *The Confiteor*

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Leader: In acknowledgement and thanksgiving for God's mercy we offer our praise:

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to men of good will. We praise You. We bless You. We adore you. We glorify You. We give You thanks for Your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God the almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take

away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Leader: Let us pray

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. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

For today's scriptural readings go to: usccb.org or cut and paste:

<http://cms.usccb.org/calendar/index.cfm?showLit=1&action=month>

First reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second reading

Sequence: *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*

Come, Holy Spirit, come! And from your celestial home shed a ray of light divine! Come, Father of the poor! Come, source of all our store! Come, within our bosoms shine. You, of comforters the best; You, the soul's most welcome guest; Sweet refreshment here below; In our labor, rest most sweet; Grateful coolness in the heat; Solace in the midst of woe. O most blessed Light divine, Shine within these hearts of yours, And our inmost being fill! Where you are not, we have naught, Nothing good in deed or thought, Nothing free from taint of ill. Heal our wounds, our strength renew; On our dryness pour your dew; Wash the stains of guilt away: Bend the stubborn heart and will; Melt the frozen, warm the chill; Guide the steps that go astray. On the faithful, who adore and confess you, evermore in your sevenfold gift descend; Give them virtue's sure reward; Give them your salvation, Lord; Give them joys that never end. Amen. Alleluia.

Gospel acclamation:

R. Alleluia, alleluia

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

Gospel proclamation

Having listened to God's word in these passages from Holy Scripture we now profess our faith in all that He has revealed:

All—Profession of Faith:

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate, he suffered
death and was buried, and rose

again on the third day in accordance
with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son,

Who with the Father and the Son is
adored and glorified, who has spoken
through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism
for the forgiveness of sins and I look
forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful—Leader

Introduction: The love of God has been poured into our hearts and so with charity and unity we offer our prayers:

Intentions: That the whole Church rejoice on this day and, like the apostles and Mary, be open to the power of the Holy Spirit present in us and around us; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Church, empowered by the Spirit, will faithfully give witness to the Gospel and continue Christ's mission of bringing healing and reconciliation; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

That work accomplished towards Christian unity will continue with new energy and hope; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

That we recognize and put into practice the gifts we have been given by the Holy Spirit so that the Body of Christ may become stronger and ever more manifest to the world; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

That as we endure trials and challenges in life, we may be brave knowing that the Advocate is with us; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

That God's healing Spirit will ease the suffering of the sick and that those who have died rest in the peace of Christ; we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer: Loving God, work in us so that working with you we bring the fire of your love to those around us. Pour into our hearts the consolation, life, and light, of the Holy Spirit. For this and all the prayers we have offered we ask through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Leader: In the love of Christ, let us offer one another a sign of peace.

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

All—Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Leader: 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. Through Christ our Lord. **Response:** Amen.

Blessing—making the sign of the cross:

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us, and bring us to everlasting life.

Response: Amen.

Leader: Let us go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.

Response: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

The Jewish people prepared to celebrate the Feast of Weeks, or Fifty Days, by waiting for the seeds to grow into edible food. They had planted these seeds during the time of Passover which was a remembrance of how God had brought them out of Egypt and planted them in the new and promised soil of Israel. They prepared by waiting, watching, and hoping for nourishing rain. They would gather, at the time of harvesting, the first cutting and then celebrate their faith in the abundant and accompanying God.

We can prepare to celebrate the abundant blessings of the “Wind” of God by being honest about how we have been growing. We can be quite occupied by how we need to grow, advance, and virtue-up but there are most likely good crops growing in our lives and in our relationship with God because of his goodness. We are God’s farm-field and he gives increase. It is important and good to be honest about the growth we are.

In today’s scripture readings we hear some heavy breathing. The “breath” that brought about creation in the book of Genesis, is spreading out once more and bringing about a new creation, a new revelation. Devout Jews are gathered for the second of their three major feasts—the first being Passover and the third, the feast of Booths or Sukkot.

On this second feast, Shavuot, people from all differing languages are gathered and they hear members of “The Way” speaking as if “in-spired.” It is a second genesis in which a second creation is to come forth. The apostles experience the Spirit of God and they will be urged to speak in every land and in every language to bring about the completion of the original “Let there be light,” and “Let there be life” command.

Pentecost is a festival of first fruits and in our history the first fruits of faith were these early believers. They were encouraged to live it out, speak it out, bring it about, and the “it” was the creative Word of Christ.

Jesus enters the locked-up spirits of the frightened disciples and they experience some inspiring words themselves. Regret is replaced with renewal of the relationship which Jesus initiated several years before. Now there is something new about the relationship. Instead of “Come and see,” or “Come follow me,” there is a “Go!”, a sending and going-out. Jesus breathes the Spirit into their vacancies and invites their insides to go outside and create the new incarnation of Jesus.

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Pentecost, with Christmas and Easter, ranks among the great feasts of Christianity. It commemorates not only the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and disciples but also the fruits and effects of that event: the completion of the work of redemption, the fullness of grace for the Church and her children, and the gift of faith for all nations. Today and every day in Mass, the power of the Holy Spirit comes down upon us; fiery tongues are not seen but invisible tongues of fire are not absent.