

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD

Pentecost Sunday

This is a celebration of the Word to aid your worship this Sunday, alone or with family. If possible, place a simple cross or crucifix prominently in the room and light one or more candles. You can also place an image of the Virgin Mary there if possible. As a family, choose the one who leads the prayer, and someone to do the readings.

Whoever leads the prayer can say:

By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, Christ's Paschal Mystery was brought to its completion. The Holy Spirit prepares us with his grace in order to draw us to Christ. He manifests the Risen Lord to us, opening our minds. He makes present the mystery of Christ. And he reconciles us, bringing us into communion with God. Saint Thomas Aquinas says that the Holy Spirit interiorly perfects our spirit, communicating to it a new dynamism so that it refrains from evil for love. With the Holy Spirit within us, "it is quite natural for people who had been absorbed by the things of this world to become entirely otherworldly in outlook, and for cowards to become people of great courage" (Saint Cyril of Alexandria).

SIGN OF THE CROSS

After a moment of silence, let everyone begin by making the Sign of the Cross:

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

HYMN

Choose an appropriate hymn.

We place ourselves before the Lord, beginning with an act of contrition:

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

The following are the readings of Pentecost Sunday.

**A reading from
the Acts of the Apostles**

2:1-11

WHEN THE TIME for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, “Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

—————• PSALM 104 •—————

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

Or: Alleluia.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord, my God, you are great indeed!

How manifold are your works, O Lord!

The earth is full of your creatures. **R**

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**

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord be glad in his works!

Pleasing to him be my theme;

I will be glad in the Lord. **R**

**A reading from the first Letter
of Saint Paul to the Corinthians**

12:3b-7, 12-13

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

—• 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.

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

As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

**A reading from
the holy Gospel according to John**

20:19-23

ON THE EVENING of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send

you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Allow for a few minutes of silence and meditation. In a family, the leader could offer some words of consolation and reflection at this moment, such as: “Lord, we ask that you come into our midst and grant us your peace. Send forth your Holy Spirit. Imbue us with your gifts that we may go out with confidence and bring you to the world. Help us to know and do your will.”

M E D I T A T I O N O F T H E D A Y

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

Come, Spirit,
Holy Spirit,
Into every crevice of my heart.
Leave no narrowest defile
For pride to walk.
For hard-lipped judgments to stalk,
Leave no smallest part.
Come, Wisdom,
Holy wise One,
Visit the warped reason of my mind!
Flame in my confusion
With white light.
Waft the sweet diffusion
There of certain might.
Come, Love,
Heart of all love,
Into the embraces of my soul.
To my thousand-armed desires
Come in all fulfillment.
Speak with tongue of fire
In my soul's stillness.
Finger of God,
Flaming finger,
Cauterize my folly.
Be in all the cunning maze
Bright and burning sign.

Trace with fire on dubious ways,
Love's design.

MOTHER MARY FRANCIS, P.C.C.

Mother Mary Francis († 2006) was abbess of the Poor Clare Monastery of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Roswell, N.M.

INTERCESSIONS

The leader can begin with these words:

The Holy Spirit manifests Christ to us, recalls his words, and opens our minds to the Paschal Mystery. Rejoicing in the Spirit we pray:

R Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Holy Spirit, who makes present the mystery of Christ, will reconcile all people and bring them into communion with the Church. *R*

That the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, will show his richness to all those in need. *R*

For those who have grown lukewarm in their faith: that the Holy Spirit will drive out the torpor of coldness and rekindle the desire for heaven. *R*

That all the relationships in our own lives be made holy through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the bond of love in the Blessed Trinity. *R*

For the marginalized, the doubt-ridden, and those on the verge of despair: that the peace of the Spirit will bring them to new life. *R*

For the grace this week to be free of fear, and to live with the strength bestowed on us by the Holy Spirit. *R*

For an end to the coronavirus pandemic, for God's mercy on all who are suffering and dying, and for strength and protection on all healthcare workers dedicated to fighting it. Let us pray to the Lord. *R*

Personal intentions

Our Father....

An Act of Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. 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.

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and lead us to everlasting life. And may the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

*To conclude the celebration, you can sing or recite the following or another suitable hymn.
Turn and face an image of Mary, if you have one.*



Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia,
has risen as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary,
alleluia!

R For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia!

Or:

*R*egina caeli, laetare, alleluia,
quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,
resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia;
ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

V Gaude et laetare, Virgo Maria, alleluia.

R Quia surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia.

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