

2020 May 31

*Pentecost Sunday*

**Readings:**

*First: Acts 2.1-11, "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit." (4a)*

*Psalms 104, "May the glory of the Lord endure forever!" (31a)*

*Second: 1 Corinthians 12.3b-7, 12-13, "There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit." (4)*

*Gospel: John 20.19-23, "He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (22)*

### ***Renew the Face of the Earth!***

The Spirit of God continues to remake and renew the face of the earth. As *'the grain of wheat had fallen into the earth and died'* (John 12.24) there came out new life. Death of the grain of wheat was on Calvary and on the cross. All through the earthly story of Jesus we see the Spirit of God; at the Annunciation, in the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth, they two and John the Baptist in the womb of Elizabeth all three were filled with the Spirit; at the baptism of the Lord the Spirit appeared and from there the Spirit led Jesus to the wilderness where he conquered the temptations and the Spirit was with him.

At every juncture Jesus was accompanied by the Spirit, and finally the Spirit of God raised Jesus from the dead. The Spirit moves in and with Jesus all the time and Jesus gave that Spirit to the disciples and through them to us. He is given to us to be the Advocate, the Paraclete, that is, the consoler and the life-giver to us. In today's event of sending as reported by John, Jesus breathes over the disciples. Thus the Spirit is the breath of Jesus, the breath of God.

It was this same breath, the same Spirit that gave life to man in the story of creation. It is the same Spirit that lives in us, vivifying and leading our soul in its earthly sojourn and on to its heavenly destiny. The grooming and moving forward of the people of God in the Old Testament and the prophecies about Jesus were the work of the Spirit. The prophecies of Jesus about his mission are being worked out and fulfilled on earth now and through the centuries by the working of the Spirit.

On the day of Pentecost Jesus purposefully disappeared from human visibility. Then onward the invisible Spirit of Jesus, the Spirit of God, is in charge and it is this Spirit that takes the Church, takes us, to her mission and to our work of witnessing. This Spirit enables us to walk through the Way that is Jesus, to know the Truth that is Jesus, and to attain the Life that is Jesus. On his departure Jesus said that he was in the Father and the Father was in him and that they are One. Where the Father and the Son are there is also the Spirit. The Spirit on behalf of and along with the Father and the Son is in us and we are in him. This is the meaning of the last words the Risen Jesus said at his physical departure, ***"Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age!"*** (Matthew 28.20) ***May the Spirit of God be with you!***

*Fr. George*