

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

PENTECOST SUNDAY—June 9, 2019

First Reading — Acts 2:1-11

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.

Responsorial Psalm PS 104:1-2. 24. 35. 27-28. 29. 30

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

or:

R. Alleluia.

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.

or:

R. Alleluia.

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.

or:

R. Alleluia.

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.

or:

R. Alleluia.

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.

or:

R. Alleluia.

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Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Gospel Reading — John 20:19-23

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

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INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

First Reading — Acts 2:1-11

1. What responsibility did the disciples have in the process of being “filled with the Holy Spirit”?
2. In what way would you like to experience the empowering of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

3. How are “varieties of gifts,” “varieties of service,” and “varieties of working” similar and/or different?
4. What are God’s purposes for having the Holy Spirit give us gifts, services, and workings?

Gospel Reading — John 20:19-23

5. Where are you in your journey of “receiving the Holy Spirit”?
6. Specifically, in this passage what activities are associated with receiving the Holy Spirit?
7. How are these activities fulfilled within the Church, the body of Christ, and within individual Christians?

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.