

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

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Music/Hymn Suggestions: *Spirit Of The Living God* (Daniel Iverson); *Come Holy Spirit* (Susan Bailey)
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Sign of the Cross.

Leader: Let us begin with our morning offering:

All: Loving God,
I offer to you this day
all my prayers, thoughts, words and actions.
Be with me throughout this day
and help me to show your compassion to all I
meet.
Protect me from any unkind word or act
and help me to remember that nothing is going to
happen to me today that you and I together can't
handle.
Amen.

Leader: Our prayer time this morning reflects on Pentecost Day, the day when the Holy Spirit came to the followers of Jesus, just as Jesus had promised. Let us go back to that first Pentecost Day and listen to a reading from the Acts of the Apostles, which describes what happened.

Reader 1: *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:1-4)*
When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Reflection

After the Holy Spirit came to the followers of Jesus, they were changed people. They were no longer frightened or unsure. Instead they courageously and confidently went out to teach others the Good News about Jesus. The Holy Spirit was working in them, helping to bring them new gifts and abilities. The Holy Spirit is with each one of us, too. Our Baptism and Confirmation were celebrations of the Holy Spirit with us in our lives. The Holy Spirit brings us gifts like wisdom, understanding, right judgement, courage, knowledge, reverence and wonder and awe in God's presence.

Let us spend a few moments this morning thinking about these gifts. Can you recall a time when you saw wisdom or understanding in yourself? *(Pause)* Can you remember a time when you showed right judgement or courage? *(Pause)* Was there a time when you grew in knowledge or reverence? *(Pause)* Have you experienced times of wonder and awe in God's presence? *(Pause)* Give thanks to God now for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ask God to help you to be more aware of the Holy Spirit in your life as you go through life's changes and difficulties. *(Pause)* God gives us the Holy Spirit. We ask that the Holy Spirit may influence us more as we say our prayers this morning. The response to the prayers is: 'Be with us, Holy Spirit.'

Reader 1: When we live with indifference, we learn to ignore. When we live with love, we learn to give. *Be with us, Spirit of Love!*

All: Be with us, Holy Spirit.

Reader 2: When we live with sorrow, we learn to be sad. When we live with joy, we learn to appreciate our life. *Be with us, Spirit of Joy!*

All: Be with us, Holy Spirit.