

Pentecost A 5 28/23

WELCOME: (COMMENTATOR)

Good morning!

On behalf of the Charis Community, I welcome you to our Sunday Mass. All are truly welcome, and we are excited that you are joining us whether it's your first time praying with us or if you've been with us for a while. The worship aid for Mass is on our website, and we will put the address in the chat for you should you like to pull it up to support your prayer.

We are a Eucharistic people, so we invite you to have bread and wine, in whatever form you have it, with you where you are. Even though we are in many locations, we affirm that we are one table of believers. We gather as one people, as one Body, rooted in Christ, and rooted in God's love, together.

Pentecost is the Greek name for the Jewish Feast of Weeks, celebrated fifty days after Passover. The first fruits of the wheat harvest were presented, and the covenant with God was remembered and renewed.

Pentecost power and possibility pulsate through today's readings on the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is a milestone: It was on that day that the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the believers in an upper room in Jerusalem as they awaited the baptism Jesus told them they would receive.

The symbol of fire marks Pentecost. Fire consumes but is its own energy force. That energy moves us to act, and for the Church, moves us to proclaim, the good news to people everywhere, in languages (and language) they can understand. This is the day in which the mission of the church was given birth. And with the joy of a birthday celebration, let us lift our voices and hearts in song.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

When they had entered Jerusalem,
they went to the upstairs room where they were staying.
Each and every one of these continued together in prayer with one mind,
together with the women, along with Mary the mother of Jesus,
and his brothers and sisters.

When the time for Shavu'ot or Pentecost was fulfilled,
they were all in one place together.
And suddenly there came from the sky
a sound like a violent wind blowing
and it filled the entire house in which they were sitting.

Now there were devout Judeans 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 the disciples
speaking in their 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 in our native language?
We are Parthians, Medes, 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 Judeans and converts,
Cretans and Arabs,
yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues
of the mighty acts of God."

"The Word of God." R/. "Thanks be to God!"

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:
Brothers and sisters: I want you to understand
No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.
There are different kinds of gifts but the same Spirit;
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;
there are different activities, but the same God
who produces each and every one of them in each and every person.
To each person the manifestation of the Spirit
is given for the benefit of all.

For just as a body is one, though it has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many, are one body,
and in like manner, is the Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one
body, whether Hebrews or Greeks, slaves or free persons,
and we were all given to drink of the one Spirit.

For in fact the body is not a single member, but many.
Those members that *seem* to be weaker are indispensable
and those members we consider less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and
our members that we *think* lack external charm, or beauty are clothed with
dignity, but our members that we highly regard do not need this. Instead, God has
blended together the body, giving greater honor to the lowly members, so that there
may be no division in the body, but that its members should have equal caring for
one another. If one member suffers, each and every one suffers with it. If one
member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

Now you are the Body of Christ, and each one of you is a member of it.

"The Word of God." R/ "Thanks be to God!"

Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John:

So, it is evening of that day, that one, that very same, Sabbath,
and the disciples had gathered together, and locked the doors,
because they were afraid of the authorities.

Jesus came and stood in their midst

and said to them, "You are peace."

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, "You are peace.

As the Father has sent me, in like manner I commission you."

And when he had said this to them, he blew into 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 Jesus."

R/. Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ!"

Prayers of the Faithful

Ever living and ever-loving God,
We praise you for your loving presence with us.

Come, Holy Spirit,
take and transform our societies—
that broken people find healing;
that lonely people find love;
that bitter people find peace;
that fearful people find hope.
And so we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit**

Come, Holy Spirit,
take our world's leaders and governments and bring renewal—
that communication can be open;
that relationships between hostile people and hostile nations will evaporate;
that a hunger for justice addresses the hunger for food felt by so many.
And so we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill your church—
that our worship will be ever more pleasing to you;
that prayers will change our minds
 instead of trying to get you to change yours;
that our lives will make a real difference to real people in the real world.
And so we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit**

For our own needs and intentions, that we now share with each other and our listening God. For whom and for what would we like to pray today?. We would very much like to pray with you. We will ask the Zoom community to begin. When their prayers are spoken, we will respond “Easter us, O God. We will then do the same here in our worship space. We invite anyone on Zoom who has a prayer to voice to unmute your mike.

When community prayer has slowed or stopped:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our lives with your presence—
so that more and more every day, all that we do and say and hope
will be an act of worship to you and an expression of love to others,
to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

Prayer After Communion

Please join me as we pray this prayer together.

All: Almighty God, you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples, creating tongues, open ears, and a new community of faith. You poured your Spirit on each one of us in Baptism. We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit within us, among us. At times, we do not listen to your word of grace, speak the good news of your love, or live as a people made one in Christ.

**Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit, and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people, doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Pentecost Preface

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

God who breathes and animates life, we have seen and experienced the workings of your Spirit in the beauties of nature. The Spirit opens the rosebud, colors the leaf green, makes the house-sparrow sing. We have seen the Spirit work in the wonders of human invention, in the moments that the proud and selfish are transformed, and when any person responds to the invitation to be sanctified, to be holy.

We know your working, Spirit God, in the companionship of friends, as men and women share light, goodness and forgiveness. We know your power as people embrace your mission and become the church. We gather here to ask you to pour this same Spirit upon us.

As we feel your presence, we are consumed by the joy of the resurrection, and join the choirs of heaven who sing forever to your glory: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

Blessed is he who came to lead us back to you! He came to bring us the good news of your love, and when it was time for him to receive glory, peace was his gift and farewell. On the night before he died, he sat down at table with his apostles to celebrate their fellowship with you. After they had shared their Passover meal,

He took bread and gave you thanks and praise; he broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my body, which will be given up for you.

All pause and bow

When supper was ended, he took the cup; again he gave you thanks and praise, he gave the cup to his disciples, and said: Take this all of you and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all, so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

All pause and bow

In memory of his death and resurrection, we offer you, holy God, this life-giving bread, this saving cup. We thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. May all of us who share in the body and blood of Christ be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith. Lord by your...

Concelebrant: Merciful God, remember your Church throughout the world; make us grow in love, together with Pablo our presiding bishop and all your faithful people who love and serve you. Remember our brothers and sisters who have gone to their rest in the hope of rising again; bring them and all the departed into the light of your presence. Have mercy on us all; make us worthy to share eternal life with Mary, the virgin Mother of God, with the apostles, and with all the saints who have done your will throughout the ages. May we praise you in union with them, and give you glory. through your Son, Jesus Christ. For it is: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, forever and ever. Amen.

Let us pray for the coming of the fullness of God's reign on earth, as Jesus taught us : 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. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom, where you live for ever and ever. Amen.

The peace of the Lord is with you always. And also with you. Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Lord, in the power of your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world. Lamb of God...

This is the table not of the Church but of the Christ, and all are welcome. We come, because it is Christ's will that we meet him here. For this is the bread of life and the cup of salvation. And We, though many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread and in the one cup. Amen.