

Pentecost

FutureChurch Online Liturgy of the Word

Introductory Rites

Sign of the Cross

Leader:

In the name of the Creator God, and of Jesus, the embodiment of Sophia Wisdom, and of the Spirit who dances with creation.

(making the sign of the cross)

ALL: AMEN

Greeting

Leader: The healing peace of Jesus, the abundant love of God and the joy of the Spirit.

IS with you,

ALL: And also with you.

Introductory Remarks (Prepared by leader, Diane Maguire)

Welcome to the celebration of the Solemnity of Pentecost. We celebrate this feast in a country torn apart. It is a solemn time and a time of lament. But it is also a time to recognize that the Spirit alive and moving us to action. As you know, the Holy Spirit is often depicted as breath, wind or fire. This week we have seen all three depictions of this Spirit being lived. We have witnessed a person deprived of their breath and we have seen a wellspring of people using their breath to speak out for justice.

I don't think it is an exaggeration to say that we too have been holding our collective breaths as we witnessed the death of yet another person of color. We have also witnessed the breathtaking speed of people emerging from quarantine with a hurricane force of righteous anger to call for justice. We have seen the fire in the hearts of millions across the world.

In our first reading the disciples were also in a sort of quarantine. They were locked in with fear of the religious leaders. When the Spirit descended upon them and they emerged preaching and speaking many languages. So too, have people all over the world of every language and race emerged from their quarantine and preached with their breath and their bodies the gospel call for justice.

In our second reading Paul tells us that we are baptized into one body and that we all drink from the same Spirit. The Holy Spirit that is continually poured out, is giving us each of us the gifts we need to ensure the health of the entire body of the world and our country.

Finally in our Gospel, Jesus breathes on the disciples and says Peace be with you. As God has sent me so I send you. As Thomas Merton tells us in the New Seeds of contemplation, no matter how much we try to figure things out, no matter how much despair we may be feeling, it cannot alter the reality of things or stain the joy of the cosmic dance which is always there. We are being sent to Breathe the breath of life, justice and joy back into the world. We are called to enter into the cosmic dance of the Spirit.

Today, we are fortunate to have Vanessa White as our preacher. Vanessa exudes this Spirit of joy. She embodies the spirit as she bursts out in the songs of her African American heritage. I invite you to sing along with her, as we join the dance of the Spirit through her preaching.

Finally, in recognition of this feast, in memory of George Floyd and the many other people of color whose lives have been brutally taken, and for all of those who have died of lack of breath due to Covid 19, I invite you to take a deep breath. Slow down for just a few moments to recognize your own breathing. Close your eyes if it helps. Notice the life giving properties of that breath as it fills your lungs and your soul with nourishment. Breathe in the Holy Spirit, and breath out deep love and compassion for yourself. Breathe in the Holy Spirit of love and breathe out compassion for those who have ben oppressed by unjust systems. Breathe in the Holy Spirit of peace and breathe out a spirit of justice. Breathe in the Holy Spirit of Creation and breathe out the spirit of creativity that can imagine new and just solutions.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us continue to pray.

Send down upon us, O God,
The fire of your Spirit
Fill us with the abundance of your fruitful gifts.

May your life-giving Spirit
Set our hearts ablaze
And strengthen our witness to your love.

Send us forth free from fear
To proclaim with boldness your wondrous deeds.
Fill us with peace and zeal
As we speak your truth to the powerful.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus,
Who lives and thrives with you, with us all,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

ALL: AMEN

LITURGY OF THE WORD

****Texts have been adapted for inclusive/expansive language****

First Reading

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles,

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 people 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 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 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.”

All: The Word of God
Thanks be to God

Psalm

Psalmist: The response is:
“God, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.”
R “**God, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**”

My soul blesses you, O God,
For you are great indeed!
How manifold are works, O God!
The earth is full of your creatures.

May your glory endure forever, O God;
And may you find joy in your creation.
I will sing to you all my life
I will make music for you, my God, to hear!

All creatures depend on 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.

Second Reading

Lector: A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Sisters and Brothers:

No one can say, "Jesus is Savior," except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;
there are different forms of service but we serve the same One;
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.

ALL: The word of God
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Leader/Russ: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Leader/Russ: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel according to John:

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the religious leaders,

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 side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Savior.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As God 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 those you hold fast are held fast."

The Good News of Our Salvation

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

FAITH SHARING

Reflection

– CWP Video: www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/05312020

Questions for Shared Reflection:

*Our Second Reading from the Letter to the Corinthians reads, "To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." **What is a gift the Spirit has given you? How have/could you use it for the good of your friends and family, the Church, or the world – especially now?***

*In her preaching for Pentecost, C. Vanessa White says, "In these days, we are so in need of that Spirit of fearlessness. Many are afraid of what is to come... We cannot predict the future, but we can allow ourselves to be open to receiving that Sweet Holy Spirit that will give us what we need in the days ahead. **Have you felt the Spirit of fearlessness in these last days? What we as a Church or as a country from the Holy Spirit right now? What might you/we need from the Spirit in the days to come?***

CONCLUDING RITES

Pentecost Blessing

Leader: As we end our time together tonight, let us take a moment to remember the gifts of our baptism in the Spirit:

Making a sign of blessing on our foreheads, we invoke the Holy Spirit of Wisdom, inviting us to use that wisdom to grapple with the systemic injustices in our world and age. We claim the power of our spirit infused intellect to address these issues.

Making a sign of blessing over our eyes, we invoke the Holy Spirit of Knowledge. We claim the power to recognize the Spirit working in our midst and embrace the mystery that is beyond our understanding,

Making a sign of blessing over our ears, we listen for the Holy Spirit of counsel and discernment, and claim the power to perceive and denounce the forces of darkness and to walk in God's light...

Making a sign of blessing over our lips, we invoke the Holy Spirit of Courage to speak the truth to power and lift up the experiences of the oppressed, to hold the powerful to account

Making a sign of blessing on our hearts, we invoke the Holy Spirit of Understanding, and claim to power to respond in love to one another

Making a sign of blessing over our hands and feet, we invoke the Holy Spirit of Reverence and kneel with humility in solidarity with the most vulnerable among us. We claim the grace to turn our prayer into action

Making a sign of blessing over ourselves, in our wholeness, and one another, we invoke the Holy Spirit of Wonder and Awe, claiming the joy and power of the cosmic dance as we move into collective action to serve the world and our Church.

Final Blessing

Leader: And may the God of hope fill us with the joy of creativity.
May the peace of Christ abound in our hearts and minds.
and may the Holy Spirit gift and guide us
(making Sign of the Cross) now and forever,

ALL: AMEN

Dismissal

Leader: Our time of prayer and reflection has ended. Let us go forth in the Spirit of Wisdom, Courage and Zeal for the good News. ! Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALL: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!