

FIRST READING

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit,
and began to speak different languages.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:1-11

On the day of Pentecost
all the Lord's followers were together in one place.
Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind!
It filled the house where they were meeting.
Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions,
and a tongue came and settled on each person there.
The Holy Spirit took control of everyone,
and they began speaking
whatever languages the Spirit let them speak.

Many religious Jews from every country in the world
were living in Jerusalem.
And when they heard this noise, a crowd gathered.
But they were surprised,
because they were hearing everything in their own languages.

They were excited and amazed, and said:
"Don't all these who are speaking come from Galilee?
Then why do we each hear them speaking our very own languages?
Some of us are from Parthia, Media, and Elam.
Others are from Mesopotamia, Judea,
Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia,
Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt,
Parts of Libya near Cyrene,
Rome, Crete, and Arabia.
Some of us were born Jews,
and others of us have chosen to be Jews.
Yet we all hear them using our own languages
to tell the wonderful things God has done."

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

104:1abc and 24, 30-31

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

I praise you, Lord God,
with all my heart.
You are glorious and majestic.
Our Lord, by your wisdom
you made so many things;
the whole earth is covered
with your living creatures.

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

You created all of them
by your Spirit,
and you give new life
to the earth.
Our Lord, we pray
that your glory will last for ever
and that you will be pleased
with what you have done.

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

SECOND READING

In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-13

Brothers and sisters:

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts,
but they all come from the same Spirit.
There are different ways to serve the same Lord,
and we can each do different things.
Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.

The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others.
The body of Christ has many different parts,
just as any other body does.
Some of us are Jews,
and others are Gentiles.
Some of us are slaves,

and others are free.
But God's Spirit baptized each of us
and made us part of the body of Christ.
Now we each drink from that same Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

As the Father sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to John 20:19-23

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders,
and on the evening of that same Sunday
they locked themselves in a room.
Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group.
He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side.
When the disciples saw the Lord,
they became very happy.

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said,
"I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me."
Then he breathed on them and said,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
If you forgive anyone's sins,
they will be forgiven.
But if you don't forgive their sins,
they will not be forgiven."

The gospel of the Lord.



Pentecost Sunday

Opening Prayer:
Dear Jesus,
Before you went to Heaven, you promised that you would send us the Holy Spirit. Today we give special THANKS for the GIFT of the Holy Spirit to the Church, to us. Help us to listen always to the Spirit in our lives. We pray this as we make the sign of the Cross: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Readings:
Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-11
Psalm 104: 1 abc and 24, 30-31
1 Corinthians 12: 4-7, 12-13
John 20: 19 - 23

Reflection:
What's the one day of the year that is very special just for YOU?
It's your BIRTHDAY! What usually happens on your birthday? Your family and friends come to your house for a party. There's a cake for you with candles on it. Maybe ice cream too. And you get some presents, some gifts.

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his close friends and to all his followers. That happened on the day of Pentecost. The people did not see the Holy Spirit. Instead they saw fiery tongues, flames of fire. It was real.

The Holy Spirit came with special gifts for all those people and for us too. Those gifts were not toys or computer games but gifts like peace, of not being afraid to follow Jesus, the gift of joy, of love and the gift to forgive others. There are a lot of others gifts the Holy Spirit gives us. We can't see them but they are real.

Today we celebrate the Birthday of the Church. It's called Pentecost which means 50 days after Easter! We thank Jesus for sending us the Holy Spirit.

A long time ago, almost 200 years ago, Maria De Mattias knew that the Spirit gave her special gifts to use for others. She had the courage to teach and to preach. She wasn't afraid because God was with her.

Discussion:

- 1) What are some special gifts that the Holy Spirit gives you? How do you use them?
- 2) Can you think of the gifts people in your Church have? How do they use them?
- 3) When you get big what would you like to do for the Church?
- 4) If you become a teacher or preacher or one who forgives others, who will help you, who will give you courage, who will help you know that you're not alone?

Activity:
Sing "Happy Birthday" to the Church. (Remember WE ARE the Church)
Draw a "flame" and write one gift that you have on it.

